

**SPECIAL MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 24, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Special Meeting on March 24, 2008 at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Andersen, McCauley, Vorderer, Wallace and Callahan

PRESENTATION OF AWARD FOR NATIONAL ACCREDITATION:

President Callahan stated that this is a very special and important night in the history of the Oak Lawn Park District. He introduced Mr. Bill Wald of the Illinois Park and Recreation Association.

Mr. Bill Wald said he was honored, on behalf of the Commission of Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies ("CAPRA"), to present the Oak Lawn Park District with its Certificate for National Accreditation, approved on March 14, 2008.

Mr. Wald noted that National Accreditation is one of the highest honors that park and recreation agencies can receive. Only 82 agencies in the country have CAPRA Accreditation. Thirty-six fundamental standards must be met, and the process generally takes two years before meeting with the Commission. The Oak Lawn Park District met those standards, plus additional standards that were presented by the staff and Commissioners to the CAPRA Council. Oak Lawn is only the second agency in Illinois to receive CAPRA Accreditation.

On behalf of both the IPRA Board of Directors and CAPRA Commission, Mr. Wald presented to Director Kelly the Oak Lawn Park District's five-year Accreditation through the National Recreation and Park Association. He congratulated Kelly and her staff for doing an excellent job, and noted that Commissioners, inter-governmental representatives and businesses present should be proud of this accomplishment.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS:

Kelly thanked Mr. Wald and noted that this was a team effort from start to finish. She acknowledged key staff that went above and beyond all the hard work of everyone: Superintendent of Recreation Julie Ryan, Superintendent of Parks Joel Craig, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Duslak.

Kelly thanked the Board of Commissioners for its support and said staff could not have considered pursuing Accreditation without it. While Oak Lawn Park District was already an Illinois Distinguished Agency, Commissioner Callahan suggested she pursue National Accreditation, and she believed staff could meet the challenge. Kelly noted that this is one of the biggest honors the Park District will ever achieve, and the process leaves a legacy of documentation for future managers. She again thanked her wonderful staff and noted they are like her family.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

Callahan acknowledged Village Clerk Jane Quinlan, Library President Mike Sukto, and past Park Commissioner and Director Marty Larson, and thanked them for coming.

Callahan said it is his honor to be associated with such a great staff. It is a family, and the staff makes him and the Board look great by its hard work and determination. This is his proudest moment outside of his family and the proudest moment of his political career.

Callahan noted that the staff represents about 60,000 residents and is doing a phenomenal job. Of 6,000 park and recreation agencies in the country, only 83 have received Accreditation. Kelly and the

staff have been honored by professionals in their field. He thanked Mr. Wald for his support during the process and for presenting the award. Callahan noted that other agencies that recently were in Washington, D.C. for the same purpose brought their mayor, pro football players, and even a former U.S. President; and they did not succeed. The Oak Lawn Park District succeeded on its merits. He feels blessed and proud to be part of it.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

McCauley said she was proud to be at the meeting in D.C. when the head of the Commission congratulated them on receiving Accreditation. She wished all the staff could have been there to hear the news. McCauley has been a Commissioner for 12 years and makes a conscious effort at every Board meeting to thank the staff for their phenomenal work 365 days a year. The Park has a great leader in Director Kelly, and behind every great leader is a great team. As a Commissioner, she does not take one ounce of credit for the award, and stated how deserving Kelly and the staff are to receive it. She noted that staff gives so much to the residents of Oak Lawn to ensure they have a high quality of life. She thanked Mr. Wald for coming, and noted that the award is even more special coming from him.

Wallace congratulated the staff and noted they work very hard and love what they do. She said it is an honor to be on the Board when staff worked so hard to achieve this Accreditation. There is no great team without a great leader, and she thanked Director Kelly and staff for doing a great job and encouraged them to keep up the good work.

Vorderer said he was also proud to attend the Accreditation hearings. Kelly mentioned it was the day the Oak Lawn Park District would receive its Doctorate degree. Vorderer lived and worked in the Village his entire life, and he noted the dedication of both Village and Park District employees to the residents of Oak Lawn. It is the employees, led by Director Kelly, who earned this Doctorate degree for the Park District.

Vorderer noted the Oak Lawn Park District was incorporated in 1944. He played in the parks, later met his wife in a park, and knows the value of parks to the people. He thanked Kelly and the employees, and also the people of Oak Lawn for giving Commissioners oversight of this talented staff. Commissioners can only take credit for empowering the employees and overseeing the projects, and then stand back and let them work.

Andersen has been a resident since 1960, and in 1977 Marty Larson asked him to run for Park District Board. He has been privileged to serve for many years. He has also been honored to be elected to the State Board of Trustees of the IAPD. Any time he comes back from a state meeting or conference, he notes that this is the best park district in the state. And it has been acknowledged that we are!

Andersen said it was a great honor to be involved with the Park District and Park Foundation when the CAPRA Chairperson congratulated Director Kelly, the staff and the Board on Accreditation. Oak Lawn Park District is the only one in the state to have both designations – a Distinguished Agency in the State and Certification from the National Recreation and Park Association. He does not believe there is another agency in the state that currently has the CAPRA certificate. The Board rides the wave of success that staff creates, and Andersen congratulated Kelly and staff for a well-deserved award that has made this district proud.

Andersen acknowledged Marty Larson's contributions in past years. Past Director Ernie Nance sends his congratulations. Past Commissioners and Directors had a small part in this award, but this current Board can share the glory that the staff has brought to the Park District. When his time on this Board is completed, Andersen can step down and say he was there for this big day.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Andersen said Attorney Farrell has been on the Board since 1979/80, and asked him to speak. Farrell stated that the humility of the Board of Commissioners is amazing. A great leader like Kelly could not have accomplished this process without the support of the Board. This is the best park district in the State of Illinois. He is proud of the entire organization: the Board, Director and staff. It is the combination of all three that makes the District successful.

Treasurer Ribikawskis offered his congratulations to each and every staff member, to the Board for its direction, and to Kelly for her phenomenal leadership.

Marty Larson said he has been a Commissioner and Director of this Park District, and praised Kelly for her hard work. He noted that in 1971 the Park District was, for all practical purposes, bankrupt; and it has come a long way. Kelly has done a great job, and so has the Board. He offered his congratulations and noted his pride in this accomplishment.

Kelly acknowledged the role that staff had in this process. She presented staff with CAPRA pins to wear with pride. She also presented CAPRA pins to Board members and former Commissioner/Director Marty Larson.


ADJOURN:

Andersen moved, Vorderer seconded to adjourn.

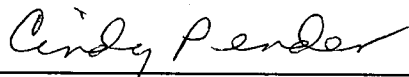
Voting: Aye: All – Nay: None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Callahan, President



Cindy Pender, Recording Secretary