

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 16, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
Canterberry Room

1. 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 6:31 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 Steve Adams, District Attorney.

2. OPEN FORUM

President Knitter asked if there were any public comments.

Amy Marr reported that her child informed her that Commissioner Chan visited a Park District camp which her child attends. Commissioner Chan asked the children for their names and where they lived. Marr asked if Commissioner Chan communicated her visit in advance to the Park District staff, and she expressed concern, describing the behavior as inappropriate.

Ron Ariana, a Saddlebrook resident, reported that the Fordon Horse Barn has been named one of “2025 Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois” by Landmarks Illinois. Ariana requested that the results of the informal survey be made public, sought clarification on the “remove” option, and urged that all possibilities for repurposing or relocating the structure be thoroughly analyzed.

Nella Sansguin, a resident of Oak Brook, requested that the playground camp lunch be held indoors daily due to high temperatures and to help the children focus on eating. Sansguin also expressed her primary concern about Commissioner Chan walking around the Playground Camp and interacting with counselors and children at the camp which her child attends. Sansguin finds the commissioner’s involvement to be disruptive and inappropriate. Sansguin suggested that Commissioner Chan go through proper channels.

Alan Koren, a Saddlebrook resident, shared that a former board member of the Historical Society had emailed him in support of preserving the barn specifically at Graue Mill.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 16, 2025 AGENDA
- b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - i. May 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - ii. May 19, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes
- c. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING MAY 31, 2025
 - i. Warrant 697

Motion: Commissioner Chan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vescovi, to approve taking a Single Omnibus Vote on the Consent Agenda with the amendment of removal of the May 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays:

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chan, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays:

Motion: Commissioner Chan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vescovi, to approve the May 19, 2025 Minutes as amended.

Commissioner Chan reviewed her changes for amendments to the May 19, 2025 Minutes.

The motion did not pass by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

Nays: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Minutes in its current form.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

4. APRIL 21, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the April 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented, without amendment.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

5. STAFF RECOGNITION

- a. Hector Maldonado, Tennis Center Custodian
- b. Kennen Hootman, Fitness Manager
- c. Molly Paschen, Recreation Manager – Youth

President Knitter and the Board welcomed the new staff.

6. PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Proclamation "July is Park and Recreation Month"

Dr. Kosey stated that the Board will be signing the proclamation at the end of the meeting.

b. Jim Belden, Solar Power Purchase Agreement

Jim Belden updated the Board on the Reconciliation Bill. The investment tax credit will expire 60 days after the bill is signed into law. Given the short timeframe, Belden is working with clients to establish safe harbor provisions and recommends pursuing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Under a PPA, the solar investor covers equipment, installation, and maintenance costs. The agreement typically spans 15–20 years.

Attorney Adams asked about variables in the contract if there are any loss of incentives. Belden replied that variables for loss of incentives would be important to write in the contract.

President Knitter asked if low solar production could affect the contracted rate. Belden responded that the rate is fixed, non-escalating, and not tied to energy output.

Commissioner Gondek inquired about possible future technical changes and governmental bills. Belden responded that PPA provides less risk with technical changes since the Park District is only purchasing solar energy. Whereas if the Park District owned the equipment, the equipment would need to be replaced by the owner.

Commissioner Vescovi asked if there is a difference in warranty process whether purchased or leased. Belden responded that the warranty is the same, 20 years stipulated by Illinois law.

Commissioner Chan questioned the efficiency and degradation of the solar panels, especially with Illinois climate.

Belden stated that the inefficiencies and degradation that Commissioner Chan is speaking of are unfounded and then provided evidence.

President Knitter asked Belden if it matters how much solar energy is being produced since the Park District will only pay the contracted rate, and if there were not enough solar production, what would happen. Belden agreed that Park District pays the contracted rate and is not at risk of degradation. The panels have warranty on efficiency and will be monitored. If degradation occurs, those would be remedied.

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 presented questions from the previous meeting and noted the Appendices.

b. Finance and Human Resources Report

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

Salinas included two sets of financials from prior and present Fiscal Year (FY) in this board packet.

c. Recreation and Communications Report

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

President Knitter commended the Park District for including a baking class.

d. Parks and Facilities Report

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

A grant from DuPage County Health Department provided funding for a free swim lesson program, so DuPage County filmed a promotional video at the Park District to highlight it.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Objectives and Key Results

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek to approve Objectives and Key Results for May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026.

Commissioner Vescovi requested that an explanation of the Objectives and Key Results (OKRs) be provided to the audience.

Dr. Kosey explained the OKRs and reported this year the Park District will embrace the core values.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioner Chan and Vescovi

b. Approval of a Travel Expense for Commissioner Attendance at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference held in Orlando, Florida - September 15-18, 2025

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek to approve the travel expenses for Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley and President Knitter attendance at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference held September 15-18, 2025 in Orlando, FL.

Commissioner Chan reiterated that she prefers conferences with one attending live while the remaining staff attend virtually with a follow-up briefing. Commissioner Chan questioned the value of conferences.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioner Chan and Vescovi

c. Ordinance 25-0616: An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Personal Property and Authorizing Conveyance or Sale Thereof

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek to approve Ordinance 25-0616: An Ordinance Declaring Surplus Personal Property and Authorizing Conveyance or Sale Thereof.

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

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

Nays: None

9. NEW BUSINESS

a. Wizard Football Club Agreement

Dr. Kosey provided an overview of the Wizard Football Club Agreement, noting that nearly half of the participants are residents. Dr. Kosey highlighted the Park District's strong five-year partnership with the club.

Commissioner Chan inquired about the capital contribution.

