

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 3, 2026**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. The Special Meeting will be held at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Room, 1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523 for the purpose of considering the following agenda.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND ROLL CALL President Knitter called to order the Special Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District at the hour of 6:03 p.m. Commissioners Chan, Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter answered "present" from the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Conference Room. Also present in Canterbury Conference Room was Laure Kosey, Executive Director; Marco Salinas, Chief Financial Officer; Bob Johnson, Deputy Director; Robert Pechous, Director of Recreation and Communications; and David Freeman, District Attorney. Patrick Miner, District Attorney, attended the Board Meeting in place of David Freeman at 6:43 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 2) ENTER CLOSED SESSION: For the purpose of the Appointment, Employment...(of) Legal Counsel for the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Motion: Commissioner Gondek made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley, to arise from open session to enter into closed session at 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of the Appointment, Employment...(of) Legal Counsel for the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

Commissioner commented that this is politically motivated in removing a commissioner from the Board.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Vescovi and Chan

Motion: Commissioner Gondek made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kelley, to enter into closed session 6:05 p.m. for the purpose of the Appointment, Employment...(of) Legal Counsel for the public body pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

- 3) ARISE FROM CLOSED SESSION AND RESUME THE OPEN SESSION

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to arise from closed session and resume the open session at 6:43 p.m.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Vescovi, Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, Chan, and President Knitter

Nays: None

4) OPEN FORUM

President Knitter asked if there were any public comments and stated each speaker will have 5 minutes to speak. President Knitter stated that comments are to be respectful and focused and reminded the speakers that the board will not engage with them. No one addressed the Board.

Marco Salinas, Chief Financial Officer, quoted Commissioner Chan from the February 16, 2026 Board meeting noting the Park District's recording at 1:58:45 and 1:58:12 which recorded Commissioner Chan's accusation of the Park District of maintaining a "slush fund" of \$1 million which staff were using. In the financial world, "slush fund" has a negative connotation. Salinas explained the contingencies and the correct amount in General, Recreation, and Tennis Funds which are below \$1 million. After that meeting, Executive Director Laure Kosey emailed Commissioner Chan concerning her misinformation which Commissioner Chan responded to that email minimizing her misinformation as a misunderstanding and it was clarified now.

Salinas stated that there is no slush fund, that there are contingencies for emergencies such as elevator repair. The continued pattern of misinformation began with her campaign to deliberately discredit and undermine the staff wanting to erode the public's trust in the current management. "If a lie is repeated often, then the public might believe those lies as true." Salinas will fact-check the deliberate lies and misinformation that are intended to discredit the professionalism of the staff.

Commissioner Chan admitted that she was incorrect with the contingency number, and she explained that she was referring to a previous email with Dr. Kosey concerning Breakaway Basketball "profit" when communicating about her misunderstanding.

5) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES

a. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 3, 2026 AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the March 3, 2026 Agenda.

Commissioner Chan explained why she will not approve the agenda. Commissioner Chan stated that failed unfinished business items from the previous meeting should not be on the agenda.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

b. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2026 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the January 19, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Commissioner Chan explained why she will not be approving the January 19, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Vescovi and Chan

6) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Appointment of Independent Counsel to Investigate Commissioner Complaint

Motion: Commissioner Gondek made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve the appointment of Laner Muchin, Ltd. as independent counsel to investigate commissioner complaint.

Commissioner Chan stated that the Park District should review multiple law firms.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

b. Market-Based Salary Range Adjustment

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Market-Based Salary Range Adjustment.

Commissioner Chan stated that this vote failed at the last meeting and there is no new evidence. Commissioner Chan restated her statements from the previous meeting concerning market-based salary range adjustment.

President Knitter responded that this is a misunderstanding, this is not an increase in salary but only updating of the ranges.

Commissioner Chan asked why the Park District would spend money to get a market-based salary report that will raise the staff salary. Dr. Kosey responded that a third party does the study on the range according to the job titles and job descriptions, which has nothing to do with merit increases. Some jobs such as custodian or HR managers are not only in the park districts so the research may need to look at private sectors. All of this is explained in the follow up on the website.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Vescovi and Chan

c. Ordinance 26-0217: An Ordinance Transferring Funds to and from Several Park District Funds

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve Ordinance 26-0217: An Ordinance transferring funds to and from several park district funds.

Commissioner Chan repeated from a previous meeting that there is too much money in the Recreation Fund and does not believe a fund transfer needs to occur. Commissioner Chan stated that there is \$1,000,000 in other miscellaneous.

