PARK DISTRICT OF OAK PARK
Committee of the Whole

Oak Park Conservatory
615 Garfield St., Oak Park
Thursday, December 2, 2004 7:30pm

Minutes

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by President Kelly.
Commissioners Present: President Kelly; Commissioners Gartland and Kindler. Commissioner Philion arrived at 7:38pm. Commissioner Gartland arrived at 7:45pm.
Staff Present: Gary Balling, Executive Director; Kent Newton, Superintendent of Business Operations; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; Greg Evans, Manager of Adult & Senior Services and Lisa Lightcap, HR/Business Operations Assistant.

II. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance—Commissioner Kindler: Chair

A. Austin Gardens Update

Carol Yetken of CYLA Design Associates discussed the results of focus groups which were held on October 21 regarding Maintenance and Safety, Aesthetics and Nature, and Business and Tourism. Items discussed with attendees included the need to: preserve the natural character of the park, deter negative youth behavior in the park, improve signage and education in the park and make changes in the volunteer maintenance program. Ms. Yetken stated that she would put together several draft plans for the site which would be ready for the Board's review at the January Committee of the Whole Meeting.

B. Barrie Park Restoration Update

Director Balling discussed three outstanding issues regarding Barrie Park including: sampling under Barrie Center, obtaining the necessary requirements for turning over the park to the Park District and reporting issues which are holding up the opening of the Park. Russ Selman, Nancy Rich and Ed Cooney will be present at Executive Session for further discussion with the Board.

C. Vehicle Lease Program Update – Zamboni & Utility Van

The older of the Park District's two zambonis is out of service and should be replaced. It has become difficult to operate the rink using only one zamboni. It is also in the 2005 budget to purchase a new Utility Van. Superintendent Kent Newton suggested that instead of purchasing that new Van in 2005, the Park District could lease to own both vehicles. The Board gave consensus that Park District staff should lease to own a used zamboni and a new Utility Van.

III. Recreation and Facility Program Committee – Commissioner Philion: Chair

A. Spin Bikes for Cardio Programs

Director Balling commended Greg Evans for his work researching Spin Bikes for purchase for cardio programs. While he is comfortable with the payback the Park District would receive from the program, it is staff's recommendation that the Park District does not have the appropriate facility to store and maintain this type of investment at this time. The Board agreed with Director Balling.

B. Partner/ Affiliate Group Agreements

Director Balling stated that the 2005 Partner and Affiliate Group Agreements will be presented to the Board in January. Commissioner Conway asked whether the Agreements required these groups to

offer scholarships. Director Balling responded that some of the partner groups already provide assistance with transportation or equipment and he has met with Hephzibah, Township and Village to set up a clearinghouse for these types of scholarships.

IV. Administration and Finance Committee—Commissioner Gartland: Chair

A. 2004 Levy Ordinance

Superintendent Newton asked the Board if they had any further questions, but had no new information to present.

B. Budget & Appropriation Ordinance

Superintendent Newton asked the Board if they had any further questions, but had no new information to present.

C. Levy Limit Resolution

Superintendent Newton asked the Board if they had any further questions, but had no new information to present.

D. Board Action Calendar

Director Balling stated that the Board Action Calendar was in the Board's packets for their review and the Sponsorship Policy should be added to January's agenda. The Board had no questions and the Board Action Calendar would be placed on the January Consent Agenda.

E. Comprehensive Master Plan Update

Notices have gone out for a Public Meeting to present information about the status of the Comprehensive Master Plan on December 13 at 1:30pm and 7:00pm at Fox Center. Doug Varn, PDCC Chair, will be the primary presenter and Director Balling asked that some Board Members be at the meeting as well. In upcoming weeks, information will be presented to many groups including the original stakeholder and focus group participants, former Board members, and partner groups.

F. Report on Annual Accomplishments to be Provided at Board Meeting

Diane Stanke, Jennifer LaFleur and Judy Weik have been working to complete the 2004 Highlights. This summary of the Park District's accomplishments will be distributed at the December Board Meeting.

G. FOPCON Agreement Update

Director Balling has met with Judy Shepelak at FOPCON to update the agreement. A draft should be ready for the Board's review in the next few months.

H. Historical Society Agreement

Director Balling has met with Frank Lipo at the Historical Society to update the agreement. A draft should be ready for the Board's review in the next few months.

I. Referendum Options

Superintendent Newton discussed potential Comprehensive Plan implementation options. The Park District Citizen Committee has recommended the consolidation of all parks, recreation policies, programs, funding and responsibility under the Park District of Oak Park. The Comprehensive Plan and the Infrastructure Committee Report further recommend the implementation of a significant capital investment program. In order to do this and implement a capital investment program, a funding source must be developed. Three options for the Board's consideration include: a.) Corporate Tax Rate Increase Referendum, b.) Levy Extension and Debt Service Limit Override Referendums and c.) Raise Fees and Cut Services. The presented options provide a starting point for the necessary debate on the next step in the process. Either option A or B provides the resources

needed to begin to implement the recommendations of Leisure Vision, the Park District Citizen Committee and the Infrastructure Committee. However, neither option will be guaranteed to provide all of the resources needed to fully implement all of the recommendations. Any tax rate increase that is approved will continue to be eroded because of the tax cap. One of the original intents of the tax cap legislation was to give the voters an opportunity to directly participate in the decision if taxes should be raised. A referendum question placed on the April 2005 ballot allows the voters to participate as envisioned. Option C has been included for consideration as a last resort because recreation programs and facilities would continue to operate without the resources required to provide quality recreation opportunities in our community. The Commissioners gave consensus on Option A because it provides the most flexible revenue source with only one referendum question while allowing the Park District to achieve its mission. The Board directed Director Balling to work with the attorney to create a resolution for a referendum question to be placed on the ballot at the April 5 election. The Board will act upon the resolution at the December 16 Board Meeting.

V. **New Business** – No Action.

VI. **Executive Session**

At 10:05pm, a motion was made by Commissioner Kindler and seconded by Commissioner Philion to adjourn to closed session for the purpose of the discussion of pending, or probably litigation against, affecting or on behalf of the District in accordance with section 2 (C) (11) which is an exception of the Open Meetings Act. Motion passed in a voice vote of 5:0. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:06pm. The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:00pm.

VII. **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Philion and seconded by Commissioner Gartland to adjourn the meeting at 11:01pm. Motion carried in a voice vote of 5:0.

Secretary
Board of Park Commissioners
March 17, 2005
Date

President
Board of Park Commissioners
March 17, 2005
Date