Park District of Oak Park
Regular Board Meeting
218 Madison Street-Hedges Administration Center
Oak Park, Illinois
Thursday, January 19, 2006

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: President Kindler, Commissioners Bracco, Gartland, Graves and Philion.
Park District Staff present: Gary Balling, Executive Director; Kent Newton, Superintendent of Business Operations; Matt Ellmann, Superintendent of Recreation; Mike Grandy, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Charity Luter, Recreation Program Manager and Lisa Lightcap, Business Operations/HR Assistant.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Bracco and seconded by Commissioner Graves to approve the agenda. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 5:0.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Philion to approve the Consent Agenda, which includes **the Fund Status Report, Warrants and Bills dated January 19, 2006; the Update to Rules and Regulations Governing Use of Park Facilities; Partnership Agreements from OPRF Pony Baseball, Huskies Fastpitch Softball Club and OPRF Strikers Soccer Club, Inc.; and the Oak Park Township Youth Interventionist Agreement.** The motion was passed by a roll call vote of 5:0.

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. Director's Report:

Executive Director Gary Balling discussed the following:

1. **Reviewed 2006 Executive Work Plan** - Director Balling explained that this work plan will eventually be developed into a larger plan which will describe projects and planning for the next three years.
2. **Board Self Evaluation** – Director Balling requested that the Board meet to conduct an hour-long self-evaluation at a Special Meeting on February 9.
3. **Dogs in the Parks** – Registration for the Temporary Dog Park and Dog Park Plus will begin on Saturday, January 14 at Ridgeland Common with operations beginning on Saturday, January 21. Fencing work began Thursday, January 12. John McManus from Altamanu met with the Friends of the Oak Park Dogs Group on Wednesday and reports that this group is very pleased with how quickly work has progressed. The Dogs in the Parks Master Plan is also moving along with members of the Dogs in the Parks working group scheduled to visit Park Ridge and Skokie dog parks on Tuesday and the first community meeting scheduled for February 8. Village Manager Carl Swenson has confirmed that at the staff level all is well for the support of the enforcement issues at the dog park/park rules and non-opposition from the Health Department related to infectious diseases for the Dog Park Plus. This matter goes before the Village Trustees on Tuesday, January 17 and a staff liaison will be assigned for the Dogs in the Park Plan.

4. **Field Park Site Master Plan** – A timeline has been developed for the Field Site Master Plan project with the focus groups scheduled for February 15 and the first Community Meeting scheduled for March 1. Commissioner Bracco is the Board Representative.
5. **Transfer of Properties** – It is anticipated that title work for the transfer of properties from the Village of Oak Park will be complete prior to the February 16 Regular Board Meeting. Also working to complete a General Intergovernmental Agreement before April.
6. **Designer Showcase** – Director Balling will be meeting with Mary Anderson of the Infant Welfare on Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Cheney Mansion to discuss the Designer Showcase scheduled at Cheney in 2007. Linda Peterson, Kent Newton and Lesley Gilmore will also be in attendance.
7. **Sculptures in the Parks** – The two art sculptures from the Outdoor Art Commission will be installed at Austin Gardens and Maple Park by the Village of Oak Park Outdoor Advisory Commission today. These are temporary placements for a period of two years and are on loan as part of the Navy Pier Art Walk.

B. **Division Managers' Reports (Updates & Information): Charity Luter presented the following information to the Board**: 1.) The safety committee is investigating the requirement of criminal background checks for contractors and volunteers who provide services to children or have access to money or physical assets. 2.) Lorie Reid Fuller has been working with Laura Thompson to complete the work needed to allow the Park District to begin providing accounting service to the Pleasant Home Foundation. 3.) Jennifer LaFleur and Judy Weik are diligently working on the spring brochure. Jennifer is also designing the logo and promotional pieces for the upcoming Ice Show "Dance Capades." 4.) Notification was received that the Park District's entries in the IPRA Agency Showcase competition were not selected. 5.) Because of a long cold snap in December, skatable ice was established at Longfellow for almost two weeks. Attempts have been made to make a rink at Taylor Park this year, but have not been successful. It takes about 40 man-hours to create an inch of ice. 6.) Some work had to be done at the sledding hill at Barrie Park to prevent sledders from getting too near the play center on one side and the retaining wall on the other. Mike Grandy has been in contact with Al Davis, the Landscape Architect, and will have recommendations for permanent changes for the future. The December 29th issue of *The Chicago Tribune* listed the sled hill at Barrie Park as one of Chicago's best. 7.)The Conservatory was open through both the Christmas and New Year's Holidays and was much appreciated by those who visited. 8.) Mark Omi took two weeks of vacation and John Seaton was off for a week for personal leave. 9.) Breakfast, Lunch and Tea with Santa were a success with about 120 people at each seating. Eight large bags of toys were given to local charities. 10.) The Holiday was a nice success with nearly 500 people attending the Open House in December. Dr. Peter Baker gave his wonderful "A Christmas Carol" performance and a lovely wedding was held just before New Year's Eve. 11.) Matt Ellmann created a draft of the Accident/Incident Follow-up Report Call Form that the Safety Committee discussed at its January 4 meeting. This form is intended to act as a working guide to staff when they perform follow up calls to patrons who experience accidents or injuries. 12.) Final late registration for the Ice Show was conducted on December 17. A total of 315 registrations were received,

