

**MINUTES OF FINANCE MEETING
OAK LAWN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON MARCH 11, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners of the Oak Lawn Park District was convened in a Finance Meeting on March 11, 2024 at 6:32 p.m. with President Johnson presiding.

PRESENT: Buschbach, Donahue, Mottl, Stalker, and Johnson
A quorum was present.

BUDGET:

Ron Badali, Superintendent of Finance, stated that he will be presenting the Enterprise Funds. Badali said the Enterprise Funds are composed of our three proprietary facilities, which include Stony Creek Golf Course, Ice Arena and Racquet Center. Badali said each of these budgets are managed in a "business-style" operation which are considered non-governmental, as they do not receive any of the property tax levy that the District collects by our taxpayers.

Badali said Enterprise Fund facilities have remained solid and have increased over the past two years and are expected to grow. This growth can be attributed to additional patron participation in our programs and fee increases put in place to keep on pace with higher expenses. Some programs have seen some unexpected revenue increases which we will be trying to maintain but since they are considered unpredictable at this point in time, we are being conservative in their FY'25 estimates.

Badali stated that one of the largest increases in expenses across the district has been salary and wages with the large increases in minimum wages driving this situation. On 1/1/25, the State of Illinois minimum wage will increase to \$15 an hour, which is the final adjustment enacted by the Illinois Public Act 101-0001 of 2019. This law increased the minimum wage from \$8.25 in 2019 to \$15.00 per hour, which has put upward pressure at all salary levels of the Park District. As with everything else in our economy, employee benefits, utilities, program supplies, facility supplies and repair costs for all of our buildings and parks have continued to increase dramatically. Staff are doing a great job of minimizing the negative effects of these costs on the bottom line for the district.

Stony Creek Golf Course

Badali stated Stony Creek has continued to increase business over the past four years with more golfers utilizing the golf course, driving range and golf simulators as well as the restaurant and banquet facilities. Staff plan on adjusting some of the tee time schedules to allow for a few more foursomes each day to help increase revenue. The gaming machines, which the Board recently approved, should be installed before the end of June and are estimated to add \$33,000 in revenue in their first fiscal year.

Ice Arena

Badali said the Ice Arena provides programming and ice time slots for hockey, figure skating programs and public skating sessions. The facility continues to draw a full schedule from the figure skating community as well as from ice hockey. During the last couple of years, the Ice Arena has offered more open skating hours to the public through Friday evening "skate parties" and Sunday family skates, both have become popular with our patrons. Staff continue to pursue opportunities to host skating exhibitions and hockey tournaments which are not always consistent year to year and can provide substantial revenue.

Racquet Center

Badali stated gymnastics, along with tennis, are both offered at the Racquet Center, and they continue to provide much desired programming and opportunities for many patrons. Many of these programs have wait lists and staff continue to add sessions as needed and the revenue generation from gymnastics illustrates this growth. Tennis training and lessons have also experienced a substantial increase during FY'24 and are expected to continue as more time slots and trainers are made available to patrons. The Gym Ninja program and Ninja themed party offerings are in high demand and continuously draw new patrons. One last success story has been the open gym sessions that are offered on weekends and most days when schools are not in session and children are available during these time periods.

Badali encouraged the Board to ask any questions during the budget process and stated that next month the Board will be presented with the Corporate Funds and Capital Projects.

ADJOURN:

Stalker motioned to adjourn at 6:53 p.m.; Mottl seconded.

Voting: Aye: All
Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Johnson, President



Tracey Gallik, Recording Secretary