

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 21, 2024 – 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 Gondek, Suleiman, and President Knitter answered “present” from the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Conference Room. Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley arrived at 6:37 p.m. Commissioner Vescovi was absent. Also present in Canterbury Conference Room was Laure Kosey, Executive Director; Marco Salinas, Chief Financial Officer; Bob Johnson, Deputy Director; and Robert Pechous, Director of Recreation and Communications.

2. OPEN FORUM

President Knitter asked if there were any public comments.

Multiple residents from Canterbury Lane near the Dean Nature Sanctuary spoke about the rising crime on their block which has been growing since COVID. The Sanctuary parking lot has had cars parked there in the evenings and the unlit bike path that leads to the Sanctuary has been problematic. There have been robberies and vandalism in nearby homes. Other issues such as inappropriate trash and random walkers and bikers with unleashed dogs going through private property have been alarming for Canterbury residents.

Oak Brook Police Department, Detective Warren stated that there have been issues with the bike path by the under pass where people come from Cook County. He asked the residents to call the police when there are suspicious activities and other events such as unleashed dogs, trespassing, or illegally parked cars. Detective Warren suggested installing alarms and cameras with a security subscription and to be aware of items outside the house that can be utilized to enter the home. Also, he warned the residents not to keep jewelry and expensive items in the primary bedroom. Detective Warren encouraged the residents, Park District, and Police to work collaboratively to deter crime on Canterbury.

President Knitter stated crime is also occurring in gated communities. President Knitter announced that previously a gate, license plate reader, and cameras were installed at the Dean Nature Sanctuary to help with security. The Sanctuary will not be closed, but the Park District will consider solutions to help make the neighborhood safer.

Commissioner Suleiman advised adding motion lights.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley suggested installing cameras on the second-floor balcony.

Oak Brook resident, Ms. Seana Scheid, asked the detective how often criminals have escaped through the bike path.

Detective Warren responded that the bike path may have been used once during a burglary.

Mr. Nick Castaldo, an Oak Brook resident, stated that he had brought attention to the increased crime on Canterbury Lane to the Board a few years ago. As a result, a gate was installed entering the parking lot of the Dean Nature Sanctuary. However, it has been broken a few times. He would like the Park

District to find a solution to the growing crime for what he believed to be caused by the Sanctuary parking lot and the bike path.

President Knitter stated the bike path is not part of the Dean Nature Sanctuary so the Park District cannot control the bike path. She emphasized the Sanctuary is not a bike park. If the parking lot is removed, then people will park on the street.

Commissioner Suleiman added that without the parking lot patrons with disabilities will not have wheelchair access to the Sanctuary.

Mr. Castaldo stated that the gate has been helpful since it was installed; however, he would like more security to be added.

Dr. Laure Kosey communicated that she will reach out to some of the residents concerning security of the parking lot. However, the parking lot and bike path are part of a covenant with the Conservation Foundation.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2024 AGENDA
- b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - i. September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - ii. September 16, 2024 Closed Meeting Minutes
- c. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
  - i. Warrant 689

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: Commissioner Vescovi

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

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

4. STAFF RECOGNITION

- a. None

5. COMMUNICATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Board of Commissioners to Share Communications

Commissioner Suleiman communicated that she has received feedback from Forest Glen Park residents concerning basketballs getting stuck behind the backboard and a board on the tennis

court side. Young players will climb up to retrieve the basketball when that occurs. Commissioner Suleiman is requesting a solution.

- b. Illinois Association of Park District's Commissioner Service Recognition Award
  - i. Sharon Knitter, 15 years

Dr. Kosey presented President Knitter a Fifteen Year Service Recognition Award.

- c. Presentation of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2024, by a Representative from Lauterbach and Amen, LLP

Mr. Riley Martin, a representative from Lauterbach and Amen, LLP, presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2024.

- d. Presentation of the Tennis Center Business Plan

Mr. Alin Pop, Superintendent of Enterprise Operations, presented the updated Tennis Center Business Plan.

Commissioner Suleiman asked if the goal pertaining to increasing the membership fee will be sustainable for the Park District without losing membership.

