

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2026**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Regular Meeting on September 14, 2026 at 7:00 pm with President Mottl presiding.

ROLL CALL:

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

**PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
OF THE OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TO SELL \$2,625,000
GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX PARK BONDS:**

President Mottl opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone had any questions or would like to speak. Upon hearing no comments, Donahue motioned to close the Public Hearing, Buschbach seconded.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Meeting of August 10, 2026

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to approve.

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

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE:

Ice Arena Figure Skaters

We would like to congratulate Amanda Mathis and Mimi McCarthy who competed in the 2026 U.S. Figure Skating Excel National Festival in Massachusetts.

Before we recognize their achievements at the national competition, it's important to highlight how they got there. This national competition is an invitation-only event for which only the top 48 skaters in the nation are allowed to compete. Not only did Mimi and Amanda qualify for the competition in July, but they both finished the qualification season ranked in the top 10 out of 400 nationwide skaters. Amanda finished the season ranked 10th in the nation at her competition level and 5th in the Midwest Region. Mimi finished the season ranked 4th in the nation at her competition level and 2nd in the Midwest Region.

At the Excel National Festival, both Mimi and Amanda skated amazing programs. In their first ever national competition, Mimi finished in the top 20 of her group and Amanda finished in the top 10. We are so proud to see all their hard work and commitment to the sport that allow them to have this opportunity.

We would also like to recognize their coaches Kerry Vihnanek and Kristen Vanick-Jamison. They constantly demonstrate incredible dedication to their skaters and the Ice Arena, which is why it is well-deserved for them to be able to coach two of our skaters on a national stage. We are so proud and grateful to have them as coaches at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena. Congratulations to both the skaters and coaches on this achievement!

NEW BUSINESS: None

FINANCE REPORT:

Zumhagen moved, Buschbach seconded to approve the payables of \$1,304,020.02, for the period of August 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Audit

Board approval of the audit is considered the best practice amongst park districts.

Donahue moved, Stalker seconded to approve the Audit.

Voting: Aye: All

Nay: None

LEGAL: NONE

APPROVAL OF BIDS OVER \$30,000: None

MATTERS OF THE DIRECTOR:

Hartwig thanked Ron and Ruby and staff for working on the audit, as it is always a stressful time of year. Hartwig reported that he was happy there is no management letter, which is what we strive for but doesn't always happen. He stated that they mentioned the GFOA award, which we've received every year since 1999 and expect to receive again.

Last Friday, Hartwig attended the 911 Memorial by Patriot Station for the 25th anniversary, which was run by the Police and Fire Department. He stated that it was a great event and hard to believe it has been 25 years. He mentioned that staff from the Park District had a hand in building the concrete walls that surround the steel beams. He noted that he was glad to have been able to be there with several staff to support the event.

Hartwig mentioned the Summer's Last Blast event in August had to be moved inside due to weather, but it went very well. He noted that moving it inside made the event look bigger, and that staff went through at least 300-400 prizes at each of their stations. He reported that we held the last movie in the Park in the gym and used the large LED screens and sound. He thanked staff for all of their work, and the time and effort they put into the event.

Hartwig attended the Oak Lawn Parks Foundation mini golf event, which was at Stony Creek Golf Course. He mentioned that there were a lot of families and it was a beautiful day.

Hartwig stated that he would be going to the NRPA Conference in Philadelphia in two weeks, and that he's looking forward to sessions, the exhibit hall, and talking to and learning from people all around the country. He shared that he decided at the last minute to apply to run for the IPRA Board of Directors. He also shared that Melissa wrote him a letter of recommendation that he included with the application.

Hartwig mentioned that fall programming is all going very well and that staff is getting ready for the upcoming Halloween events, which will be here soon.

Hartwig stated that once he returns from the NRPA conference, he will be speaking at the IPRA Facility Management Workshop, where after many years, he is finishing out his final year as a regent on the Board. He will be speaking about utilizing dead space in park district facilities and parks.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mottl thanked Ron and Ruby for everything that goes into the Park District finances, not only now when they are in crunch time, but all throughout the year.

Mottl mentioned that she was out to lunch in Hillside and was told how great Stony Creek Golf Course was and was happy to hear people compliment our facilities.

Mottl stated that soccer was in full swing, and that games started at Oak View last week where it was packed, but it seemed that everything went really well. She mentioned that her daughter had purple shirts this season and was upset that she wasn't orange, so she bought her orange socks and shorts.

Mottl also stated that the Lakeshore ribbon cutting was cool to see, that the weather was perfect and that so many kids were there utilizing the park.

Mottl reported that her family attended Summer's Last Blast and it was different being inside. She stated that they went through all the stations about 3 times since everything was closer together, and they were able to get through everything much quicker. She thought it was nice having the movie inside and not having to deal with the bugs.

MATTERS OF THE COMMISSIONERS:

Stalker reported that she had her family golf outing at Stony Creek on Sunday and they all complimented how nice the course was. She mentioned that there were a bunch of parties because of the Bears game, but they did a fantastic job. She thanked all the staff for always taking care of all our facilities.

Stalker thanked Ron and Ruby and gave them a lot of credit.

Stalker shared that she asked her niece if she wanted to go to Rocket Park and she said no she wanted to go to Unicorn Park. So, she wanted to make it known that feedback from a 4-year-old is that she would like a Unicorn shaped park. She noted that at the park opening, the park looked fantastic and she knows how much work goes into it, and it was nice to see so many kids there.

Zumhagen mentioned that she was sad that she was unable to make it to the Racquet Center re-opening, but she heard really good things. She reported that the park opening was lovely, the weather was perfect and the kids were having a blast. She also mentioned that on her way out, it was neat to see two police playing basketball and enjoying the new space.

Zumhagen stated that her kids were able to make it to the Summer's Last Blast event and they loved it. She reported that her kids have been enjoying a lot of park time and go to Oak Meadows Park every morning, where they meet their friends and then walk down to the middle school. She shared that it's a blessing to see the kids enjoying the park and that they want to be there as long as they can.

Zumhagen thanked staff for the phenomenal finance report.

Buschbach mentioned that he was not available for the Racquet Center opening, but he stopped by one day. He reported that they still had a lot of work to do, but that he loved how open the front is and it looks so much nicer.

Buschbach thanked Ron and Ruby and staff for the financials, not just now but all year. Also, he thanked Ryan and his staff for doing a great job all summer.

Buschbach shared that he had dinner at Stony Creek last week, and they love going there and the service is always good.

Buschbach stated that his daughter was in Kindergarten when 911 happened, and the teachers had to pull her off him every day for a few months, because she was hearing on the news about parents who went to work and never came home.

Donahue reported that the 117-page financial document is basically doing the commissioners job for them. He stated that twenty-seven straight years of fiscal responsibility and awards to show it, doesn't just happen. He went on to say a foundation has been built on and it's something to be proud of. He stated that it means a lot to the commissioners to be able to lean on a very talented staff to make sure they are doing the best for our citizens, and it couldn't make them any prouder or their jobs any easier. He's very thankful to Ron and Ruby and the whole staff for all the years of excellence in the fiscal reporting area.

Donahue stated that he was unable to be at the Lakeshore Park grand opening, but he heard good things. He noted that by the turnout today, the park will likely be well used and well received.

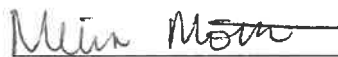
Donahue mentioned that he heard good things about the Racquet Center with the new roof and the new open area. He stated that he hasn't seen it yet but will be there in 2 weeks for a birthday party and can't wait to enjoy the space. He noted that things like a new roof sometimes go unnoticed, but it gives our town a polish. He's looking forward to a good fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Stalker moved, Zumhagen seconded to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Mottl, President



Shannon Nolan, Recording Secretary