

MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 21, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Canterberry Room

1. PUBLIC HEARING- FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR MAY 1, 2025 - APRIL 30, 2026 (*Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Doings-Oak Brook Newspaper – April 10, 2025.*)

a. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Knitter called to order the Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, 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 Steve Adams, District Attorney.

President Knitter stated Commissioner Vescovi had his eleventh absence out of twenty-five meetings.

b. Budget Overview

Marco Salinas reviewed the budget overview following a handout he had distributed: Notes for Budget to Budget (FY 2025/2026 vs. 2024/2025) Comparison Schedule and Requested Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget Summary – All Funds, which can be found in the Park District’s records.

President Knitter asked if the budgeted investment income is realistic.

Salinas stated that the interest rate for investment income budgeted was too low for this FY.

c. Open Forum for the Proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026

Don Adler, a 35-year Oak Brook resident, observed when he first moved to Oak Brook the Park District was primarily used by residents and now has revolved into a regional park district with primarily non-resident usage.

Tina Chan, an Oak Brook resident, stated that she campaigned on non-resident versus resident usage of the Park District, emphasizing that the budget should reflect the tax contributions of residents. Chan communicated that the budget should not be passed today.

d. Adjournment of Public Hearing

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to adjourn the April 21, 2025, Public Hearing for the Proposed Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026, at the hour of 6:48 p.m.

2. CALL TO ORDER THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND CONDUCT THE ROLL CALL

President Knitter called to order the Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District at the hour of 6:48 p.m. Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, 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 Steve Adams, District Attorney.

Commissioner Vescovi had his eleventh absence out of twenty-five regular board meetings.

3. COMMUNICATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

a. Board of Commissioners to Share Communications

Commissioner Suleiman thanked the residents, Park District staff, Executive Director, and Board. Commissioner Suleiman stated that the ABC preschool at the Park District drew her family to Oak Brook. Commissioner Suleiman offered words of encouragement to the Board: maintain positive and professional relationships, ask questions if they need clarity, pursue answers with humility, read the board packet thoroughly, and attend conferences.

President Knitter thanked Commissioner Suleiman and recognized her stewardship with the Sandlot as an example of her work. President Knitter presented a photo of the Sandlot Universal Playground to Commissioner Suleiman.

President Knitter stated that the growing presence of misleading information through social media or discussions held in closed meetings had been prevalent concerning the Park District. Misinformation undermines confidence in public institutions, erodes trust in leadership, and fosters unnecessary conflict and confusion in our community. President Knitter endorses healthy debate, but questions and concerns should be mindful: verify sources, attend meetings, and ask questions directly.

President Knitter played an audio recording, issuing a warning beforehand that listener discretion was advised. Although a video exists, only the audio was presented.

The audio presented Johnny Skach a 43-year resident who stated that he worked for a newly elected official, so he will be attending the Board meetings soon. The audio focused on the flooding of the Ginger Creek Bridge and complained about the Park District on multiple items. Skach attacked the Park District staff and commissioners insisting that the Park District does not want to fix the bridge. President Knitter addressed Skach’s misinformation and noted that the video was on Facebook, a public forum.

President Knitter reported that only Commissioner Vescovi has not attended a conference or workshop since she has been on the Board, and the conferences would help him understand the job.

President Knitter received a positive message from a long-time resident. When coming to the Park District to play basketball, the resident and her children received the mini oak tree. The resident appreciated the mini oak tree since it provided an opportunity for her children to plant the tree with their grandfather. President Knitter stated that the Park District creates memories that are not seen in the budget line.

Commissioner Suleiman stated that the commissioners care about the safety of the staff and will be attentive to future attacks.

Commissioner Gondek addressed a resident's comment concerning the Board's lack of respect and integrity. Commissioner Gondek disagreed with the comment.

b. Bike Path Improvement Project

Johnson introduced a proposed new bike path project to connect the intersection of Jorie and Kensington near the North Athletic Fields. The Park District would like to pursue a Department of Natural Resources Bike Path Grant which is a 50/50 matching grant.

Commissioner Suleiman stated that the public has been discussing the need for this bike path connection.

4. OPEN FORUM

President Knitter asked if there were any public comments that are not budget related.

