

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON APRIL 12, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on April 12, 2021 with President Coughlin presiding.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL, REAL ESTATE, LITIGATION AND REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

The Board entered into Executive Sessions at 6:30p.m.

The Board adjourned Executive Session at 6:56p.m.

**BUDGET HEARING:**

Coughlin opened the budget hearing at 6:57p.m., noting that the budget has been on display for more than 30 days. Coughlin asked the Commissioners and anyone in the audience if they had questions.

Upon hearing no questions, Callahan moved, Boland seconded to close the budget hearing at 6:59p.m.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**REGULAR MEETING:**

Coughlin began the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Boland, Callahan, McCauley and Coughlin  
A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Finance Meeting of March 8, 2021**

McCauley moved, Callahan seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Regular Meeting of March 8, 2021**

McCauley moved, Boland seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**FINANCE REPORT:**

McCauley moved, Boland seconded to approve payables of \$321,748.07 for the period of March 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Adoption of the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance**

Callahan motioned, Boland seconded to approve the budget for FY 2021-2022.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Callahan stated that over his 20 years on the Board this budget process was the most trying. Callahan thanked the Finance Department and park district staff for all their hard work.

**LEGAL:**

**Review of Executive Session Minutes**

Attorney Farrell asked for a motion to approve his recommendation on the release of Executive Session Minutes. Farrell recommended the following:

- January 11, 2021 - Minutes should not be released due to ongoing discussions.
- February 8, 2021 - Minutes should be released.
- March 8, 2021 - Minutes should not be released due to ongoing discussions.

Callahan motioned to approve the attorney's recommendation regarding the release of minutes, Boland seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$25,000:** None

**MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:**

Hartwig thanked staff for attending the meeting. Hartwig stated that there have been several staff changes across the district and unfortunately, the changes continue to happen including changes on the Board.

Hartwig thanked McCauley and Callahan for their dedicated years of service to the park district. Both McCauley and Callahan have each served over 20 years on the Board. Hartwig stated that McCauley is the longest consecutive serving Board member in the district's history. Hartwig stated that although he has only been Director a short while he has had the privilege to work with both Commissioners throughout his career at the district. Hartwig stated that he along with the rest of the district are going to miss McCauley and Callahan. Hartwig thanked both Commissioners and wished them both the best of luck in this next chapter.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Coughlin thanked McCauley and Callahan for everything they have done for the Oak Lawn community throughout their time on the Board. Coughlin stated that both Commissioners have been inspirational to the district. Coughlin said she would not be able to thank McCauley and Callahan enough for their wisdom, leadership, and friendship.

Coughlin stated that she enjoyed reading the staff reports and seeing all the programs starting to come back.

**MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Boland echoed Coughlin regarding the staff reports. Boland stated that it is exciting to see the district programs starting to come back. Boland agreed that this past year has been difficult and challenging at times but staff should be proud of themselves.

Boland stated that during her 4 years on the Board she has learned a great deal of information from both McCauley and Callahan. Boland stated that both Commissioners have been so amazing and that they are going to be missed by everyone.

McCauley recognized the Marketing Department for all of the new donations received as well as the hard work of the golf course staff. McCauley thanked the recreation staff for all their efforts in bringing our programs back. McCauley made mention of her joining the Learn to Skate classes at the Ice Arena and recognized the Ice Arena staff for the beautiful new sheet of ice.

McCauley stated that the best way to describe her time on the Board is to relate it to an unforgettable ride of a lifetime. McCauley stated that her ride began in May of 1997. She choose to run for the Park Board for two reasons:

1. Because of her background in education as well as her personal lifetime of participating in recreational activities.
2. Because she wanted to give back to the community.

McCauley stated that from the very start she envisioned her ride being very smooth because of her Master's Degree in Recreation as well as her years of experience working with park and recreation agencies throughout the south suburbs. McCauley stated that was not the case. She discussed how she had so much to learn about the District's:

- Finance and Personnel
- Communications Department to included Technology and Marketing
- Parks and Planning
- Recreation and Special Recreation
- Special Enterprise Facilities
- Legal Policies and Procedures

McCauley stated that from the very beginning of her ride until the end, she was always astounded by the knowledge and experience of the district's staff. McCauley said she is internally grateful to each and everyone of the staff for their never-ending patience as they have shared their awe-inspiring knowledge with her over the years. McCauley stated that from the very beginning she had the utmost respect for staff and as incredible professionals who have worked very hard to earn their professional status and commit to continuous learning to benefit the park district.

McCauley said that during the ride it has been very exciting to see:

**Park Renovations**

- Patrick Sullivan Park
- Memorial Park
- Worth brook Park and Skate Park
- Bailey's Crossing Dog Park
- Centennial Park
- Commissioners Park
- Columbus Manor
- Harker Park
- Little Wolfe

**Facility Renovations:**

- Community Pavilion Expansion
- The building of the beautiful theatre officially renamed the Erica Heilmann Theatre
- The new maintenance facility
- New home for gymnastics at the Racquet Fitness and Gymnastic Center
- Addition to Centennial Pool
- Building of Stony Creek Banquet facility

**Extraordinary Events:**

- National Accreditation since 2008 Award Ceremonies
- Illinois Distinguish Agency Accreditation since 2004
- Spookview
- Golf Outings
- Easter Egg Hunts
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Special Recreation Basketball Day
- Summer Concerts
- Breakfast with Santa

- Dance Recitals
- Monarch Festival
- Volunteer Recognition Dinner
- Gymnastic
- Valentine's Day Craft and Skating

McCauley said all of those things are a result of the incredible group of staff who are hard-working professionals with such dedication and commitment. McCauley stated that she has witnessed first-hand staffs' willingness to always go above and beyond to be sure every project, event, program was of utmost quality to meet the needs of every resident of every age and every ability and interest.

Aside from staff, McCauley stated that she has had the opportunity to share this wonderful ride with so many dedicated Commissioners. McCauley thanked each Commissioner and for the privilege of serving with them. McCauley also thanked Ceil Murphy, Dawn Duslak and Tracey Gallik for their on-going assistance covering every detail in weekly director reports, meeting planning of agenda's minutes, registration for every special event, outings, and conferences.

McCauley thanked the two most important people in her life, her son John and daughter Megan for their acceptance and continued support of allowing her to take time out of her role as Mom to give back to the community.

McCauley thanked her family, friends, residents, past and current commissioners, and all the amazing staff for allowing her to take this unforgettable ride of a lifetime with each of them.

Callahan stated that first and foremost he would like to thank former Director Maddie Kelly for her unwavering dedication to the district and to her staff. Callahan stated that he is honored and humbled to call her not only a colleague but also a friend.

Callahan recognized Director Hartwig and his commitment to the field of parks and recreation. Callahan stated that Hartwig has been an employee during his entire time on the Board and he is confident that Hartwig will do a phenomenal job as the Director and leader of the park district. Callahan thanked Hartwig and wished him the best of luck.

Callahan acknowledged Tracey Gallik for taking on the role of Executive Assistant to the Director, Board Secretary, and Ice Arena Manager. Callahan thanked Gallik for all of her efforts on the district's accreditation processes and stated that he is proud of the work she has done throughout her career with the district.

Callahan recognized and thanked the Farrell family and stated that the district has been blessed to be represented by such a loyal family.

Callahan made mention of Erica Heilmann and stated although he did not know her on personal level he was in awe of her commitment to the arts. Callahan stated that she did a tremendous job and she was a true treasure to the community.

Callahan stated that he always felt honored for the opportunity to speak and work with staff. Callahan said that staff has always been upfront and honest with him and he appreciated that more than they knew. Callahan stated that he has felt privileged to watch the growth of staff over the years and he is going to miss working with them. Callahan said it is because of the staff that this district was the first agency in the state to receive both State and National Accreditation Awards.

Callahan thanked everyone present in the room and wished everyone the best of luck in their futures.


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**ADJOURNMENT:**

Callahan moved, McCauley seconded to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mary Pat Coughlin, President

  
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Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary