

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 24, 2025**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners will be held on Monday, February 24, 2025 at the hour of 6:30 p.m. The Special Meeting will be held at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, Canterbury Room, 1450 Forest Gate Road, Oak Brook, IL 60523 for the purpose of considering the following agenda.

1) CALL TO ORDER THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE OAK BROOK PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND ROLL CALL

President Knitter called to order the Special Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District at the hour of 6:31 p.m. Commissioners Gondek, Ivkovic Kelley, Suleiman, 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) APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2025 AGENDA OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to approve the February 24, 2025 Agenda of the Special Meeting.

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

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

Nays: None

3) SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

a) Discussion of the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan and Requested Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Operating Budget

President Knitter reminded the commissioners that this is the meeting to ask questions concerning the budget. If there are more questions after the meeting, please contact Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley who is the Board Treasurer.

President Knitter commended the staff for a thorough job on the budget.

Dr. Laure Kosey stated March 2nd will be her fifteenth year at the Park District. Every year there is some improvement, and the Park District staff tries to consider residents’ input regarding providing a budget presentation, including a detailed budget with the summary budget.

Dr. Kosey explained the budget is tied to the mission, vision, and strategic initiatives. The new strategic initiatives will begin May 1, 2025 to 2029. Commissioners and staff have had input to the strategic initiatives.

Dr. Kosey stated this meeting was the first of several budget discussions, and she presented the budget calendar which can be found in the Park District’s records.

Dr. Kosey stated that on March 17th more discussions will occur on the budget, and April 21st will be the public hearing on the budget.

Dr. Kosey presented the Budget Highlights and Strategic Plan Initiatives Update, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Dr. Kosey communicated that the Oak Brook First on the 1st was implemented and has had great participation. Dr. Kosey added that residents can bring a guest free on their birthday. President Knitter noted that Commissioner Suleiman suggested the birthday opportunity.

Dr. Kosey reported that Elevate, a day programming for Gateway Special Recreation, has been added.

Dr. Kosey stated that a grant was provided for the Starr Chief Eagle program and over \$136,000 were given to the Park District in monetary sponsorship support. President Knitter added much more was given in-kind.

Commissioner Suleiman communicated that she provided information on the Starr Chief Eagle program to the school district. The students were learning about the Native American history, so many children attended the Starr Chief Eagle program.

Robert Pechous presented the DuPage County Park Districts Tax Rates, Property Tax Distribution in Oak Brook, and Property Tax Levies Excluding Levies for Debt Service and Special Recreation, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Bob Johnson presented the General Fund (Administration, Finance, & Human Resources, Parks, Information Technology, Family Recreation Center and CPW Facilities), which can be found in the Park District's records.

Marco Salinas presented the General Fund Revenues for 2025/2026 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas noted that the Debt Service Fund will end for 2025/2026 FY since the loan to the Village will be paid off. The 2025/2026 General Fund is projected to have 5.92 months of expenditures in the reserve.

Pechous presented the Recreation Fund (Recreation Programming, Aquatics, Fitness, and Marketing & Communications), which can be found in the Park District's records.

President Knitter asked if residents are filling up the camp the first day.

Pechous responded that the first day does fill up with residents.

Commissioner Suleiman asked if the camps could use Central Park West (CPW).

Pechous responded that the staff has considered CPW for space, but different programs also use CPW.

President Knitter asked about the resident registration date.

Pechous stated that residents have two weeks to register before the programs open to everyone else.

Salinas presented the Recreation Fund for 2025/2026 FY Budget, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas noted Marketing revenue will be lower in FY 2025/2026, because this is the final year for the Foundation donating to pay on the 2018 debt certificate that was used to pay for the Universal Playground.

Salinas segregated Capital Expenditures to demonstrate the high number of Capital Projects that were conducted this FY 2024/2025. Next year there will be a surplus due to the lower amount of Capital Projects. The reserve will go up slightly to 5.28 months of expenditures for FY 2025/2026.

President Knitter stated that the Park District started planning in 2023 for the HVAC replacement. Planning and savings started early so that HVAC could be replaced.

Dr. Kosey presented the Tennis Enterprise Fund, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Dr. Kosey reiterated that the Tennis Center does not have a tax levy. The Tennis Center relies on the membership, court and programming fees, and lessons.

President Knitter asked if the Capital Project fund will be used this coming year.

Alin Pop, Superintendent of Enterprise Operations, stated that the Tennis Center is in the process with the window bids.

President Knitter asked if there is still growth in membership and programming.

Pop responded that the demand is still high.

President Knitter stated that the outdoor tennis court is at end of life so the courts will need to be repaired.

Pop responded that the tennis courts are five to ten years beyond end of life.

Pechous presented Capital Projects slide 33, which can be found in the Park District's records.

President Knitter requested that the Capital Projects be in order of priority by the next meeting.

Johnson reported that the work on the Ginger Creek Bridge is ongoing; however, staff are watching the federal grant to see if it will remain.

Johnson stated that the work will continue since at this time the Park District has the grant. The Environmental Review is occurring.

Dr. Kosey reported that the Park District has met with an architect who offered two scopes: a cold storage area or an upgrade to occupancy. The Park District will gather more information. There will be a Saddle Brook Barn viewing scheduled for April 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. Please do not wear nice shoes or clothes.

Commissioner Vescovi asked if there was an agreement for the Park District to maintain it.

Dr. Kosey responded that the Park District has been painting the barn but there was no agreement to maintain the barn.

Salinas presented the Capital Projects Fund Revenues & Expenditures for 2025/2026 FY Budget, which can be found in the Park District records.

Salinas presented Additional Funds, which can be found in the Park District records.

Salinas stated that the six remaining funds have restricted fund balances.

Salinas presented the Debt Services Fund Revenues and Expenditures for 2025/2026 FY, which can be found in the Park District's records.

The Debt Services Fund do levy an annual tax to pay on the bonds. The Park District does not have control over the tax levy since that tax can vary year-to-year.

President Knitter asked about the 2019 bonds.

Salinas responded that the 2019 bond is for the former McDonalds property.

Commissioner Suleiman asked when the 2019 Referendum Bond will be paid off.

Salinas responded the Referendum Bond will be paid off in 2038.

Salinas presented the Audit Fund, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas presented the IMRF Fund, which can be found in the Park District's records.

Salinas presented the Liability Insurance Fund, which can be found in the Park District's record.

President Knitter asked if the Park District is sued, would PDRMA pay the lawsuit since they insure the Park District?

Attorney Adams responded that PDRMA would pay the lawsuit and defense costs.

Salinas presented the Social Security Fund, which can be found in the Park District's record.

Salinas presented the Special Recreation Fund, which can be found in the Park District's record.

Salinas stated that because there are not a lot of Capital Projects planned, next FY there will be thirteen months of expenses in the Special Recreation Fund.

Dr. Kosey reported that some of the funding may be used for accessibility for the elevator. Dr. Kosey hopes to have that information on the elevator at the next board meeting. The funding may not be available until next FY.

President Knitter reminded the commissioners to address budget questions to Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley.

4) OPEN FORUM

Elaine Zannis, an Oak Brook resident, asked if the Park District is changing its name and why they invest time and effort in doing so.

President Knitter stated that the Park District is not changing its name. Instead of calling the Aquatic Center, it will be called Swim Central. The Park District is attempting to make the signage more cohesive. Dr. Kosey added that the Fitness Center will also receive a new logo.

Don Adler, thirty-five-year Oak Brook resident, asked about increasing efforts in soliciting naming rights to Park District buildings.

President Knitter stated efforts for soliciting naming rights has been ongoing for years; however, there is no increase in effort in soliciting naming rights.

Adler said that he had written an email to the Board concerning the Park District budget last year. Adler summarized his March 18, 2024 email beginning with his credentials. Adler wrote about his concerns about the budget and its process. Adler's letter can be found in the Park District's record.

Adler compared the Elmhurst Park District to the Oak Brook Park District. Adler read that the Board should achieve the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Award.

President Knitter stated that the Park District is pursuing the GFOA award. Dr. Kosey added that the Park District will apply for the GFOA award.

Adler continued to compare the CFO's compensation to Elmhurst Park District's Director of Finance.

Dr. Kosey asked Salinas if the budget with footnotes was included on the website.

Salinas confirmed that the budget with footnotes is on the website.

Commissioner Suleiman stated that a resident requested last year to add footnotes to the budget, which the Park District added to this year's budget report.

President Knitter stated that she appreciated the budget report with the details.

Attorney Adams communicated that this is the first of multiple budget meetings. The Park District is well inside the requirements of the law; the law only requires one hearing of the budget and adopting it within the first three months before the new FY. The Park District is conducting three meetings, including the public hearing, before adopting the budget. In addition, a general summary and detailed format of the budget is provided.

President Knitter reminded the public that this is a working session and the first time the Board is reviewing the budget.

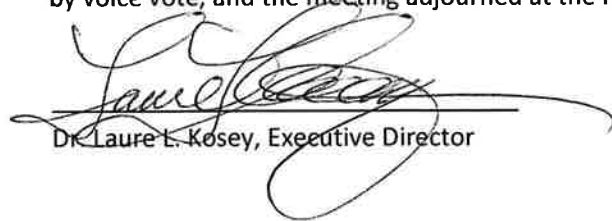
President Knitter stated that Public Comment is closed.

5) THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

President Knitter announced that the next Regular Meeting of the Oak Brook Park District of Park Commissioners would be held on March 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

6) ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Suleiman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ivkovic Kelley, to adjourn the February 24, 2025, special meeting of the Oak Brook Park District Board of Commissioners. The motion passed by voice vote, and the meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:13 p.m.



Dr. Laure L. Kosey, Executive Director