

**MINUTES OF A MEETING  
OF THE  
OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT  
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY  
(Pursuant to PA 102-1088)  
March 20, 2023**

A meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Room, 1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523. The Public was invited to attend.

1) Call To Order and Roll Call.

Chairperson and Park District Deputy Director Dave Thommes called the Oak Brook Park District Decennial Committee meeting to order at the hour of 6:00 p.m. The following Board of Commissioners were present: President Sharon Knitter, Vice President Lara Suleiman, Commissioner Frank Trombetta, and Commissioner Ivana Ivkovic Kelley. Commissioner Truedson was absent. The appointed park district residents were present: Kathy Carson and Linda Pizzello. Also in attendance was Park District Executive Director Dr. Laure Kosey.

2) Approval of the March 20, 2023 Agenda

Commissioner Frank Trombetta made a motion, seconded by Vice President Lara Suleiman, to approve the March 20, 2023 Agenda.

There was no further discussion and the motion passed by voice vote.

Ayes: Knitter, Suleiman, Trombetta, Ivkovic Kelley, Carson, Pizzello, Kosey, and Thommes.

Nays: None

Absent: Truedson

3) Review of the Efficiencies and Increased Accountability of the Oak Brook Park District to Prepare the Report for the County Board of Cook and DuPage Counties

Deputy Director Thommes thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mr. Thommes directed attention to the large screened TV which displayed information prepared for the meeting.

Mr. Thommes explained the Park District recently completed certification through the National Recreation and Park Association's ("NRPA") Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). In January 2023, the park district was recognized as an Illinois Distinguished Accredited Agency by the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA). Both of these certifications require the Park District to provide documentation in response to standards of excellence required by the accrediting agencies. The Decennial Committee will be reviewing this documentation which will be presented on the screen. The documentation is stored in a database created in Knowledge Owl software.

Mr. Thommes explained the responsibilities and requirements of the Decennial Committee as provided in the Act (PA 102-1088).

President Knitter discussed the requirements of the Act and the data that should be collected.

Mr. Thommes reviewed the Park District's Budget and noted the Park District's receipt of the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* by the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association for the Park District's continued preparation of the annual comprehensive financial reports. This evidences the Park District's desire to provide transparency and full disclosure to the community.

President Knitter said another indication of the Park District's efficiency is that it remained open during COVID.

Mr. Thommes noted that the Board of Commissioners approve the policies of the Park District. Many of the District's policies are required by Illinois State statutes.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Finance Manager and Administrative Services Specialist have been appointed by the Board to serve as the FOIA Officers. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Executive Director and Deputy Director have been appointed as the Open Meetings Act officers.

The Park District's General Use Regulations are provided in the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, which encompass the policies and procedures for general operations.

Mr. Thommes noted that both himself and Dr. Kosey have served on numerous community committees. Dr. Kosey has served on the Chamber's Economic and Development Committee. The Chamber has been appreciative of the park district's involvement in the community. The Chamber has been helpful in providing assistance to the Park District as the Park District applies for grants to bring recreational amenities to the community.

President Knitter and Commissioner Trombetta have served on the Village's Sports Core Committee.

Mr. Thommes continued with the Park District's mission and jurisdiction. The mission statement was created and adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 1991. The Park District's boundaries are not contiguous with the Village's boundaries as the Park District has annexed unincorporated Village of Oak Brook properties into its jurisdiction.

Rules of the Board are part of the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual. The Board governs with policies and Dr. Kosey handles the general operations of the park district. The manual is on the Intranet and is available anywhere through internet access. The Park District's Intranet is available in different languages by selecting the desired language.

The Strategic Plan supports the mission and vision of the park district. The plan is reviewed every six months.

Park District Policy 2.6, in the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, encourages the use of Intergovernmental Agreements (“IGAs”) to promote and enhance efficient use of tax dollars and effective delivery of park, facility, and recreation services. Mr. Thommes reviewed a few of the IGAs the Park District is a member. The Village and the Park District have an IGA for village police patrol. The Village’s police receive a special membership rate to use the Park District’s facilities to maintain health and fitness. The Village’s non-emergency staff also receive Park District membership at the resident rate.

The Park District forms agreements with other organizations to provide cooperative use for the benefit of the community. One such example is the basketball courts license with Breakaway Basketball in which 100% of the tournament proceeds are donated to the Oak Brook Park District Foundation.

Resident Kathy Carson spoke to the benefit received to the Foundation through the Breakaway program.

Mr. Thommes continued the presentation, stating the Park District is involved in local programs as well. We work with the school district, Chamber of Commerce, and library. The Park District is always looking for ways to leverage funds and form cooperative relationships in the community.

President Knitter noted the Park District’s membership and involvement with National Recreation and Park Association and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association helps the Park District develop recreational opportunities – such as the very popular pickleball program.

Mr. Thommes highlighted the Village of Oak Brook’s Comprehensive Plan that provides the vision for the community of Oak Brook and its future land use, including parks and recreation provided by the Oak Brook Park District. The Village’s plan notes the “long range plan of the Park District will be brought forth and developed by the residents themselves.” The Park District has sought direction from the residents through its master planning and survey program. Mr. Thommes said the Park District’s key objectives identified the need to ramp up the survey program, so that a survey would be offered to program and event participants, as well as our surveys of the community as a whole.

Commissioner Lara Suleiman said the Park District could reach out to the homeowner associations to receive input.

Dr. Laure Kosey agreed and said the Park District specifically conducts meetings with the homeowner associations when playgrounds or other recreational/park amenities are in development in their subdivision.

Resident Kathy Carson noted the Saddle Brook homeowner survey that was conducted.

Dr. Kosey said the park district’s survey sent to the Forrest Glen homeowners resulted in identifying the resident’s recreational need for a sand volleyball court, which is now in the

works. The homeowner associations throughout the Village also sponsor the Park District's annual ice rink in Central Park. The ice rink has been a tradition for many years.

4) Survey of Residents in attendance for input on matters discussed in the meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Decennial Committee on Government Efficiency

Mr. Thommes conducted a survey of the residents in attendance regarding the matters discussed, inquiring if there were any questions or recommendations.

No questions or recommendations were brought forth at this time.

Resident Kathy Carson commented how well the information was documented.

5) Next Meeting: April 17, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Thommes noted the next meeting will be held at the Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Room, 1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523.

6) Adjournment

President Sharon Knitter and Commissioner Trombetta made a motion to adjourn the meeting at the hour of 6:30 p.m.

There was no additional discussion and the meeting was adjourned.

*Dave Thommes 4/24/2023*

Dave Thommes, Deputy Director  
Decennial Committee Chairperson

**In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any individual who is in need of a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in or benefit from attendance at a public meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners should contact Laure Kosey, Executive Director at 630-645-9535.**