MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 17, 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 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Chan, Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter answered "present" from the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterberry Conference Room. Also present in Canterberry 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. OPEN FORUM

   President Knitter opened the meeting with a request for each commissioner to provide a positive statement concerning the Oak Brook Park District that they experienced recently.

   President Knitter spoke on the Park District Birthday Party that was attended by many people and vendors.

   Commissioner Chan stated that she has received positive feedback on the preschool and that it is a "treasure" for residents and nonresidents.

   Commissioner Vescovi communicated that the Park District facility and swim instructors are great, and his grandson swims here weekly.

   Commissioner Gondek stated that the Winter Lights is a wonderful event and residents enjoy walking through it.

   Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley appreciated Breakaway being at the Park District and stated that her son participates in that program advancing to a travel team. The gym is used by her son to supplement his training.

   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 there will be no discussion with the Board.

   Noel Manley, a Darien resident, stated that the facility is well run and he thanked the Board for their public service. Manley criticized a series of emails from an Oak Brook Park District resident concerning Commissioners Chan and Vescovi.

   Christine Martin, a Downers Grove resident, questioned Attorney Adams' focus of the previous speaker.

Please refer to the audio recording on the website for a verbatim account of the Board Meeting.

Attorney Adams summarized the previous speaker's comment and argued that this Park District is the most transparent public agency he has worked with.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley communicated that there have been public videos on social media made by an individual who has stated that he works for the newly elected commission. This individual has attended some Board meetings and has given offensive gestures to the Board.

Commissioner Chan denied that the individual works for her.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

    a. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2025 AGENDA
    b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
        i. October 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
    c. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2025
        i. Warrant 702

Motion: Commissioner Chan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Single Omnibus Consent Agenda without the Financial Statement.

The motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter
Nays: None

Commissioner Chan requested the conference expenses of commissioners and staff and wondered why the attorney invoices were not in the warrant.

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Financial Statement.

The motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter
Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

5. SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gondek decided not to continue discussion on the September 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. This was pulled from the Agenda.

6. SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 CLOSED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gondek decided not to continue discussion on the September 22, 2025 Closed Board Meeting Minutes. This was pulled from the Agenda.

7. STAFF RECOGNITION
    a. None

8. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

a. Annual Report

Dr. Kosey stated that the Annual Report is a summary of the 2024-25 fiscal year (FY) and is presented after the auditor has approved the numbers.

b. Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Review

Dr. Kosey reported that staff evaluate the Strategic Plan every six months and the updated Strategic Plan has been implemented in the website.

c. Capital Improvement Projects 2026-2027

Dr. Kosey stated that the staff has created a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan, where the focus will be on improvements for the next fiscal year (FY). The Budget Workshop may occur in February next year.

d. Outdoor Tennis Court Project

Dr. Kosey reported that the reconstruction work on the outdoor tennis court project will begin next year with their own savings. Discussion with the Board will occur.

9. 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 congratulated Marco Salinas and his team for receiving the GFOA Budget Award on their first attempt.

Dr. Kosey congratulated Bob Johnson on being elected to be a Parks and Natural Resource Management Director for Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA).

b. Finance and Human Resources Report

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

Salinas reported that revenue for the General Fund increased due to the increase in non-resident daily fees and revenue from the Central Park West rentals. Recreation Fund is cyclical so surplus will decrease as the year progresses.

President Knitter confirmed that the Tennis Center Capital Projects is being funded by the Enterprise Fund.

Salinas stated that no taxes are given to the Tennis Center, so money in the Enterprise Fund cannot be transferred to another fund. Tennis Center receives revenue through user and program fees.

Commissioner Chan asked where the Tennis Center Fund surplus is saved.

Salinas explained where the surplus is saved and will provide the information concerning the Tennis Center Fund surplus.

Commissioner Vescovi asked about the Hinsdale Bank and Evergreen, which is now Old Second National Bank, interest rate.

Salinas responded that the decrease of interest rate at Evergreen occurred recently, so he will continue to evaluate the rate. The recent merger of Evergreen and Old Second National may have caused a decrease in the interest rate.

c. Recreation and Communications Report

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

Pechous reported field rentals in the fall were strong due to favorable weather and consistent usage of the fields. Social media is slightly down but that is due to the fewer posts in September for October programming.

d. Parks and Facilities Report

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

Johnson reported that the Park District hosted the first veterans event with Lazy Dog food sponsorship. Many families attended for free and there were many vendors attending. The First Division Museum provided museum quality Veterans displays at the Park District.

Commissioner Chan asked about the high-speed internet at the Park District because she had heard the Village is looking into easy fiber for residential areas. Commissioner Chan asked if the Park District has been contacted concerning fiber installation.

Pechous stated that Comcast has been sufficient and the Park District had evaluated fiber a few years ago but it was costly; he will review fiber internet again.

Pechous mentioned that fiber may be utilized at the Dean Nature Sancturary.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Approval of a Travel Expense for Commissioner Attendance at the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, January 29 - 31, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Travel Expense for Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter, for the purpose of attending the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, January 29-31, 2026 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Commissioner Gondek stated that the conference is worthwhile for staff and commissioners to attend.

The motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter
Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

b. Employee Health Insurance Contract

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the Employee Health Insurance Contract.

Dr. Kosey stated that all the health insurance information is in the Agenda History of the Board Packet.

The motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter
Nays: None

c. Acceptance of the Oak Brook Park District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to accept the Oak Brook Park District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025.

Commissioner Chan spoke to the audience and explained that ACFR follows the accounting rules of GASB. Although no improprieties are found, there is no review of the financial controls.

Salinas responded that the audit evaluated the financials, and the audit procedures do test internal controls. The primary focus for audit following GASB is the setup of the report but there is reasonable assurance.

Commissioner Chan questioned staff having a purchasing credit card or contracts as an example.

Salinas stated that this is not unusual for staff to have a credit card. Management minimizes abuse and fraud with segregation of duty, so there is reasonable assurance.

Attorney Adams asked if Commissioner Chan had access to the internal controls report, procedures, and policy. Commissioner Chan affirmed she had access.

Commissioner Gondek asked if there has been a history of abuse.

Salinas stated that there was no abuse.

The motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Vescovi, and President Knitter
Nays: None

d. Approval of a Travel Expense Report 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's attendance at the National Recreation and Park Association Conference held September 16-19, 2025 in Orlando, Florida.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ordinance No 25-1215: An Ordinance Levying Taxes and Assessing Taxes for the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 of the Oak Brook Park District of DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois.

Salinas presented his reasons for the proposed amount for the tax levy. A higher amount is requested realizing the county will assign a decreased amount. Salinas stated that the CPI inflation is higher than the Park District tax levy request.

Commissioner Vescovi asked if the Park District review the overhead to find savings.

Dr. Kosey responded that overhead is reviewed annually.

Commissioner Chan recommended moving the budget process to be ready before December so that a vote on the tax levy increase could occur in December. This would mean changing the Park District FY. Commissioner Chan also asked why the Park District needs to levy a tax increase.

Attorney Adams stated that the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance is required to be adopted within three months of the FY. The FY would need to be changed to allow Commissioner Chan's recommendation. The General Assembly intentionally disconnected the appropriation ordinance from the levy ordinance, but this is not required.

President Knitter requested Dr. Kosey to provide information to change the FY.

b. IAPD Annual Business Meeting Credentials

Dr. Kosey is the representative and will attend the January 31st IAPD Annual Business Meeting Credentials.

c. 2026 Board Meeting Dates

The 2026 Board Meeting Dates are in the Board Packet.

d. Outdoor Tennis Court Project

Commissioner Chan questioned how the resurfacing of the outdoor tennis courts, gazebo, and lights be paid. Commissioner Chan requested more information for this project.

President Knitter reminded Commissioner Chan that the Enterprise Funds do not rely on the taxes and cannot utilize taxes.

Dr. Kosey stated that there will be alternate bids for the lights and gazebo and those will be decided by the Board, and more information will be presented at the next Board meeting.

12. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO SHARE COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Vescovi stated he had heard that President Knitter would not be running for Park District Commissioner; however, he questioned her photo as President on the cover of the Park District Quarterly Newsletter. Commissioner Vescovi claimed that it was as though she was campaigning.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley reminded the Board that the residents expect the Board to function as a team. Please keep communication constructive and make decisions that serve the Park District.

Commissioner Chan reported resident feedback: more family-oriented activities for learning not necessarily physical and more open court times and swim lanes.

Commissioner Gondek suggested that commissioners remember the "Ground Rules for Facilitated Session" from the self-evaluation and keep the list with them during the meeting to assist the Board to work respectfully.

13. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
President Knitter announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Park Commissioners would be held on December 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT
Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to adjourn the November 17, 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 8:10 p.m.

Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director

Please refer to the audio recording on the website for a verbatim account of the Board Meeting.