

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 14, 2025**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on June 14, 2025 at 7:09pm with President Donahue presiding.

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of June 9, 2025

Zumhagen moved, Buschbach seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Volunteer of the Month – Carly Bishop

Carly Bishop joined the Oak Lawn Park District Special Recreation Department in the summer of 2024 and quickly made a meaningful impact as the Drama Club instructor for our adult mini-day program, Special Recreation University (SRU).

From the start, Carly built strong connections with participants and has since continued to write, direct, costume, and produce exceptional performances each season. Her shows are not only creative and entertaining but also thoughtfully designed—tailoring roles to each participant's unique strengths, interests, and abilities.

Each Friday, Carly brings her energy, talent, and creativity to SRU, and participants eagerly anticipate the magic she brings to the room.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Carly as part of our SRU family. Congratulations, Carly, you have truly made Drama Club a joyful, inclusive, and inspiring experience for everyone involved!

Special Olympics Summer Games Athletes

The Oak Lawn Park District Special Olympic Summer Games team has done it again. From June 20th – 22nd, they represented the park district and won the highest honors.

The athletes from our agency competed in Aquatics, Bocce Ball, Gymnastics, and Track & Field. It was a long weekend in the heat, but all the athletes competed to the best of their ability. We, the Oak Lawn Park District Board, congratulate you on a job well done at the 2025 Special Olympic State Summer Games.

With all that said and done, these athletes walked away with 17 gold medals, 18 silver medals, and 7 bronze medals! Congratulations to our team for doing so well in the competition.

Oak Lawn Parks Foundation

Steve Loulousis, Chairman of the Oak Lawn Parks Foundation, presented a donation check to the district in the amount of \$2,000.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to approve the payables of \$4,973,920.05 for the period of June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Board Policy Manual Update – Errant Golf Ball Policy

Buschbach moved, Mottl seconded to approve the update to the Errant Golf Ball Policy.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Oak Lawn

Stalker moved, Mottl seconded to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Oak Lawn for the use of the Memorial Activity Center.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

LEGAL: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$30,000: None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Hartwig shared that the district is in full summer mode. The first session of day camps just wrapped up, and attendance numbers were great. He added that the weather has been cooperating, which has been helpful for activities all across the district.

Hartwig mentioned that the Aquatics Department recently partnered with the Oak Lawn Fire Department for an in-service training at the pools. The goal was to make sure both staff and emergency responders are prepared in case of an emergency.

Hartwig noted that Bill Hooker from PDRMA recently visited the district, and he was very impressed with the facilities.

Hartwig also received great feedback on the Broadway Jr production, saying everything about it went well.

Regarding Oak Meadows Park, Hartwig said the park has been very busy since the ribbon cutting and the gravity rail has seen so much use that parts are already on order for repairs.

Hartwig reported that the new pickleball courts at little Wolfe are finished and getting a lot of use. However, the windscreens that were installed did not meet our expectations and have been taken down. The district is now looking at other options.

Hartwig shared that the ribbon cutting and open house for the Memorial Activity Center took place earlier today. The event had a great turnout, and seniors in the community are excited to start using the new space. So far, all the feedback from them has been positive.

Hartwig said this year's 4th of July fireworks show was one of the best in the area. The 23-minute show brought in a bigger crowd than in past years, and the finale was live-streamed on social media. Hartwig received several compliments from people who watched the show online.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Donahue said the Board and Staff Retreat was a great event and a valuable opportunity for the Board to show support and appreciation for the outstanding staff.

Donahue shared that he recently hosted a pool party at Centennial Pool and said the staff were very accommodating. Everyone had a great time, and he encouraged others to visit the pools this summer.

Donahue also mentioned that a baby shower for a family member was held at Stony Creek recently. He received only positive feedback and said guests had a wonderful time.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Buschbach thanked Hartwig for the warm weather, joking that it was just what he had hoped for during last month's Board Meeting.

Buschbach shared that he attended the tree planting event at Centennial Park, which he saw posted on the website. Buschbach said he really enjoyed the event.

Buschbach also mentioned that the theater department has been very busy with recent productions. He said he loves what they are doing and he is looking forward to the upcoming shows.

Buschbach added that he attended the community input meeting for Centennial Park last week. Buschbach gave a shoutout to Ryan Gory, Superintendent of Parks, for his deep knowledge about the renovations happening across the district.

Mottl said she attended the Broadway Jr production of *Bye Bye Birdie* and thought the performances were fantastic. Mottl was impressed by the passion and talent of the kids in the cast, noting that even though it was a children's production, it was on par with adult shows seen throughout the year.

Mottl also shared that she recently hosted a gymnastics birthday party for her daughter at the Racquet Center. Mottl said the staff were super helpful and everyone had a great time.

Mottl mentioned attending the 4th of July fireworks display again this year and said it was another great show. Mottl said the crowd was well managed, and overall, she was really impressed.

Mottl also said she enjoyed attending the Board and Staff Retreat and it was nice meeting new staff and catching up with current ones.

Stalker also shared that she enjoyed the Board and Staff Retreat. Stalker appreciated the chance to connect with staff from other facilities she does not get to visit often.

Stalker said she has been to Oak Meadows Park a few times since the ribbon cutting and each time the park has been busy with people enjoying the space.

Stalker said she attended a pool party at Centennial Pool over the weekend and thanked the staff for doing such a great job at the event.

Stalker mentioned that a coworker who recently attended a golf outing at Stony Creek described the course as beautiful and called the location a hidden gem.

Zumhagen said the Board and Staff Retreat was a great experience. She enjoyed meeting staff members in person and appreciated finally being able to put faces to names. She added that the retreat was a wonderful way to be introduced to the district.

ADJOURNMENT:

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ryan Donahue", written over a horizontal line.

Ryan Donahue, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tracey Gallik", written over a horizontal line.

Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary