

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON MAY 11, 2026**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on May 11, 2026 at 7:00 pm with President Donahue presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Finance Meeting of April 13, 2026**

Zumhagen moved, Mottl seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Regular Meeting of April 13, 2026**

Buschbach moved, Stalker seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Volunteer of the Month – Girl Scout Troop #65782**

For the month of April, we would like to recognize Girl Scout Troop #65782 as the Volunteers of the Month.

Girl Scout Troop #65782 is a leadership-driven troop focused on building confident, capable girls through real-world experiences and meaningful community involvement. Based in the Oak Lawn area, the troop actively engages in service projects, educational opportunities, and hands-on learning that extend beyond traditional troop activities. From exploring civic engagement at the Capitol to participating in local initiatives and community partnerships, the girls are encouraged to lead, think critically, and make an impact. The troop is built on teamwork, growth, and a commitment to showing up for their community. Troop 65782 has “shown up” for the Adopt-a-flowerbed program since 2023 when they started caring for the flowerbeds in front of Central Pool, the berm at the Administrative office, and the butterfly area in front of the Ice Arena.

Thank you for helping keep these Oak Lawn Park District facilities looking beautiful!

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to approve the payables of \$1,599,013.07 for the period of April 1, 2026 to April 30, 2026.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS**

**Director**

Mottl motioned, Zumhagen seconded to appoint Tom Hartwig as Director of the Oak Lawn Park District.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Attorney**

Stalker motioned, Mottl seconded to appoint John Farrell as the district's Attorney.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Appropriation Resolution – Wolfe Wildlife ITEP Grant**

Zumhagen moved, Mottl seconded to approve the Resolution for the Wolfe Wildlife ITEP Grant.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Designation of Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Act Officers**

The Park District is required to designate one or more staff members as Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act officers.

Buschbach motioned, Zumhagen seconded to approve Tom Hartwig and Tracey Gallik as the district's officers.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**LEGAL:**

**Review of Executive Session Minutes**

There were no new Executive Session Minutes to review.

**APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$30,000: None**

**MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:**

Hartwig stated that the month of May has already been very busy throughout the district. He shared that he recently attended the annual Parks Day at the Capitol and Legislative Conference and commented that it was one of the best conferences he has attended during his career. Hartwig discussed ongoing concerns regarding the Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) and the agency's efforts to review and potentially license park district programs throughout the state. Hartwig explained that the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) hosted an open forum with legal counsel to discuss the proposed guidelines, requirements, and the potential impact these changes could have on park districts. He noted that four representatives from IDEC attended the discussions and participated in conversations regarding the possibility of park districts being exempt from some of the proposed laws and regulations. Hartwig referenced several examples and concerns he had previously shared regarding the licensing requirements and the challenges they could create for park district programming. He stated that park districts across Illinois will continue advocating against the proposed guidelines and that additional information will be shared with the Board so members can also help support advocacy efforts moving forward.

Hartwig reported that Stony Creek has been very busy with the start of the season. He also shared that the popular Taco Tuesdays and Burger Thursdays have officially returned to the Golf Course for the summer.

Hartwig stated that the district is continuing preparations for the upcoming summer season and that the Human Resources Department has been especially busy processing payroll paperwork and onboarding forms for seasonal summer staff.

Hartwig also shared that he recently met with the Senior Council to discuss the Memorial Activity Center and future programming opportunities for senior residents.

Hartwig reported that the Volleyball for Charity Tournament took place in mid-April and was another successful even. He stated that a total of 47 teams participated this year. While there were no major issues during the tournament, there were some challenges with volunteers not reporting

for scheduled shifts. Hartwig expressed his appreciation to Joe, owner of Bar 106, for hosting the afterparty and generously donating food for the event. He asked that special recognition and thanks be extended for his continued support.

Hartwig encouraged everyone to purchase tickets for the Theatre production of Steel Magnolias which is scheduled to open on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Hartwig discussed renovations planned for the Racquet Center, which are scheduled to begin in mid-June. He noted that the improvements are intended to enhance the facility and overall experience for patrons.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Donahue shared that he has served on the Board for five years, with the current year being his term as Board President, and noted that tonight was his final meeting in that role. He expressed sincere appreciation to his fellow Board members, staff, and volunteers for their support and collaboration throughout his term.

