

**Park District of Oak Park** [www.pdop.org](http://www.pdop.org)

Park District of Oak Park, Board information: [www.pdop.org/about/park-board/](http://www.pdop.org/about/park-board/)

Regular Board Meeting, June 15, 2017.

Joan Fiscella, Observer

The meeting was held at the Hedges Administrative Center.

Present: Commissioners Paul Aeschleman (President); Victor Guarino (Vice President); Sandy Lentz (Secretary); David Wick (Treasurer); Kassie Porreca; Jan Arnold (Executive Director).

President Paul Aeschleman opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

The Board approved the agenda.

**Visitor/Public Comments**

None

**Consent Agenda - Commissioner Wick**

The Board approved the Consent Agenda, which included the Cash and Investment Summary and Warrants and Bills for the month of May 2017; approval of minutes from the Continued Regular Board Meeting, May 4, 2017; Annual Board Meeting, May 4, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting, May 4, 2017, and the Regular Board meeting, May 18, 2017; approval of the Prevailing Wage Ordinance 2016-06-01; approval of the updated Rules and Regulations; and the approval and authorization of the release of closed session minutes from March 2, 2017, March 16, 2017, and April 6, 2017.

**Staff Reports:**

**A. Executive Director's Report.**

Macbeth is opening Thursday, June 15, 2017; The Fair Maid of the West opens July 27. The Village of Oak Park approved the change to the existing liquor ordinance to allow for a liquor license during Festival Theater performances beginning in 2017 for wine and beer. Movies in the Park program has begun, and Sunday evening concerts have begun.

**B. Updates and Information**

**Old Business**

**A. Recreation and Facility Program Committee: Commissioner Lentz:**

The original sculpture that was offered is not available, and the committee was not in agreement about the work. They are looking for another piece, valued between \$800-\$1,000.

**B. Buildings and Grounds/Facility Maintenance Committee: None**

**C. Administration and Finance Committee: Commissioner Wick.**

1. 2016 Audit report

The Park Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the 2016 Audit Report.

2. Austin Gardens Update: Discussion continued.

## **New Business:**

1. Annual Oak Park Conservatory Operations Report  
949 young people attended programs in the Discovery Garden; it was almost an overload. Flyers are being used to advertise events.  
Volunteers donated 6500 hours of work with the Conservatory (equivalent to \$150,000.)  
Uncorked events are scheduled for Fourth Fridays from June through September, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
Thank you to the Park District Staff for all their support. There had been a long -term plan to do more fund raising; there are now some new strategies, and public/private donations are making a big difference.  
Patti Staley, Director of Horticulture and Conservatory Operations, and Carol Yetkin, who volunteered to speak to the Board, discussed the impact on Austin Gardens of the work proposed for tall building at Lake and Forest. The impact will be on solar panels, trees, turf and the southeast corner of the park.

### The Friends of the Conservatory:

- Planning an online only auction in October
- Focus on major gifts and legacy gifts
- Native plants are well maintained

There was more conversation about impacts of new building on Austin Gardens. There is a lot that is not known (or may not be knowable), including impacts of different sizes of the building, specific impacts on the Gardens, apparent lack of peer reviewed scientific studies in the literature. Who will make the final decisions and how will they be made? Although the Park District will have direct impact from the decision about the new building, other taxing bodies are also directly involved.

The Board of Commissioners did some work on the structure and language of the Park District's presentation: slides; what needs to be emphasized? What needs to be minimized?

The Park Commissioners may hold off its presentation about impacts of new building on Austin Gardens until July.

The Conservatory Plan for 2016, 2017, 2018 was also more fully discussed. One highlight was an increase in birthday parties for children. This program is doing well. Rentals are up 35% last year over the previous year; there are improved pricing structures. The second year of the winter greens market has received positive responses; it could grow even more. The gift shop is seeing more impulse purchasing. It is now open Thursday nights between March and August. The suggested donation to the Conservatory has been raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00.

Pleasant Home is interested in acquiring a music player to display. The Board has come to a consensus to move forward on it. There will be a room (though not necessarily one designated room) in Pleasant Home to house it.

There is some interest from District 97 in partnering with a Community Recreation Center. There is a possibility for cooperation.

### **Commissioners Comments**

David Wick mentioned the new officers of the Park Foundation. He attended a Blues event at Mills.

Sandy Lentz mentioned that Pleasant Home was to honor John Hedges and that they have a donor for a capital project.

Paul Aeschelman mentioned that Taylor Park trees are not in good shape.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.