

Oak Park River Forest League of Women Voters Eyewitness Report

Observed by Joan Fiscella

Date: September 7, 2017

Meeting Length: 50 minutes

Meeting Name: Oak Park Park District

Headline: Park District Reviews Employee Compensation and Benefits

What did the Board discuss:

- To implement a compensation for full-time and select part-time staff, the Park District partnered with GovHR USA; the last such study took place in 2013. The study establishes internal equity among employees and ensures external equity and competitiveness by comparing the District's data against market data.

The study compared the Oak Park District with comparable Park Districts, Contributing to the recommendation is the tightness of the market; people want to work full time. The Park District has to stay competitive.

Testimony:

- John McManus spoke regarding what has been done to review Mills Park Master Plan and some future plans.
A number of residents attended public meeting in May 2017 to learn about the plans for Mills Park, about improvements that have been made and responding to requests for input regarding additional improvements. People had responded positively to a number of park features, such as the central meadow, available seating, and children's discovery area. Some requested bringing back the fountain. There was a positive reaction to last year's display of sculpture in the park. Noise connected with the pavilion was a problem for some who responded.

Items to Watch for in the Future:

- The Park District funds its operations primarily through property taxes. The Board must approve a property tax levy ordinance and file it with the County by the last Tuesday in December to cover the upcoming year's expenses. By law, the dollar amount each year is no greater than the consumer price index (CPI) or 5%, whichever is lower. (For example, the

2017 tax year levy limit is 2.1%). Until the tax levy is determined, the Park District budget is an estimate.

Board Information: www.pdop.org/about/park-board/