Dr. Kosey stated that there is a misunderstanding about what the Board is voting on. Dr. Kosey explained the budget process and encouraged the Board to approve this transfer considering it was approved as part of the budget last year. Without the transfers, there may be a detrimental impact on the audit.

Commissioner Chan responded that the Board has a right to reject transfers even if budgeted with approval. Commissioner Chan stated that the Park District has too much money and needs to be more fiscally responsible. Dr. Kosey reminded the Board that if the transfer does not occur, the CIP

(Capital Improvement Project) will become negative and drawn to zero since the spending is already occurring. This will have a negative impact on the Park District audit.

Salinas explained the difference between “spending” and “transferring”; he stated that capital projects do not have dedicated funding except from investment income and grants the Park District may receive. To maintain capital assets, the Capital Projects are funded through transfers, specifically the General Fund. Auditors such as Moody’s will want the Park District to address the negative balance. President Knitter added that this is similar to a checking and savings account, money is transferred from savings to checking account to pay for repairs.

Attorney Miner restated Commissioner Chan’s thoughts of being fiscal responsibility and ending unnecessary spending. Attorney Miner also heard the negative impact if transfers do not happen. Attorney Miner reminded that the fund transfer in the budget has already been approved by the Board, so the budget for the upcoming year is where discussions of necessary versus unnecessary spending should occur.

The motion did not pass by roll call vote since four out of the five commissioners were needed to approve this motion.

Ayes: Commissioners Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Vescovi and Chan

- d. Travel Reimbursement for Commissioner Attendance at the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, January 29 - 31, 2026

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Travel Reimbursement for Commissioner Attendance at the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, January 29 - 31, 2026.

Commissioner Vescovi stated that he paid for his conference fees and all commissioners should pay for their own way to conferences, and he requested the cost for each employee who attended. Dr. Kosey stated receipts from employees are being collected so employee expenses will be included at the next meeting. President Knitter stated that she discovered from other park districts that the park district pays for their commissioners.

Dr. Kosey noted that the Park District offered to pay Commissioner Vescovi’s conference fees.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Ivkovic Kelley, Gondek, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Vescovi and Chan

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley exited the meeting room from 7:00 p.m. to 7:04 p.m.

## 7) NEW BUSINESS

- a. Fitness Center Flooring Replacement through the Sourcewell Cooperative

Johnson reported that the budgeted Fitness Center renovation will occur this fiscal year. Floor in the fitness center and windows may be replaced. The flooring is original to the Fitness Center so will be replaced with similar flooring to the free weight area, same product but a different thickness. “Final cost not to exceed” will be reported at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Chan asked how old the flooring is, what is the life expectancy for the new flooring, and estimated cost. Johnson stated the flooring is 25-27 years old and the life expectancy for the new

flooring will depend on how often and how it is used but will get back to Commissioner Chan about that; the newer flooring will be less slippery. The cost is about \$80K.

8) SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

a. Discussion of the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Requested Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Operating

President Knitter stated that this Budget Workshop is the place for commissioners to provide input to the budget.

Dr. Kosey reviewed the strategic plan stating that these are standards the Park District must meet to be accredited, and she presented the budget calendar. Distinctions such as the Gold Medal Award are not ceremonial since they require measurable performance, transparent financial reporting, policy compliance, and continuous improvement. The budget policy for the FY 2026/2027 Budget will increase in expenditure due to the tennis courts rebuild project. A \$200K grant was provided to the Park District from Senator Glowiak-Hilton for indoor and outdoor restroom improvements at Central Park West and resurface trails and roadways to preserve the infrastructure. Dr. Kosey reported on accomplishments that the Park District achieved for the 2025/2026 FY. President Knitter congratulated Dr. Kosey for sixteen years at the Park District.

Salinas stated that the Oak Brook Park District boundaries and demographics were included in the board packet. Salinas presented comparative property tax rates for each DuPage County Park Districts, Oak Brook property tax distribution, history of property tax levies, budget summary of all funds, consolidated revenues and expenditures. Salinas reviewed the General, Recreation, and Recreational Facilities (Tennis) Fund. Salinas explained that Capital Projects expenses except those in Tennis Fund (since it is for profit) are expensed throughout the fiscal year it is budgeted in according to government accounting.

President Knitter asked without the transfer to the Capital Projects fund then that fund will become a deficit and the General fund will be inflated. Salinas confirmed President Knitter's statement.

President Knitter asked about "Other/Miscellaneous." Commissioner Chan imputed that "Other/Miscellaneous" is not core activity for the Park District business. Salinas stated the "Other/Miscellaneous" includes items such as IMRF and social security which are required by law; he placed them under "Other/Miscellaneous" to fit all the expenses on his chart. Commissioner Chan requested that "Other/Miscellaneous" should be specified, so President Knitter suggested providing a schedule for the "Other/Miscellaneous." Salinas stated that he will break down "Other/Miscellaneous" in another schedule to be more specific.

Salinas continued his presentation reviewing the General Fund for Administration, Finance & Human Resources, and Professional Services.

Johnson presented the General Fund: Parks, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Pechous reported on the General Fund: Information Technology, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Johnson reported on the General Fund: Family Recreation Center & Central Park West Facilities, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas reported on the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget for the General Fund Revenues and Expenditures.

Salinas presented the General Fund Balance. The projected amount for the fund balance should be the date as of the end of the fiscal year, which should be between three to nine months of expenditure.

Pechous reported on the Recreation Fund: Recreation Programming, which can be found in the Park District's records.

President Knitter asked about any changes in the scheduling for open gym. Pechous responded that the Breakaway contract is being reviewed to allow for more open gym time.

Johnson presented the Recreation Fund: Aquatics and Fitness, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Pechous reported on the Recreation Fund: Marketing & Communications, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas reviewed the Requested Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget: Recreation Fund Revenues, which can be found in the Park District's records.

President Knitter asked if there were any programs that we should worry about. Dr. Kosey responded that the staff were conservative concerning revenues.

Salinas presented the Requested Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget: Recreation Fund Expenditures and Fund Balance, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Dr. Kosey reported on the Recreational Facilities (Tennis) Fund, which can be found in the Park District's records. The Tennis Center has been fiscally responsible with a savings account to invest in the outdoor tennis courts rebuild project.

President Knitter asked if the projected actuals is realistic. Alin Pop explained that the numbers are realistic.

Johnson presented the Capital Projects, which can be found in the Park District's records.

President Knitter asked if the Capital Projects are in order of priority. Johnson responded that they are in order.

Commissioner Chan asked the risk for the federal government not paying the grant.

Dr. Kosey responded that once the grant agreement is approved, the federal government will fulfill the contract. Johnson stated that there is more of an opportunity risk if the Park District does not continue with the project. Attorney Miner stated that there is always a risk in any decision although low, but his understanding is an opportunity risk outweighs a risk of the federal government not continuing the funding.

Johnson continued with the Capital Projects and spoke on the Central Park West Parking Lot Expansion. Dr. Kosey explained that the parking lot expansion will remove the present pickleball courts and the pickleball courts are not included in this project.

President Knitter asked about replacing the lost thirteen parking lots by the baseball field. Although there will be more discussion at the next Board meeting, Dr. Kosey responded that the parking lot by Central Park West has more priority because of deterioration, need for the soccer fields and CPW rentals, and the lack of turn around for Winter Lights.

Attorney Miner summarized that Johnson received this budgeted number from the District's expert landscape architect; therefore, he would be concerned with using an "artificially" low budget number when it is known the project cost is actually higher. The commissioners will then have the opportunity to vote on that bid amount.

Pechous reported on the BS&A Financial server migration to the cloud. Johnson continued with the Capital Projects presentation.

Dr. Kosey asked if the projected actuals include the transfer amounts. Salinas responded that they do, so those will need to be recalculated for the next meeting.

Salinas presented detailed budget for the Capital Projects Fund, which can be found in the Park District's records. Salinas reviewed the additional funds: debt services, audit, IMRF, liability insurance, social security, and special recreation.

Salinas reminded the Board that the revenues, expenditures, and debt should be monitored each month to see how they are impacting the fund balance. Salinas then explained that the Social Security Fund accounts for all the payroll taxes which are funded with property tax levy. The Special Recreation Fund pays a fee to Gateway Special Recreation and part-time salaries. Dr. Kosey added this mostly includes Inclusion Aides and ADA projects that may be paid for from this fund.

Dr. Kosey requested to return to page 32 of the presentation and wanted Commissioners Chan and Vescovi to understand what will happen if the transfers do not occur: auditors will provide negative comment for not transferring the funds which could affect the Park District bond rating; the Recreation Fund will go over the nine month of the fund balance which will violate the Park District's policy. Dr. Kosey asked both commissioners if they understood the repercussions in not approving the transfers. Commissioner Vescovi understood, Commissioner Chan stated, "No comment." Dr. Kosey reminded them that transfers would occur to pay for Capital Projects.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley departed the meeting at 9:07 pm.

9) THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 16, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

President Knitter announced the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Park Commissioners would be held on March 16, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Gondek made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chan, to adjourn the March 3, 2026 Special Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:20 p.m.



Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director