

**OAK FOREST PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

James Emmett, President
Charles Wolf, Vice-President
James Katula, Secretary
Roy Pruitt, Commissioner
Joseph Pilch, Commissioner

OTHERS PRESENT

Joseph McDonnell, Treasurer
Joseph Cainkar, Attorney
Kirstin Dahm, Director

ABSENT

None.

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Emmett called the regular meeting to order at the Oak Forest Park District Community Center, 15601 S. Central, Oak Forest, IL at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Upon a roll call Commissioners Emmett, Wolf, Katula, Pruitt, and Pilch were present.

PUBLIC SESSION

Commissioner Emmett opened Public Session, no one was present.

COMMUNICATIONS

Director Dahm informed that she received a notice in the mail from the City of Oak Forest regarding TIF District 6. A meeting will be held on Thursday, February 6th at 4:00pm. Director Dahm confirmed that she will be in attendance for the meeting, and will report back to the board on what is discussed at this meeting. Daddy Daughter Date Night will take place on Friday, February 7th at our Central Park Building. Director Dahm reported that this event is full at 400 people.

**CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVAL OF OFPD WARRIOR WRESTLING MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2024.**

Commissioner Pruitt made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pilch.

Roll Call Vote: Emmett – Yes, Wolf – Yes, Katula – Yes, Pruitt – Yes, Pilch - Yes

Motion approved.

**CONSIDERATION OF BILLS – VOUCHERS DATED JANUARY 30, 2025 IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$82,133.94**

Commissioner Katula made a motion to approve the bills-vouchers dated January 30, 2025 in the amount of \$82,133.94; seconded by Commissioner Wolf. Commissioner Katula inquired about the amount of per diem allowed per person for the IPRA Conference. Director Dahm informed that per diem rates were based on the rates provided by the GSA and how many days they would be attending the

conference. Commissioner Pilch inquired on why our list of bills has ComEd in multiple funds. Director Dahm reported that lights and electric are paid out of different funds. For example, Central Park is charged separately for their outdoor security lights vs their indoor electric.

Roll Call Vote: Emmett – Yes, Wolf – Yes, Katula – Yes, Pruitt – Yes, Pilch - Yes
Motion approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING REPORT

Directors Report

Director Dahm reported that SSPRPA (South Suburban Park & Recreation Professionals Association), in partnership with IAPD will be hosting their annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, February 21st at the Tinley Park Park District. Director Dahm informed that the Oak Forest Fleadh would be taking place on Saturday, March 1. The Park District will be participating in the parade again this year, along with a number of our sports organizations. The Park District will also be hosting a family event after the parade in gymnasium. This event will have crafts, games, music, and a variety of activities for families to participate in. Director Dahm discussed how while this is a new event, we have done an iteration of this event in 2021, and it was very successful.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McDonnell presented the December Financials to the Board and informed that total cash and investments as of December 31, 2024 are \$5,334,618.72. As reports shows, we did not receive property taxes; we did however see revenue from programs, the fitness center, and interest earned. Treasurer McDonnell stated that only about 75% of property taxes were collected in 2024, which was due to the increase in property taxes and a delay in property tax payments. Treasurer McDonnell recapped the revenue and expenses for the 2024 fiscal year. Overall, expenditures were below what was budgeted, and revenue had a slight increase from what was budgeted.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation from Hitchcock Design Group on Oak Forest Park District Comprehensive Master Plan.

Jenna Beck and Kayla Edgerly of Hitchcock Design Group presented on the Comprehensive Master Plan progress for the Oak Forest Park District. Jenna discussed the Analyze phase of the plan and how it required data collecting for all Park District parks, facilities, amenities, and properties, as well as demographics for the community. After the data collecting, they were able to determine useful life of these assets according to the NRPA, and where the Oak Forest Park District stands in comparison to national averages. Jenna explained how demographics and projected population will directly relate to the recreational needs of the community. Jenna discussed the Connect phase of the plan and how this included community input meetings, community surveys, stakeholder meetings, and staff workshops. Jenna informed that 319 people participated in the survey, 9 people participated in

the community input meeting, 11 people from various Oak Forest organizations participated in the stakeholders meeting, and 8 staff participated in the staff workshops. Jenna reviewed the results of the survey and the information gathered from the various input meetings. At the end of the presentation, Jenna opened the floor to discussion. Commissioner Emmett informed that he had attended the community input meeting and thought it was very informative. Commissioner Emmett also voiced concern about fulfilling community wants in regards to more land for recreational opportunities. Jenna and Kayla reiterated that based on feasibility studies that will be done further down the road, we can more closely examine possibility of expanding facilities or partnering with other organizations within the community for use of space. Commissioner Emmett thanked Jenna, Kayla, and Hitchcock Design Group for their presentation and work on the Comprehensive Master Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Commissioner Pruitt made a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:33 p.m. for the purpose of 2(c)(2) Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Seconded by Commissioner Pilch.

Roll Call Vote: Emmett – Yes, Wolf – Yes, Katula – Yes, Pruitt – Yes, Pilch - Yes
Motion approved.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon return from Executive Session at 8:47 p.m. no decisions were made.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Emmett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Wolf.

On a voice vote, the motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. was approved.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


James Katula, Secretary


James R. Emmett, President