Donahue stated that serving on the Board has given him a deeper appreciation for the importance of Parks and Recreation. He reflected that parks are more than just fields, playgrounds, and buildings, they are places where meaningful experiences happen. He shared that he personally grew up participating in park district programs, and it is where he formed lifelong friendships. Donahue shared that it has been especially meaningful to now bring his own children into the same community spaces.

Donahue noted that one of the most important lessons he has learned about running a successful park district is recognizing the significant amount of behind the scenes work that often goes unnoticed by the public. This includes planning, budgeting, maintenance, grant applications, and the many hours of effort that go into making programs and services successful.

Donahue expressed pride in the collaborative spirit of the Board and their shared commitment to maintaining a fiscally responsible approach to decision making. He stated that he is confident this spirit will continue under the incoming Board President.

Donahue thanked Tom Hartwig and Tracey Gallik for their work in preparing materials and supporting the Board through meetings, and extended appreciation to Ryan Gory, noting that Ryan serves as the glue that helps keep the district running smoothly.

Donahue concluded by expressing heartfelt thanks to the Board and community members who supported him and his family during a difficult time over the past year. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and wished the next Board President all the best.

**MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:**

Mottl discussed the recent dance recital and shared that she volunteers during one of the recital days each year and then purchases tickets for another performance so she can experience both the volunteer and audience perspectives. She commented that the dance teachers did an excellent job throughout the recital and were extremely motivating and encouraging to the students during their performances. Mottl also suggested the possibility of installing television screens so that dancers can watch the other performances.

Mottl stated that she has continued to hear many positive comments regarding the condition of the district's baseball fields. She thanked the Maintenance Department for their hard work and efforts in keeping the fields in excellent condition.

Mottl also shared that the StagePlay production is scheduled to open on Wednesday and stated that her family is looking forward to attending the performance.

Buschbach stated that he has attended Burger Thursdays at Stony Creek and shared that the food has been great so far. He commented positively on the atmosphere and turnout and stated that he is looking forward to attending an upcoming Taco Tuesday to try the food.

Stalker stated that she recently visited Wolfe Wildlife Park with her niece, who has since begun referring to it as "Auntie's Park." She noted that the park was very popular during their visit and shared that it was great to see so many people out enjoying the space.

Stalker also stated that she recently spent time at Stony Creek for her Dad's birthday. She shared that her Dad enjoyed a round of golf and that it was a beautiful day to be at the course.

Zumhagen stated that she recently participated in tennis lessons at the Racquet Center, noting that although the current session has now ended, she really enjoyed the experience and felt she learned a lot.

Zumhagen shared that her children have been spending a lot of time visiting Memorial, Dillon, and Oak Meadows Parks. She stated that these are the parks they frequent most often and that the family continues to enjoy spending time at each location.

Zumhagen also mentioned that she recently enjoyed a date night with her daughter at Stony Creek for Burger Thursday. She stated that they both had a great time and really enjoyed the experience.

Zumhagen shared that her children recently attended Prom and used Wolfe Wildlife Park as the location for their photos.

**SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS: None**

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

The Board entered Executive Sessions at 7:38p.m.

The Board adjourned Executive Session at 7:45p.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**President**

Zumhagen nominated Commissioner Mottl to be Board President for the coming year; Stalker seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Vice President**

Buschbach nominated Commissioner Stalker as Vice President; Zumhagen seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Secretary**

Stalker nominated Commissioner Zumhagen as Secretary; Buschbach seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

Mottl made the following appointments:

- Finance ..... Commissioner Donahue
- Public Relations & Marketing ..... Commissioner Stalker

- Recreation ..... Commissioner Zumhagen
- Building & Grounds ..... Commissioner Buschbach

**ANNUAL MEETING:**

**Appointment of Auditors**

Buschbach motioned to approve Lauterbach & Amen; Donahue seconded.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Designation of Depositories**

Stalker motioned, Zumhagen seconded to approve the depositories as presented:

1. Illinois Funds                      2. Old National Bank                      3. Illinois Trust

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**Designation of Newspapers for Legal Notices**

Buschbach motioned, Stalker seconded to approve the newspapers listed:

1. SouthtownSTAR                      2. Oak Lawn Independent                      3. Reporter  
4. Chicago Tribune                      5. Chicago Sun-Times

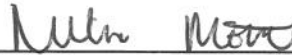
Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

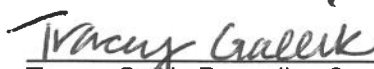
Donahue moved, Stalker seconded to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All  
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Mottl, President



Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary