

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on December 9, 2024 at 7:00pm with President Buschbach presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Donahue, Johnson, Mottl, Stalker, and Buschbach
A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of November 11, 2024

Mottl moved, Stalker seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: Donahue, Mottl, Stalker, Buschbach
Abstain: Johnson
Nay: None

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteers of the Month – Cast of Beauty and the Beast

For the Volunteer of the Month we would like to recognize the Cast of Beauty and the Beast the Musical and Joe Leamanczyk.

These talented individuals volunteered 10 hours per week for 8 weeks rehearsing for Disney's Beauty and the Beast. On top of that they volunteered another 25 hours during what theatre people call "hell week" or tech week. Add up all the hours for fight call, lift call, mic check, green room and thirteen performances and you're looking at a grand total of 157 hours across 11 fun filled weeks full of singing, acting and jazz hand musical theatre goodness! The Park District knows how much of a beast this show was and we "speak from the heart" when we say we are simply honored that we had such a dedicated and talented group of performers to help bring the Disney magic to the Erica Heilmann Theatre. You have brought pure joy to over 3,500 of our theatre ticket holders and we cannot thank you enough.

In addition to the cast, we would also like to honor Joe Leamanczyk for volunteering to help make the majority of our lead costumes. Your countless hours and talent helped our production be a visual spectacle and truly brought the characters to life!

Special Recreation Jr. and Sr. Athletes of the Year

Jr. Athlete of the Year- Gwen Smith

This year's Jr. Athlete of the Year is Gwen Smith. Gwen started in the Special Recreation Jr, Jordans basketball skills team in 2023. Early this year she took the silver medal at the regional skills event; this year she has been working hard on her skills and hopes to get Gold. Gwen is also part of the Penguins swim team. She swims the 25-meter Freestyle, and 25-meter backstroke. Gwen, keep practicing your swim strokes. We know you will receive many Special Olympic medals in the future.

Sr. Athlete of the Year- Michael Lauer

Michael Lauer is a veteran on the Penguins swim team, He has been involved since 2015. He has many Special Olympic Medals to prove it. Coaches and fellow swimmers say Micheal is a joy to have on the team. He is a great swimmer and an even better teammate. His favorite events are the 25-meter and 50-meter Freestyle races. He also swims on the Penguin relay team. Michael, we know you will continue to work hard on your sport that we know you love.

Special Olympics Floor Hockey

Congratulations to the Fury Floor Hockey team on an outstanding season! Your hard work and determination have earned you well-deserved recognition, earning silver at the Therapeutic Recreation Section tournament and silver at the State Special Olympic Floor Hockey tournament. The Board of Commissioners proudly applauds your achievements and dedication, well done!

Oak Lawn Fury- Coach Scott Curtiss, Joe Balich, & Alan Balich

Matt Balich	Joe Coffelt	Scott Curtiss	Johnny Damme
Kevin Ehmen	Shane Figura	Becca Gehle	Sarah Gehle
Julia Huscher	Allie Leehaug	Emily McNeill	Taylor Schaar
Scott Sullivan	Andrew Vranicar	Marium Wahid	

Special Olympics State Bowling

Congratulations to the Special Olympics Bowling athletes that competed in the State Bowling championship on December 7th in Peoria.

Congratulations Matthew and AJ Balich for representing Oak Lawn Park District at these events.

Mark Finger – 5812 W. 90th St.

Mr. Finger addressed the Board and stated that he received a letter regarding his property encroaching on the park district. The property in question is his home that he purchased in 1995. Finger said he has lived at his house for 29 years with his wife and kids. Finger stated that the matter at hand is regarding the east side of his property that is adjacent to the Menard Center. Finger stated that he was made aware that he must move his fence and any belongings from the property. Finger stated that he proposed to purchase the property from the district but was notified by the district's attorney that the district would not be interested in selling it.

Finger requested that the Board reconsider his proposal to purchase the property. Finger welcomed the Board to stop by his property to see how much of an impact this would have on his life.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Donahue moved, Johnson seconded to approve the payables of \$ 1,469,906.81 for the period of November 1, 2024 to November 30, 2024.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Tax Levy

Stalker moved, Johnson seconded to approve the total amount levied of \$5,014,686.00.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Intergovernmental Agreement with District 218

Mottl moved, Stalker seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with District 218 regarding a land easement for the ITEP Grant for Wolfe Wildlife Park.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

LEGAL: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$30,000: None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Hartwig wished everyone a happy holiday and Merry Christmas.

Hartwig shared that the park district turned 80 years old on December 8th. Hartwig said staff will be looking into ways to incorporate the birthday into different programs and events throughout the year.

Hartwig said the Employee Recognition Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday night at the Elks Lodge. Hartwig welcomed the Board members to attend.

Hartwig congratulated Brad Burke, Athletic Supervisor, and his fiancé on the birth of their first child.

Hartwig stated the annual IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference is scheduled for the end of January. Hartwig said the majority of managers and supervisors will be attending the conference.

Hartwig congratulated the cast and crew involved with the theatre production of Beauty and the Beast. Hartwig said he heard nothing but positive feedback regarding the shows. Hartwig said the next production is the teen production of Catch Me If You Can.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Buschbach wished the district a happy 80th birthday.

Buschbach stated that he will be stopping by the Employee Recognition Dinner on Wednesday night. Buschbach thanked the district staff for everything they do throughout the year.

Buschbach thanked the Finance Department for their work on the Tax Levy.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Donahue recognized the Special Recreation athletes and thanked the coaches of the teams for their dedication and support to our programs.

Mottl said she is looking forward to attending the Employee Recognition Dinner.

Mottl stated that her daughter is participating in the StagePlay program and made mention that she was able to attend the dress rehearsal for the upcoming production.

Mottl mentioned that while waiting for her daughters to come out of dance class, she has heard parents talking about our programs and the feedback is always positive.

Johnson thanked the Finance Department for their efforts on the Tax Levy.

Johnson echoed Mottl and stated that he too receives compliments regarding the district.

Stalker thanked the Finance Department for their work on the Tax Levy.

Stalker recognized the Special Recreation Department and stated that she has received numerous compliments about how wonderful our programs are. Stalker thanked the staff in the Special Recreation Department and encouraged them to keep up the great work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Donahue moved, Stalker seconded to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Buschbach, President



Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary