

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON AUGUST 10, 2026**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on August 10, 2026 at 7:01 pm with President Mottl presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Buschbach, Donahue, Stalker and Mottl
Zumhagen arrived at 7:08 pm
A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of July 13, 2026

Donahue moved, Stalker seconded to approve.

Voting: Aye: Buschbach, Donahue, Stalker and Mottl
Nay: None

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

2026 Special Olympics Summer Games Athletes

The Oak Lawn Park District Special Olympics Summer Games Team has done it again! From June 20–22, our athletes proudly represented the Oak Lawn Park District at the 2026 Special Olympics Illinois State Summer Games and achieved outstanding success.

Athletes competed in Aquatics, Unified Cornhole, Soccer Skills, Gymnastics, and Track & Field. Despite a long weekend and challenging summer heat, every athlete demonstrated determination, sportsmanship, and perseverance while competing to the best of their abilities.

On behalf of the Oak Lawn Park District Board of Commissioners, we congratulate each of you on an incredible performance at the 2026 Special Olympics Illinois State Summer Games. Your hard work, dedication, and commitment have made our entire community proud.

As a team, our athletes brought home an impressive 17 gold medals, 15 silver medals, and 16 bronze medals. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the effort of our athletes, coaches, families, and supporters. Congratulations to everyone on a job exceptionally well done!

2026 Special Olympics USA Games Athletes

The Special Olympics USA Games are held every four years, bringing together the nation's top athletes to compete on the largest stage in Special Olympics. This past June, Oak Lawn Park District was proudly represented in Minnesota by several athletes and coaches selected to Team Illinois.

Team Illinois consisted of 73 athletes, Unified partners, and coaches who joined more than 3,000 athletes and 1,500 coaches representing all 50 states.

Christine Levenze was selected to compete on Team Illinois' swimming team. It came as no surprise to those who know Christine that she excelled at the Games. She competed in the 50-yard backstroke, 50-yard breaststroke, and the 50-yard medley relay. Christine returned home as a two-time USA Games gold medalist, winning gold in both of her individual events, and helped Team Illinois earn a silver medal in the medley relay.

Oak Lawn Park District was also proudly represented in Unified Volleyball by Marium Wahid, Becca Gehle, Mia DiGiacomo, and Todd Mallo.

These four joined eight other athletes and Unified partners from across Illinois to form the Illinois Aces. Throughout the tournament, Team Illinois competed against teams from Ohio, North

Dakota, Michigan, Colorado, and Arizona. Despite practicing together for only two hours each month since January, they competed against teams that had trained together for years. Their

teamwork, determination, and commitment were truly remarkable. The Illinois Aces played in an incredible tournament and proudly brought home the silver medal.

We would also like to recognize Kathy Sievers, who was selected as the Head Coach of the Team Illinois Gymnastics Team. Kathy coached four Team Illinois gymnasts throughout the USA Games and played an instrumental role in their success.

Representing Team Illinois as a gymnastics coach at the 2026 Special Olympics USA Games is an extraordinary accomplishment, but Kathy's impact extends far beyond the competition floor. Through her dedication, patience, and unwavering belief in her athletes, she helped lead Team Illinois Gymnastics to an impressive 7 Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals, and 1 Bronze Medal.

Congratulations once again to all our 2026 Special Olympics USA Games athletes and coaches. Your dedication, hard work, and outstanding accomplishments have made the Oak Lawn Park District and our entire community incredibly proud.

Oak Lawn Parks Foundation

Steve Loulousis, Chairman of the Oak Lawn Parks Foundation, presented a donation check to the district in the amount of \$3,500. Steve noted that the Park District and Foundation reinstated the family assistance program and it's a great partnership and a worthwhile program. This money was raised from a successful Cosmic Bowl fundraiser they had last week. He also mentioned that there will be a Miniature Golf program over at Stony Creek for Special Recreation on August 22 at 10:00 am that everyone is invited to.

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Donahue moved, Stalker seconded to approve the payables of \$1,827,582.47 for the period of July 1, 2026 to July 31, 2026.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: None

LEGAL:

The Park District has been working on cleaning up and correcting Property Index Numbers (PIN) or all of our parks and property. It came to our attention that the Village had vacated the section of W 108th Street that would have gone through Lawn Manor Park to Kostner Ave. The village Quit Claimed that vacated street to the Park District, but half of that street should have gone to the Atwood Heights School District. The Park District then Quit Claimed half of the vacated street to the School District. This should clear up the property lines and PINs for this area.

Staff recommends this Quit Claim and asks for the Boards approval.

Zumhagen moved, Buschbach seconded to approve the Quit Claim.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$30,000: None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Hartwig reported that a lot of the staff are happy that Day Camps are over. He noted that eight weeks of well over 750 kids between all of the different camps are just about finished. He stated

that we still have FLASH break camp that tries to bridge the gap between camp and school, but it's much smaller and more manageable. He stated that it was a really good day camp year, the numbers were good, and we are still looking for more places so we can add more kids. He thanked all the staff, as it is quite the undertaking to provide for so many kids.

Hartwig hopes everyone had the chance to see Grease. He mentioned that he was unable to see it, but heard it was very good. He also stated that they lost power during one of the performances due to the weather, but that Ryan Gory came over to help get it working.

Hartwig reported that the Racquet Center project is nearing completion and that staff were able to move back into the building last Monday, just before the deadline. Recent rain provided an opportunity to successfully move tennis lessons indoors as patrons gradually return to the facility. He noted that relocating and downsizing the front desk has significantly improved traffic flow and created a more open, welcoming space. Hartwig expressed optimism about how the renovations will function once gymnasts and their families return in larger numbers and commended Ryan Gory for his diligent efforts in keeping the project on track.

Hartwig also stated that Lakeshore Park has been going slower than they hoped. He shared that they are hoping in the next few weeks they will be able to wrap it up there, so they can do a ribbon cutting.

Hartwig shared that Tracey Gallik had her baby girl on July 30th. He noted that mom and baby are doing well, and adjusting to being home with two kids.

Hartwig thanked Ryan Gory and all of the maintenance staff. He stated that the summer help is starting to leave and go back to school. He noted that there are a lot of parks, open spaces, buildings, renovations and projects going on. He shared that our maintenance department is on the smaller side for an agency of our size, but with Ryan there he is able to move everything around and keep things running really well.

Hartwig also thanked Ron Badali and his staff for the audit. We should be having a presentation on this in the next month or two once they finalize everything. But everything looks good.

Hartwig reported that the pool season is winding down as many staff members return to school, resulting in fewer lifeguards. Central Pool will close first, while Centennial Pool will remain open. This allows the district to continue operating the splash pad near Centennial and efficiently utilize chemicals and available staff. Overall, it has been a successful pool season, with Hartwig commending the lifeguards, ice arena staff, and maintenance staff for their efforts in keeping everything running smoothly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mottl shared that she was very impressed with the last day of Day Camp at Oak View. When she came to pick her children up from Night Owls, everyone was crying because Day Camp was ending. It was nice to see how many children loved being there.

Mottl also shared that her children are doing a mixture of FLASH Camp and George Shimko Camp this week, which was fun. Her son was very excited about the basketball they received and had to bring back to camp each day.

Mottl mentioned that she did not get a chance to see Grease. She hasn't been able to see some of the recent shows and needs to get back to doing that.

Mottl reported that she is always impressed when she drives by all of our parks. The recent storms have hit a lot of trees and branches are down, but she doesn't see it affecting the parks. She is

impressed with our maintenance team and everything that goes into keeping our parks running.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Donahue thanked all of the seasonal staff for their hard work and for representing the Oak Lawn Park District throughout the summer. He noted that the strong participation in summer programs clearly demonstrates how much the community's children enjoy the district's programs.

Buschbach reported that he attended the opening night of Grease and enjoyed the performance, despite the sound-related technical difficulties.

Buschbach also attended the Sullivan Park Citizens' Meeting and appreciated hearing residents' feedback and learning more about the park from Ryan Gory. He reported that the district is pursuing an OSLAD grant for Sullivan Park. If awarded, the grant would support the planned improvements, if not, the tennis courts will likely be the primary project, as they are in need of repairs and currently hold water due to their existing edges. Buschbach noted that approximately six residents attended the most recent meeting, while the initial meeting had a much larger turnout.

Stalker reported that she went to the pools for the first time since she was a child herself, and took her cousin's four children. She stated that she would like to thank the staff, especially the one that kind of yelled at them for running.

Stalker shared that she is not a golfer, but for the first time in ages went golfing with her family at Stony Creek. She stated that they enjoyed it very much, but she quit after one hole. She noted that the course was beautiful and they are doing a great job on the upkeep. She thanked all of our staff, and mentioned that everything is running really well. She also thanked Ron and his staff for the audit.

Zumhagen stated that she wanted to echo Ryan about the staff in our programs and that several of the staff are friends with her son. She shared that the joy is to hear when they talk about their students that they mentor, and realizing they are mentoring the next generation. She also shared that her younger kids' friends are all in the programs, and how much they love it.

Zumhagen reported that she had the opportunity to go to the pools for an event with the Oak Lawn Outlaws. She shared that she always thought our pools were run really well, and that staff is on it when it comes to following the rules.

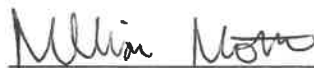
Zumhagen stated it's been a wonderful July with crazy weather. She shared that staff have done a great job, and you cannot tell that we have had as much tree damage in our parks as we have had.

ADJOURNMENT:

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to adjourn at 7:34 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Mottl, President



Shannon Nolan, Recording Secretary