Ron Ariana, Saddle Brook resident, asked what approach would be taken to collect feedback. Ariana stated that more information about the barn had been gathered and asked if he could provide handouts at the Saddle Brook Open House.

President Knitter stated that would be fine to distribute a handout at the Open House.

Alan Koren, president of Saddle Brook HOA, thanked the Park District and communicated that he was pleased that the Park District was having the Open House on Saturday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Don Adler, an Oak Brook resident, requested in an email that President Knitter include his email in the resident communications section of the Board Packet.

Baber Khan, 16-year Oak Brook resident and 15-year Park District member, inquired about the total number of registered members and requested a breakdown of the number of residents and nonresidents.

President Knitter stated that Dr. Kosey would provide the requested information.

Shujat Kidwai, an Oak Brook resident and member of the Trinity Lakes Board, complimented the Park District and its staff. Kidwai stated that he was impressed by the trained staff who were involved directing the paramedics during a medical incident at the Park District.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2025 AGENDA
- b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - i. March 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - ii. March 17, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes
- c. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING MARCH 31, 2025
 - i. Warrant 695

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve taking a single omnibus vote on the Consent Agenda as presented.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Vescovi

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve the Consent Agenda, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Vescovi

6. STAFF RECOGNITION

- a. None

7. REPORTS:

- a. Administration and Enterprise Operations Report

Dr. Laure Kosey presented her report, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Dr. Kosey announced that the audio recording of the Board meetings will begin May 19, 2025 which has been budgeted for FY 2025/2026.

Dr. Kosey reported that the registration for Pink 5k has had an exceptional response.

- b. Finance and Human Resources Report

Mr. Marco Salinas presented his report, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Mr. Salinas reported on the last month of the fiscal year. The General, Recreation, and Tennis Center Funds have a net positive surplus. Revenues are on target and expenditures are favorable. Manual accrual is being processed for FY 2024/2025. The process to prepare for auditing will take about six weeks so it will be ready for the auditor in July.

Tennis Center Fund surplus has increased compared to last year due to increase in investment returns, nonresident membership, group lessons and private lessons.

Attorney Adams stated that the Tennis Center Fund is proprietary, no taxes are provided to this fund.

Salinas confirmed that the Tennis Center Fund does not receive any tax revenues, the only revenue source are the fees.

Salinas stated that the Board will receive the audited report of updated financials up to April 30th at the October Board meeting.

Commissioner Suleiman asked if the Park District received the tax levy and asked about the final amount.

Salinas stated that the Park District received the final tax levy amount a few weeks ago and it was lower than the requested amount. The request from the Park District this FY was lower than prior years.

c. Recreation and Communications Report

Mr. Robert Pechous presented his report, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Pechous reported that staff is working on athletic invoices and calculations for the coming tournaments. Get Better League has concluded for the season. Kim Catris, Recreation Manager, is retiring so a new coordinator will be hired. Butler 53 intergovernmental contract is being worked on for renewal. Camps are finalizing field trips.

President Knitter asked if the camp has sold out.

Pechous responded that overall camp is sold out with a few random openings.

Pechous reported that the Italy trip was successful. Pink 5k is occurring on May 10th. Pioneer Post and Summer Brochure will be distributed soon.

President Knitter asked about the hiring of lifeguards.

Pechous stated that the increase in wages and staff referral have helped obtain staff.

d. Parks and Facilities Report

Mr. Bob Johnson presented his report, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Johnson reported that athletic fields have been prepped. Aquatics is preparing to open Splash Island for a target opening on Memorial Day. Aquatics will receive a grant from DuPage County Health Department Protect Swimmer Swim Lesson Fund to allow twenty youth swimmers to participate in a summer session for free.

President Knitter asked if the police installed a camera at Canterbury Ln.

Dr. Kosey stated that a license plate reader was installed at Canterbury Ln and York Rd. Since the weather is cooler, the Park District will evaluate if anything changes as it warms up. Illinois Tollway has locked a section under the tollway to prevent trespassing there. Fencing and lights will be installed. Park District has not received any calls since that section has been locked.

