WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Committee of the Whole (Finance)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 9, 2025
5:30 p.m. – Mallinckrodt

PRESENT

Commissioners: President Patrick Lahey, Vice President Allison Frazier, Patrick Duffy, Cecilia Clarke, Julia Goebel, Mike Murdock, Kara Kosloskus

Secretary/Interim Executive Director: Margaret Resnick

Staff: Superintendent Sheila Foy, Superintendent Dave Merrill, Superintendent Josh Wallace, Superintendent Lindsay Thomas, Adam Kwiatkoski

Visitors: Alan Golden, Walter Keats

1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL TAKEN

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

None.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 REVIEW 2024 DRAFT AUDIT

4.1.1 PRESENTATION – LAUTERBACH & AMEN LLP

Jasleen Kaur from Lauterbach and Amen presents the audit to the board. This year the auditors were only on-site at the park district for one day. Ms. Kaur gives a high level review of the audit.

There were a couple of management letter comments, such as “fund not in compliance with fund balance policy.” This issue was taken care of in 2024 and will be removed from the letter next year. The second comment was “funds over budget.” Because this is just the budget, the auditors were not worried about it. The board identified two typos which will be corrected before the final audit is published.

Commissioner Murdock asks about the last paragraph on the letter where it states, “Any material mistake that happens as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management.” The question was asked if this was in relation to grant revenues. Ms. Kaur responds that journal entries related to debt were reclassed between principal and interest. The other things that were corrected was related to property tax revenue and

grant activity. Commissioner Murdock requests the word “material” be removed from the statement for accuracy.

Commissioner Murdock inquires about the 93% percentage funding for the pension fund. Ms. Kaur reassures that this park district is in good standing as far as the percentage of pension funded. The district did have a catch-up contribution a few years ago. He then asks for a brief discussion about the increase in levy from 2023 to 2024, approximately 7%. Superintendent Foy explains that the increase also includes replacement taxes.

President Lahey asks Superintendent Foy to speak to the finances of this park district related to other park districts. Vice President Frazier asks what she needs to remember from the audit. Superintendent Foy answers that the certificate from the GFOA is a big plus. The district is financially responsible; we have been retiring debt and the amount of taxes the district is levying has gone down as debt is retired. President Lahey asks if the Marketing team could get the word out about the GFOA Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2024. Commissioner Goebel makes marketing suggestions.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 OPERATIONAL VS. NON-OPERATIONAL CAPITAL DISCUSSION

Interim Director Resnick explains that she has provided definitions of operational and non-operational capital. The flood at the CRC will be a different situation. She gives examples of projects that may come up.

Commissioner Duffy explains how the process has gone in years past saying what we are calling “non-operational” projects would be postponed. Now, Interim Director Resnick is proposing the board guarantee a certain percentage of funds be directed toward non-operational projects. Commissioner Duffy asks how that is different from years past. Commissioner Kosloskus explains that this is a way to keep the reinvestments in the parks going. Last year we had conversations around improving the look and feel of certain spaces in the CRC in order to show the public we are taking pride in our appearance. Commissioner Duffy explains that he doesn’t believe this is very different from how the board was already considering projects when funding was short. He likes the idea of setting aside funding for non-operational projects, but at the end of the day it seems like the decisions will be made the same way. In the last four years he has been on the board, we have come up short for the non-operational projects because of issues with projections or last-minute projects causing changes in what we have available to spend. He likes the idea, but doesn’t see any real difference in how things have gone in the past. Commissioner Duffy proposes to start saving for a potentially large future project. Commissioner Clarke points out that there are projects on the wrong lists, which she had pointed out the last time the board talked about operational versus non-operational.

Commissioner Murdock asks if there was any question the board was not addressing operational capital in the past, which caused the need for two lists. This seems like a solution searching for a problem. He thought our process worked in the past. He points out there are safety issues, which by new definition would be placed on the operational list of projects. If the board assessed according to this model, we might not have ever

gotten to Gillson, Langdon or the beach house, as they would have been placed on the non-operational project list. The board did not consider the Hibbard project critical while it is categorized as critical. Commissioner Murdock supports the idea of setting aside money for a potential future project. The board would like to see the lists of projects updated. President Lahey says he likes the definitions and thinks the examples given were helpful. The board will review the capital schedule and more information on the CRC in two months. Commissioner Clarke explains that she believes safety issues should be included in the definition of operational.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Murdock moves and Commissioner Kosloskus seconds a motion to adjourn the Finance Committee of the Whole.

By a voice vote; **Motion Carried.**

Minutes Approved on **March 9, 2026**.