

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK
DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 15, 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 6:32 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. OPEN FORUM

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 the board will not engage with them.

Al Knut, an Oak Brook resident, stated that he has seen the Park District expand exponentially and the Board has lost its original focus: providing services to the residents and the Oak Brook community. Knut stated that the Park District should serve Oak Brook residents, since the residents are paying taxes to the Park District. Knut recommended that non-residents pay more and videotape the Board meetings.

Tameen Mohsin, an Oak Brook resident, communicated that it is difficult for his family to play basketball at prime hours. Mohsin understands the Breakaway schedule since his sons participate in that program; however, Mohsin would appreciate more open court times, especially as the weather changes.

Mustafa Ali, an Oak Brook resident, stated that there are not enough open court times convenient for families.

Tal Hali, an Oak Brook resident, stated that it has been difficult to rent the park fields due to schools and travel teams renting the fields. Hali also communicated that he is kicked off the field when no one is utilizing the fields. Hali would like more opportunities to rent a field.

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

Commissioner Gondek congratulated the staff for clearing snow off the pathway which attracts residents with dogs to use the pathways. Commissioner Gondek has received many positive comments concerning Winter Lights.

Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley stated that she also received positive feedback about Winter Lights and appreciated the additional open court hours over Thanksgiving break, noting that she valued the speakers' comments concerning the court times.

Commissioner Vescovi stated that Winter Lights are beautiful and appreciates that the walk is manageable compared to other facilities. Commissioner Vescovi stated that the staff did a great job.

Commissioner Chan communicated that she received positive feedback concerning Cocoa Cabin and the staff did a great job. Commissioner Chan appreciated the comments from the speakers.

President Knitter expressed that she has met many diverse women in Mah Jongg and expressed her appreciation for the sense of community and friendship it provides, noting that these connections support longer lives and are an important part of a fulfilling life which the Park District does provide.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2025 AGENDA
- b. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - i. November 12, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
 - ii. November 12, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes
 - iii. November 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- c. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2025
 - i. Warrant 703

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

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the November 12, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Motion: Commissioner Tina Chan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vescovi, to approve the November 12, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes as amended.

President Knitter stated that the Board has received Commissioner Chan's amended 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 November 12, 2025 Closed Meeting Minutes as presented.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

Motion: Commissioner Chan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vescovi, to approve the November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.

Commissioner Chan explained her reason for amending the 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 November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

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

Commissioner Chan explained her reasons for not approving the warrant.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

5. STAFF RECOGNITION

- a. Amanda Woods, Superintendent of Marketing and Communications
- b. Eric Vogt, Lead Custodian

The Board welcomed Amanda Woods and Eric Vogt.

6. PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Capital Improvement Project Summary Sheets

Dr. Laure Kosey stated that projects for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) have been identified but not prioritized, and staff are currently compiling detailed information for each project. The prioritized list will be coming.

Commissioner Chan indicated that she would like more details than the budget number alone to make an informed decision and then asked who completed the summary sheets.

Dr. Kosey answered that the staff leading the project completed the survey. Dr. Kosey added that life expectancy and maintenance can be added to the summary sheets.

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 clarified that they are only moving forward with the process in order to budget for the next FY for the Tennis Center project. Alin Pop, Superintendent of Enterprise Operations, will give a presentation next month.

President Knitter emphasized tonight is a vote to go out to bid to find out the Tennis Center project costs and explore opportunities.

Commissioner Chan questioned the wording in the Board Packet and stated the need to explain all the expenditures.

b. Finance and Human Resources Report

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

Salinas stated that the fund balance is in surplus for the first five months but will decline as the FY continues.

Commissioner Vescovi asked if there will be enough in the Tennis Center fund to cover the Tennis Center project and other expenses.

Salinas responded that the Tennis Center has accumulated a surplus, ensuring there will be sufficient funds to cover the project while also building up the reserve. Pop had anticipated the project's cost and set aside savings for it.

Attorney Adams reminded the Board the Tennis Center does not take any property tax money.

c. Recreation and Communications Report

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

Commissioner Chan questioned who should write the opening message for the quarterly newsletter; she stated that Dr. Kosey is not a Board member or resident so should not provide the message in the quarterly newsletter. President Knitter responded due to Dr. Kosey's experience and apolitical work it is appropriate for her to write the message. Many residents speak to Dr. Kosey concerning the Park District. Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley reminded Commissioner Chan that Dr. Kosey is the Executive Director, and many have spoken positively concerning the newsletter. Commissioner Gondek stated that the newsletter targets the residents and is good to continue, so Dr. Kosey should be writing the message considering she represents more of the residents' voices due to her daily interaction with them.

d. Parks and Facilities Report

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

Johnson reported that the modernization of the elevator has been completed and will be in service after an inspection. The interior of the elevator will be renovated in January, so it will be out of service again at that time.

8. UNFINISHED 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.

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

Commissioner Vescovi noted a few park districts who follow a calendar FY so the budget is prepared before the tax levy is requested.

President Knitter stated that she has asked Dr. Kosey to investigate the process of changing the fiscal year.

Dr. Kosey added that possible options to change the fiscal year will come in January.

Attorney Adams responded that many of his clients have changed from May 1 FY to calendar FY.

Commissioner Chan questioned increasing taxes and should instead reduce expenses and use the surplus in the reserve. Commissioner Chan suggested paying down the debt, and she opposes the tax levy increase.

President Knitter read the amount each commissioner would pay with the increased tax levy. President Knitter stated the increase in taxes is justifiable due to inflation.

Commissioner Gondek asked Attorney Adams the timing of the tax levy and the upcoming budget.

Attorney Adams explained the timing of the budget and the tax levy. There is flexibility since the tax levy does not need to be compliant with a particular budget. There are options to abate or adjust.

Commissioner Gondek will approve the tax levy in that case.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

b. IAPD Annual Business Meeting Credentials

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to appoint Laure Kosey the District's delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

Commissioner Chan questioned the Executive Director representing the commissioners at the IAPD Annual Business Meeting when commissioners will be there. Commissioner Chan recommended President Knitter be the delegate. Dr. Kosey stated that there is an early request for a delegate and the commissioners are welcome to attend. President Knitter responded that the most knowledgeable representative should be the delegate which is Dr. Kosey. Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley stated that the Park District won the Gold Medalist award due to Dr. Kosey's leadership and the work of the staff, and it would be informational for Commissioner Chan to attend.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, and President Knitter

Nays: Commissioners Chan and Vescovi

c. 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Dates.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

d. Outdoor Tennis Court Project

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to approve obtaining bids for the Tennis Center Outdoor Tennis Courts Rebuild Project for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year budget.

Dr. Kosey confirmed this motion is to approve the process of getting the budget numbers for the Tennis Courts Rebuild Project. Pop will present the project with details at the next meeting. The lights and gazebo are alternates that can be pulled.

President Knitter stated that she would approve the process but is not yet comfortable approving the project itself.

Commissioner Chan suggested that the motion wording be edited.

Attorney Adams modified the motion to obtain bids.

Commissioner Chan stated that there will be nothing remaining in the reserves when paying for the project, and she wants to avoid taking out a loan for the project. Commissioner Chan requests a more rigorous analysis and details in the cost research using a larger sample size.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays:

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Extension of Contract for Audit Services with Lauterbach & Amen

Commissioner Chan stated that the Park District should go out to bid for audit services since it has been a number of years since the initial contract.

10. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO SHARE COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Vescovi requested staff and commissioners who attend the conference to verbally report on what they learned and how that can be applied to the work. If many staff attend, then a representative can report on a summary.

Commissioner Chan reported that the Attorney General responded that the Park District violated OMA when they went into Closed Session for an attendance ordinance.

President Knitter stated that Closed Session was used to prevent embarrassment with Commissioner Vescovi's multiple absences, the intention was to keep his absences private.

11. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2026, 6:30 P.M.

President Knitter announced the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Park Commissioners would be held on January 19, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gondek, to adjourn the December 15, 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 7:48 p.m.

Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director