Dr. Kosey explained the capital contribution previously facilitated the LED lights at the North Fields. For the present agreement, the contributions will assist with a capital project.

b. Ordinance 25-0721: An Ordinance Implementing the Provisions of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1.1 Et Seq.)

Commissioner Chan reviewed her comments for Ordinance 25-0721, specifically questioning a sitting commissioner endorsing another candidate. Attorney Adams clarified that commissioners are not prohibited from endorsing other candidates. However, commissioners may not use Park District resources, staff, or materials for campaign purposes during official duties, as outlined by the Illinois Attorney General.

Commissioner Chan warned that the ordinance could be used as a political weapon targeting commissioners and stated that its adoption is unnecessary. Attorney Adams clarified that the ordinance does not establish an Ethics Committee. Instead, it identifies an optional Ethics Advisor role, but the adoption of the ordinance is mandated by state law.

Dr. Kosey suggested Commissioner Chan submit her questions in writing and receive responses before the next board meeting.

Attorney Adams stated that a commissioner may speak to other commissioners at conferences. However, speaking to two or more commissioners from this board would violate the Open Meetings Act. Attorney Adams clarified to Commissioner Chan that commissioners cannot speak about political prohibited activities, then he suggested Commissioner Chan make her revision to the Ethics Ordinance.

Commissioner Gondek expressed support for the Ethics Ordinance, stating that if the Illinois General Assembly believes it is legal and necessary, then the Board should adopt it.

c. Section 1.1 – Administrative Policies and Procedures Revisions

Commissioner Chan voiced her disagreement with the added clause where a commissioner must be on the Board for one year before being elected as an officer. Because commissioners are elected by the public, Commissioner Chan argued that officer roles should rotate annually rather than being held by the same individuals for extended periods; no commissioner should serve in the same officer role for consecutive terms.

President Knitter suggested that Commissioner Chan make a motion to prohibit consecutive officer terms.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley asked why remote call-in is being limited. President Knitter explained that remote call-in is allowed three times. This policy was introduced in response to past issues with a previous commissioner's use of remote participation.

Commissioner Chan referenced the situation involving the former commissioner and expressed her view that limiting remote participation is not constructive. Commissioner Chan recommended removing the cap on remote meeting attendance.

Attorney Adams concluded the discussion by noting that the remote participation policy is a Board decision.

d. RFP for Solar PPA Provider

Johnson asked the Board for direction at the next Board meeting on whether to pursue the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Solar Provider PPA.

Commissioner Chan stated that she does not want to pursue the RFP for the Solar PPA.

Commissioners Gondek and Ivkovic Kelley stated that they would move forward with the RFP for Solar PPA.

Commissioner Vescovi would like more information concerning other institutions who participate and number of years participating in the Solar PPA; however, he believes the Solar PPA is a great deal.

Johnson listed multiple Park Districts who are underway with the Solar PPA. Johnson stated the Board will decide whether to pursue the RFP.

e. Ordinance 25-0722: An Ordinance Providing for Declaration of Vacancy on the Board of Park Commissioners

Commissioner Vescovi addressed his absences from past Board meetings. Commissioner Vescovi acknowledged that he should have participated remotely but explained the circumstances that prevented him from doing so; he stated that he does not support the ordinance.

Attorney Adams stated that many of his park district clients have an attendance ordinance, but state legislature gives the Board the authority to decide.

Attorney Adams clarified that the ordinance would apply if a commissioner missed four meetings without attending in person or remotely.

Dr. Kosey added that the intent of the ordinance is to address chronic absenteeism, specifically in cases where four meetings are missed. Dr. Kosey noted that remote participation is available for commissioners who are ill.

Commissioner Gondek expressed support for having a provision in place to address attendance.

President Knitter emphasized that past absences, including those of Commissioner Vescovi, are not the focus; the goal is to move forward with a new provision that promotes accountability.

10. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO SHARE COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Chan stated that a resident told her that children were eating on the ground at the playground camp and that the issue was raised with both Commissioners and the Executive Director/Staff, but it was not resolved. Commissioner Chan went to assess the situation herself and walked to the playground that is open to the public, and she found that to be the case. A neighbor's daughter recognized Commissioner Chan and started to talk with her. Multiple camp counselors were there the entire time, and those camp counselors and other kids joined in the conversation. Chan's recommendation is to have the kids eat in the empty room that has table and chairs available, which also has a joining bathroom. Commissioner Chan also noted that an unsupervised boy came out of the restroom.

President Knitter stated that a commissioner's job is policy and hiring of the Executive Director, not operations. Any concerns and recommendations should be directed to Dr. Kosey.

Dr. Kosey expressed concern with Commissioner Chan's comments which questioned the professionalism of the staff. Dr. Kosey clarified the unsupervised child exiting the restroom was a Junior Counselor, who is permitted to use the restroom independently. Additionally, staff had already addressed a parent's concern regarding lunch. During inclement weather, children come inside to eat. Dr. Kosey reiterated the concept of the Playground Camp and requested Commissioner Chan share her concerns with her instead of creating alarm among parents.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley stated that several parents approached her and expressed concern that Commissioner Chan asked their children for their names and where they live. Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley recommended directing inquiries to staff instead of children.

Commissioner Gondek emphasized that the concerns raised by the mothers who spoke tonight should be addressed, and commissioners should come to staff and avoid direct interaction with the children.

President Knitter acknowledged that Commissioner Chan's visit was likely well-intentioned but reiterated that commissioners are not Park District employees and should avoid engaging with minors in Park District programs.

11. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON JULY 21, 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 July 21, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to adjourn the June 16, 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 8:34 p.m.



Dr. Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director