Johnson reported that the lighting was just delivered. The prescribed burn at Dean's Sanctuary has occurred and one beehive is still alive.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance 25-0421: An Ordinance Setting Forth the Budget and Making Appropriations of Sums of Money for All of The Necessary Expenditures of The Oak Brook Park District of Cook and DuPage Counties, Illinois, for the Corporate Purpose for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2026.

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Ordinance 25-0421: An Ordinance Setting Forth the Budget and Making Appropriations of Sums of Money for All of the Necessary Expenditures of the Oak Brook Park District of Cook and

DuPage Counties, Illinois, for the Corporate Purpose for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2025 and Ending April 30, 2026.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Vescovi

b. Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve the Ten Year Capital Improvement Plan.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Vescovi

c. Ordinance 25-0422: An Ordinance Authorizing the Destruction of the Verbatim Record of Certain Closed Meetings

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Ordinance 25-0422: An Ordinance Authorizing the Destruction of the Verbatim Record of Certain Closed Meetings.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

d. Sections 2 and 3 – Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Sections 2 and 3 of the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual.

Commissioner Gondek asked if there were any changes to Sections 2 and 3 – Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual.

Dr. Kosey answered there were no changes.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

e. Veterans and Military Membership

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to accept the policy for a veteran and active military discount for Central Park Campus and Family Recreation Center memberships.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

f. Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Strategic Plan for the years 2025-2029.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

g. Resolution 25-0423: A Resolution Regarding the Review of Minutes for Closed Meetings from January 1989 through February 2025

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Resolution 25-0423: A Resolution Regarding the Review of Minutes for Closed Meetings from January 1989 through February 2025.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

h. 2025 Amendment to the Oak Brook Park District Executive Director Employment Agreement

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve 2025 Amendment to the Oak Brook Park District Executive Director Employment Agreement as Presented.

President Knitter stated that the Board was pleased with Dr. Kosey achieving her objectives and feels fortunate that Dr. Kosey will continue.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

i. Elevator Control Systems

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to accept the base bid, alternate #1, alternate #3, and performance bonds, and to reject alternate #2 and alternate #4 from KONE Elevator and Escalators for a total cost of \$190,580, and to approve an agreement between the Oak Brook Park District and Kone Elevators and Escalators for a total project cost not-to-exceed \$190,580.

President Knitter asked when will the new elevator system be installed.

Johnson answered the new systems could be installed at the end of summer or early fall.

Commissioner Suleiman asked if there were any issues with patrons going downstairs.

Johnson stated that the elevator has been operational. If there are any elevator issues, staff know how to operate it.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Ordinance 25-0519: An Ordinance for Transferring Anticipated Unexpended Funds from Certain Appropriation Items to Other Items of Appropriation

Salinas stated that the transfers are an annual process. The transfer is a reallocation of the budget, and the budget has not been increased. There is a detailed schedule of the reallocation.

- b. Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between the Board of Education of Butler School District #53, the Oak Brook Park District and the LaGrange Area Department of Special Education for a Cooperative Preschool Program at the Oak Brook Park District Recreation Center for School Years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028

President Knitter asked if the Park District is seeing similar levels of sessions for the 3's and 4's.

Pechous answered that there may be some modifications to the sessions for the 3-year-old age group. Since enrollment numbers fluctuate, staff are currently evaluating registration data to determine the feasibility of offering full-week or multi-day options.

Commissioner Suleiman asked if the classes remain inclusive.

Pechous confirmed the classes will remain inclusive.

- c. Section 4 – Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, Part I

Dr. Kosey reported that Section 4 has been divided due to its length. Several policies within the section are currently under review by the attorney. While the content of the section will remain unchanged, the wording will be refined for clarity and improvement.

- d. IDNR Bike Path Improvement Project Grant (*Requires Waiving the Board Rules to Approve at this Meeting.*)

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to waive the Board Rules to approve at this meeting applying for the IDNR 2025 Bike Trail Grant.

There was no additional discussion, and the motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve applying for the IDNR 2025 Bike Trail Grant.

Attorney Adams asked about the amount of the grant.

Johnson answered \$20,000.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, and President Knitter

Nay: None

Absent: Commissioner Vescovi

10. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON MAY 19, 2025, 6:30 P.M.

President Knitter announced the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Park Commissioners will be held on May 19, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to adjourn the April 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:46 p.m.



Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director