



**Park District of Oak Park
Committee of the Whole
Held as Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

I. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Lentz, Wick, Wollmuth, Worley-Hood, and President Porreca attended virtually.

Park District Staff present: Jan Arnold, Executive Director, attended in-office; Bill Hamilton, Superintendent of Special Facilities; Chris Lindgren, Superintendent of Parks and Planning; Mitch Bowlin, Director of Finance; Maureen McCarthy, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager; and Karen Gruszka, Executive Assistant attended virtually.

Others Present: John McManus and Josephine Bellalta of Altamanu, Inc. attended virtually.

II. Public Comment:

Jennifer Hicks sent in a public comment that was read to the Board stressing her displeasure with the newly PDOP mandated vaccination policy where anyone entering any Park District building or a program needed to show their vaccination card. She originally had been told by staff that they only needed to show their proof once during their six week class but then staff corrected that statement and they were told that they needed to show their proof for every class. She went on to say the vaccination order does not require proof of vaccination at every class. She received an email from Maureen McCarthy explaining staffing issues for coordination and keeping track and therefore, the Park District would require it every entrance/class. Ms. Hicks went on to explain as a family that has been vaccinated and has been following the rules, she is frustrated and exhausted by this new rule the District is forcing on residents when she feels it is very easy to track and check off that the child in the class has already shown their proof. She would like a response and a solution to what she believes to be an arbitrary obstacle. President Porreca stated she would receive a response to her read public comment.

IV. Recreation and Facility Program Committee

A. Annual Scholarship Report

The Park District has a scholarship program to reach people that normally would not be able to afford programs otherwise and is made up of funding including: \$8,000 from the Township of Oak Park, non-resident fees, patron donations, and other fundraising initiatives along with \$6,000 in YES funds specifically geared towards summer camp for current recipients. Scott Sekulich, Registration and Customer Support Manager, informed the Board \$55,565 was used in 2021, but \$6,563 was returned due to cancellations for a total of \$49,002 used, stating that the pandemic continues to impact the overall numbers. The Board discussed the different tiers, the sliding scale and use of a sliding scale for camps for large households, adult's usage, marketing for the scholarship program, how the amount could be expanded if needed, households and caps, unique numbers, and the map that showed the usage of the scholarships. Scott also informed them that halfway through 2021, the added button to donate to the Scholarship Fund through Amilia accounts during purchases had added an additional

\$4,230 dollars to the Scholarship. The Board thanked Scott for his work with the Scholarship Fund and bringing the information to them. **No action is needed on this item.**

V. Parks and Planning Committee

A. Stevenson Park Master Plan Update Presentation

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board of the history of Stevenson Park and the center and that the first Masterplan was created by Altamanu, Inc. in 2010 along with the improvements made to the park from that master plan. A virtual meeting was held on October 20, 2021, by Altamanu seeking input for possible enhancements to the park. John McManus ran through the presentation shown at the virtual meeting showing the need for shade, requests for additional features in the Skate Park, art work, landscaping, new foundation for the athletic court, seating, and new entrances. The Board discussed the entrances, the difficulties with the reservoir, and are looking forward to the color added to the park with this plan. **This will come before the Board under the consent agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**

B. Rehm Pool Painting Contract

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that on January 5, the Park District issued a Request for Proposal and bid documents were posted to our website for brush blasting the entire diving well surface, cleaning, patching minor holes, priming concrete, two coats of epoxy, along with the alternate to prepare and paint the main pool. The bids are due in January 19. The Board will be updated of the received bids at the Regular Board Meeting on January 20, and the meeting will be continued for Board approval on February 3, 2022. **This will come before the Board under the regular agenda at the Continued January Regular Board Meeting on February 3, 2022.**

C. Park District HVAC Contract

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that we moved to an HVAC contract in 2015, when the District took over all the park landscape functions, to provide regular preventative maintenance and repairs. Since 2015, we've added Austin Gardens and additions to Carroll Center. On November 3, we posted the bid notice, two walk-thru meetings were held to see all fourteen of the facilities, and seven bids were opened on November 19. References have been checked and the low, responsible bidder was Comprehensive Construction Solutions; staff are looking to get approval for a one-year contract with the option to extend for two additional years based on performance. The Board discussed the spread of the bids received. **This will come before the Board under the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**

D. Dole Center Tuckpointing Contract

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that \$100,000 was put in the 2022 budget to address the repairs and upgrades at Dole. A prioritized list of needed work has been comprised of which tuck pointing on the north and west facade of the building is part of that list. This project is using a US Communities partner for the repairs in the spring of 2022. The Board discussed the costs along with the ability to track the diversity in the chosen partner of US Communities as it is a standard of the Park District to employ diversity and were informed there was not a way to track this with the partners used at this time. **This will come before the Board under the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**

III. Administration and Finance Committee

A. Tax Levy Abatement Resolution 2022-01-01

Executive Director Arnold informed the Board that new in 2022, Cook County will automatically increase tax levies to recapture any losses from assessment appeal refunds which the Park District can abate. The calculated amount for 2022, is \$135,127; staff is recommending the District abate this levy and not collect these additional taxes from the residents. The Board asked if we will have to do this annually and were informed that this will only need to be abated once. All agreed it would be prudent to abate this tax levy. **This will come before the Board under the regular agenda at the January Regular Board Meeting.**

B. Illinois Park and Recreation Conference, January 27-29, Update

Executive Director Arnold reminded the Board that the District had decided to pull out of the annual conference due to the uptick in Covid and for the health of the staff and Board. The staff will be informed of other webinars they can attend to get their needed CEUs to remain certified. **No action is needed on this item.**

VI. New Business


1. Executive Director's Performance Review

President Porreca informed the Board of the annual review and the schedule for the upcoming Executive Director's performance review.

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Adjournment

At 8:44p.m. Commissioner Wick motioned and Commissioner Lentz seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned. **Motion carried in a roll call vote.**



Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners

February 17, 2022
Date



President
Board of Park Commissioners

February 17, 2022
Date