approximately 30 more than last year. Costumes were ordered on December 19 in order to ensure delivery prior to the show in March. 13.) Trips and events include The Factory Paintball Teens Trip on January 16 with 17 enrolled, The Alpine Valley Ski Trip on January 23 with 18+ enrolled, the All Night Teen Ski Trip on February 3-4, The Mom/Son Archery Fun Shoot on January 22, and Friday Night Ice on January 27. 14.) A number of the early childhood classes came to an end in December. Musical Theater put on a production of "Peter Pan", with each child in the class learning a line or two. Parents all seem to be pleased with how the classes went, and many are re-enrolling their children for this coming session. Before the preschools went on break they received a visit from Santa Claus! While there were a few children who were scared of the jolly man, most loved seeing him. This is an annual tradition that the children and parents all seem to enjoy. 15.) Charity Luter met with Beth Nickels, the Camp Coordinator, on December 13. Topics of discussion included last summer's program, the Park District's reorganization and brainstorming for the upcoming summer. 16.) The Senior Holiday Luncheon on December 9 at Elmcrest Banquets was a huge success with 74 seniors attending. In addition to a full meal, participants were entertained with live music and dancing and a door prize raffle. Each attendee received a poinsettia and was mailed a photo collage that Jennifer Lafleur made after taking pictures of the seniors in attendance. 17.) A total of 648 children were enrolled in the Fall 2005 gymnastics program with an additional 54 team members.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Building and Ground Committee:

No Action.

B. Administration and Finance Committee

1. **Director's Executive Work Plan 2006- A motion was made by Commissioner Gartland and seconded by Commissioner Philion that the Board approve the 2006 Director's Executive Work Plan. The motion passed by a voice vote of 5:0.**

C. Recreation and Facility Program Committee:

No Action.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

VII1. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Bracco said that he has signed up for the Daddy/Daughter Night with his daughter. WSSRA has a new lottery system. He encouraged the Board to attend upcoming WSSRA fundraising events including a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 8 and the Derby Gala on Saturday, May 6.

Commissioner Gartland shared that the FOPCON budget was sent to the Board. Judy Shepelak is stepping down as president of FOPCON next month. Has been attending Madison Street meetings and the next public meeting is January 26 to present concepts. He then commended Director Balling and Kent Newton for their work to increase the fund

balance. He concluded by stating that this is great achievement by staff and thanked them for their efforts.

Commissioner Graves commended staff on their work to open the temporary dog park and is amazed that it was put together in 2 ½ months. She then thanked Mike Grandy for the new bike rack in front of the Gymnastics Center and thanked Recreation Department for distributing the gymnastics survey. She concluded by stating that the outdoor art at Maple Park adds a lot of interest to Park.

Commissioner Philion stated that he would bring more information about the Historic Stewardship Committee to the Board at the February Committee of the Whole meeting. He is participating in District 97's planning process and will be sharing information about this with the Board in upcoming months.

President Kindler congratulated staff member, John Armour, for the article in the paper about his 80th birthday and longevity with the Park District. He then stated that Ridgeland Common is cleaner lately and the community is noticing. He concluded by stating that at their Board Meetings, Pleasant Home Foundation speaks highly of restoration support received from the Park District of Oak Park. Pleasant Home has several upcoming events and hopes Board members will attend.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

X. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:34 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Bracco, and seconded by Commissioner Philion to adjourn. Motion carried in a voice vote of 5:0.

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Secretary	**President**
Board of Park Commissioners	**Board of Park Commissioners**
March 16, 2006	**March 16, 2006**
Date	**Date**