Mr. Pop responded that since the membership fee is below market price the Park District should not lose membership if the fee is increased.

Commissioner Suleiman stated that she has heard from residents that there is a gap between high performance and development programs, so these residents would like to see more skills training to fill in the gap to assist beginner tennis players become high performance players.

Mr. Pop reported that there will be gaps in the program depending on the players, but it is the Tennis Center's goal to have a "Medium Academy." As of now, there are Jr. Development, Jr. Academy, and High Performance at the Tennis Center. The Jr. Academy has lower attendance, but when Jr. Development players move to Jr. Academy, the number of players should increase there.

Mr. Pop stated that the parents are questioning the coaching philosophy. When it appears that the coach is only instructing, the Tennis Center has found that the lessons are not as effective for children.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley added that playing with the mix of drills instead of only drills works well for young children.

Mr. Pop communicated that the Tennis Center is implementing the most updated tools for instructing. The next Tennis Center update will be in 2026.

## 6. 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 thanked the commissioners for reviewing the Personnel Policy Manual.

President Knitter asked that the revisions to the manual be reviewed at the next Board meeting so they can discuss Commissioner Suleiman's questions.

Dr. Kosey reported that the Park District health insurance decreased due to a change in the staff census. Dental insurance went up slightly.

President Knitter added that the pool of employees determines the percentage decrease or increase in the health insurance.

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 three major funds for the five months of the fiscal year. General, Recreation, and Tennis Center Funds are in surplus. Property Tax Receipt has been received.

c. Recreation and Communications Report

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

Mr. Pechous reported that most of the pickleball league had sold out and preschool has started. Pioneers returned from Maine. Learn to Play Mah Jongg is sold out and will move to Central Park West (CPW) starting Friday. The Celebration of International Cultures event was successful for its first year. Mr. Pechous thanked staff and commissioners who helped with the event.

Mr. Pechous announced that a QR code survey postcard was mailed to residents.

Dr. Kosey added that the surveys will also be promoted at the Oak Brook Park District Birthday Celebration on November 1<sup>st</sup>. One survey is to be completed per household.

Mr. Pechous stated that paper surveys will also be available at the November 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebration and at the front desk.

Commissioner Gondek asked what database of addresses were used.

Mr. Pechous stated that the database came from the Village through water billing.

d. Parks and Facilities Report

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

Mr. Johnson reported that landscape cleanup and remaining projects are being completed. Parking lot striping and asphalt paving have also been completed. Mums were donated and planted throughout Central Park; trees were planted at the Dean Nature Sanctuary through a Morton Arboretum grant. The Family Aquatic Center renovation is done. The facility is preparing for the strength training equipment exchange.

Commissioner Gondek asked about restriping Forest Gate Road. Commissioner Gondek has brought it up to the Village but was told the road will be redone next year. He is hoping the Park District can discuss restriping with the Village so it can be completed sooner.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### a. Revisions to the Personnel Policy Manual

President Knitter requested that the Personnel Policy Manual be moved to the next Board meeting. The commissioners agreed to move the Personnel Policy Manual to the next Board meeting.

### b. Ordinance 24-1021: 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 24-1021: 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

### c. Resolution 24-1022: A Resolution Regarding the Review of Minutes for Closed Meetings from January 1989 through August 31, 2024

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve Resolution 24-1022: A Resolution Regarding the Review of Minutes for Closed Meetings from January 1989 Through August 31, 2024.

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

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Approval of a Travel Expense for Commissioner Attendance at the 2025 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, January 23 - 25, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Dr. Kosey stated that she will need to know which commissioners will be attending the IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference and on which days as soon as possible.

### b. Employee Health Insurance Contract

Mr. Salinas reported that the new contract will start in the new year with decreased cost. The employee census information helped with the decrease.

### c. Acceptance of the Oak Brook Park District's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2024.

President Knitter stated that they will discuss the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at the next meeting after reviewing it.

9. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

President Knitter announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District of Park Commissioners will be held on November 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to adjourn the October 21, 2024, 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 7:51 p.m.



Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director