

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON DECEMBER 13, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. with President Boland presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Buschbach, Coughlin, Donahue, Johnson, and Boland  
A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Regular Meeting of November 8, 2021**

Johnson moved, Coughlin seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Special Recreation Jr. and Sr. Athletes of the Year**

**Jr. Athlete – Nick Sunderlage**

This year's Jr. Athlete of the Year is Nick Sunderlage. This was Nick's first year on the Special Olympic Golf team. He has proven himself that he can do great things on the golf course. He attended the regional qualifier and received a gold medal for his division. He went on to state games, and proved that he has the skills to compete with the best athletes in the state.

He is a joy to have on our team and we are so proud of all he has accomplished!

Congratulations Nick on being selected as Jr. Athlete of the year.

**Sr. Athlete – Marium Wahid**

This year's Sr. Athlete is Marium Wahid. Marium has been participating in the Oak Lawn special recreation programs for many years. She has participated in Basketball & Unified Volleyball. Marium is always ready to sign up & get the season started. Her enthusiasm for sports is contagious & she is always so respectful & kind to her teammates. We are SO proud of Marium for all she has accomplished!

Congratulations Marium on being selected Sr. Athlete of the year!

**Volunteer of the Month – Anita Barrera**

Anita Barrera is being honored as the Volunteer of the Month for the Oak Lawn Park District. Anita is being honored for her great volunteerism at this year's Annual Turkey Shoot which was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Nick Mazzuca, Recreation Supervisor, says Anita was punctual, jumped in ready to help anywhere, and had an amazing attitude. This attitude helped to ensure all families had a great experience at the event. Thank you Anita!

**Jim Ribikawskis**

Ribikawskis addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the district self-funding its own general obligation bond. Ribikawskis stated that the corporate fund that the district is proposing to purchase the bond with has a primary revenue source from property taxes. Ribikawskis explained that the primary reason of the general obligation bond is to raise capital. Ribikawskis stated that since the district is proposing to purchase the bond themselves then there is no need for the capital. Ribikawskis stated that the district is not obligated to purchase a bond yearly therefore, he recommended that the Board vote "No" to self-funding the bond.

**Gary Callahan**

Callahan said he was intrigued on the matter regarding the district self-funding the general obligation bond since he served on the Board. Callahan stated that he understands Ribikawskis but mentioned that other park districts have done this in the past and clarified that this does not mean

that the district would continue to do this every year. Callahan confirmed that the funds from the bond would be used for Capital Projects therefore proving that there is a need for the bond. Callahan stated that by self-funding the bond the district would be saving money from using a third party.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Coughlin moved, Johnson seconded to approve payables of \$564,824.59 for the period of November 1, 2021 to November 30, 2021.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Tax Levy**

Coughlin moved, Johnson seconded to approve the total amount levied of \$4,390,532.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**LEGAL:**

**An Ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$2,183,830 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2021, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the District's Corporate Fund.**

Johnson motioned to approve; Buschbach seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Under discussion, Aaron Gold of Speer Financial discussed the bond process and stated that several park districts have adopted the procedure of self-funding due to the efficiency of the process. Gold reiterated that self-funding does not have to be done every year, that the district can choose to do a competitive sale next year.

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

**MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:**

Hartwig shared that he along with several staff members attended the Distinguished Agency (DA) Accreditation review meeting at Bartlett Park District a few weeks ago. Hartwig stated that during the meeting the review board formally approved the district for Distinguished Agency (DA) Accreditation. Hartwig said the plaque for the award will be presented at the IAPD/IPRA Conference in January.

Hartwig made mention of the holiday events being offered. Hartwig stated that he attended the Ice Arena's HollyDays Exhibition and the Racquet Center's Holiday Open Gym. Hartwig thanked staff and stated that both events were heavily attended.

Hartwig announced that Human Resource Manager, Jack Leiser has recently resigned and is pursuing a career with the Chicago Fire Department. Hartwig wished Leiser good luck and stated that Delaney Harty has accepted the position as HR Manager for the district.

Hartwig reminded the Board and staff that the Employee Recognition Party is scheduled for Wednesday night at Stony Creek.

Hartwig wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Boland congratulated Hartwig and the rest of the district on the Distinguished Agency Accreditation award.

Boland thanked staff for continuing to offer such fun holiday activities. Boland stated that she received several pictures of family and friends that attended the Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt and Breakfast with Santa events at Stony Creek.

**MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Buschbach recognized the district's staff and complimented everyone on how well they work together.

Buschbach stated that he recently attended a holiday party at Stony Creek and thanked the staff for doing such a wonderful job. Buschbach said he hopes that the party continues to be offered at Stony Creek in the future.

Coughlin stated that she attended the IndepeNDANCE Christmas performance and said that the show was wonderful. Coughlin made mention of the activities that were played and how much she enjoyed seeing everyone perform.

Coughlin said she stopped by a few of the district's facilities recently and made mention of the photo station opportunities at the facilities. Coughlin stated that they were all unique and a fun way to get our participants in to the holiday spirit.

Coughlin thanked Phil Costello for answering all of her questions regarding the bond. Coughlin stated that although it may be challenging at times she appreciations Costello's time and patience.

Coughlin wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Johnson stated that he attended the theatre production of All Together Now, Breakfast with Santa, and the Park Foundation's holiday dinner. Johnson said all of those events were wonderful and he thanked all the staff involved.

Johnson also attended the community input meeting for Bailey's Crossing and he complimented the staff for putting together such a well ran meeting.

Johnson wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!

Donahue thanked Ryan Gory for his assistance with helping his family locate a vehicle that was parked near the Maintenance Building.

Donahue stated that he recently hosted a corporate event at Stony Creek and utilized the golf simulators. Donahue thanked the staff at Stony Creek and hopes that more people make use of the simulators in the future.

Donahue wished everyone Happy Holidays!

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Johnson moved, Coughlin seconded to adjourn at 7:42 p.m.

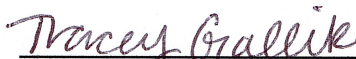
Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



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Lisa Boland, President



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Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary