

South  Suburban  
**Park & Recreation**  
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2022

Oak Lawn Community Pavilion, 11:00am

**Call to Order** – 11:09am

**Introductions** - Members said their name and the agency they are from.

**President's Report** – Thank you for coming out today. Thank you, Oak Lawn, for hosting.

**President Elect Report** – Thanks for coming and I hope everyone's fall events are going well. Enjoy fall!

**Past President Report** – The Annual Report is complete and it will be posted to the website in the coming days.

**Secretary's Report** – The September minutes have been posted to the website so please check those out.

Motion to approve the September General meeting minutes: Beth Nagel from the Frankfort Park District, Second: Cate Coyle from the Oak Lawn Park District.

Motion carries

**Treasurer's Report** – For September, our beginning balance for September 1, 2022 was \$17,239.84. Total deposits for the month was \$2,886.19 and that included meeting fees, split the pot, memberships, payments from Day Camp workshop and Early Childhood workshop as well as the November workshop. Our debits for the month totaled \$2,417 and that included our website renewal, CEUs for today's meeting, September social, NRPA social, and the speaker for the November meeting. Our ending balance as of September 30, 2022 is \$17,709.03. For the Wilson Family Fund savings account, the beginning balance as of September 1 was \$1,000.02 and the ending balance was \$1,000.05. The CD has remained the same at \$10,779.84. We will file that report for audit.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Athletics (Keith Blomberg New Lenox & Skyler Ramberger Mokena)** – Skyler from the Mokena Park District is the new chair. We met September 19 with 6 in attendance. We discussed our meeting format via Zoom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 11am. We discussed summer programs and the co-op E-sports tournament. If you are interested in learning more about the tournament, we will discuss it at the October 17 meeting. We will also discuss athletic equipment vendors, review fall programs, and winter/spring

programs.

- **Awards** (Rachel Bauer Mokena & Kristine Wahlgren Romeoville) – No report
- **Day Camp/Teens** (Meghan Fenlon Tinley Park) – We met on October 4. We are starting to do some teen co-op trips, so if you have teens and are looking to co-op please let us know. Rebecca from Alsip has a snow tubing trip planned and we are looking at some additional winter/spring items. We discussed camp budget, staff pay and incentives, as well as staff recruitment. Our next meeting is November 1 in Oak Lawn at the Oak View Center at 2pm. Our topic is camper behavior management and trauma informed training.
- **Diversity** (Keith Wallace LWSRA) – Absent/No report
- **Early Childhood** (Kelly Matson New Lenox) – I am looking for a co-chair if you know of anyone that is interested, send them my way. We did not meet in September due to everyone's schedules. Our first meeting will be October 27 at 1pm via Zoom. We will be discussing the Early Childhood workshop that was held at Oak Lawn and gather feedback. We will also discuss preschool evaluations and assessments.
- **Facilities** (Cate Coyle Oak Lawn & Joe Smith Palos Heights) – We met in September and discussed to discuss staffing – issues, retention, and recruiting new staff. Our next meeting is October 26 at 3pm via Zoom. We will discuss everything and anything about fitness facilities. Check the website for meeting information and topics.
- **Legislative** (Hollice Clark Calumet Memorial & Greg Lewis New Lenox) – Our last meeting was at Heritage Bluffs in Channahon with 25 in attendance. We have chosen to meet in person instead of Zoom until we get into the winter months. We discussed grants and the different GATA requirements, the Legislative survey, the upcoming Legal Symposium on November 3, conference registration, job openings and staff. We will not meet in December because the Executive Directors are invited to a Chicagoland holiday luncheon. It is at Maggiano's Little Italy in Schaumburg on December 9. Our next meeting will be at Stony Creek Golf Course in Oak Lawn at 12 pm on November 7.
- **Membership/Publicity** (Jason Braglia New Lenox & Beth Nagel Frankfort) – We currently have 227 members. That is up 21 from last month. We are on track from where we were last year
- **Professional Development** (Olga Viano New Lenox & Beth Nagel Frankfort) – This month Justin Waters from Oak Lawn will be doing a presentation on Marketing. Next month we will meet via Zoom because our presenter is from out of state. The presenter is Bria Cartwright and the topic is Expanding Gender Equity Through Youth Programming. If you ever come across a great speaker, please send me an email so we can continue to provide different opportunities for the organization.
- **School Age** (Rebecca Perkaus Alsip) – We met on September 23 and discussed meeting locations whether in person or via Zoom and we will do a mix of both. Our next meeting is in Romeoville on October 28. We gave an overview of our programs and contactors we are using for our fall and winter/spring programs.
- **Social** (Lauren Koszola Palos Heights) – Absent/report submitted. Thank you to everyone that attended the September social. Planning September social at the Alley & Thunder Bowl. We are pushing back the meeting to 1:30pm. Planning IAPD/IPRA Conference Social. Setting up a scheduled Zoom meeting with IPRA Diversity and SPRA to partner on this event.
- **Special Events** (Eric Sloyan Palos Heights) – Two new co-chairs are Brenna Bowers from Mokena and Laurie Murray from Pleasant Dale. We met on October 11 and

discussed fall events and staffing issues. Our next meeting will be via Zoom on November 8.

- **Sponsorship/Marketing** (Amy Maher New Lenox) – We met in September and discussed different ways to engage sponsors with our events. We will meet October 18 via Zoom.
- **Student** (Delaney Harty Oak Lawn & Marie Piotrowski Lemont) – We are looking for people to join our committee, so please reach out if you are interested. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 2pm. We are doing a mix of in person and Zoom meetings. Next meeting will be October 20 at 2:30pm via Zoom. We will discuss student outreach and the schedule for the year.

### **Old Business**

- **By Laws** – these are posted on the website for reference.
- **Disbanding of the Membership/Publicity** – Last month we discussed disbanding the Membership/Publicity Committee. Do we have any questions? None  
Motion to disband the Membership/Publicity Committee: Brenna Bowers from the Mokena Park District, Second: Joe Smith from the Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Department.  
Motion carries
- **Strategic Plan Update** – Tom Hartwig: Everyone that is registered through South Suburban would have received the survey through email. Hard copies of the survey are on the tables, so if you did not get an opportunity to complete the survey please do so. This is the last step before we can begin building the Strategic initiative for South Suburban.
- **Parks Maintenance Committee** – Chris Finn from the Bolingbrook Park District and Ryan Veldman from the Tinley Park Park District are looking to start a Parks Maintenance Committee. They will be starting it up in November. They have a current membership list and there are 12-15 members within that list that work in that department, so they are sending those members an email. If anyone else at your district is interested, reach out to Chris Finn.
- **NRPA Social** – We had 35 SSPRPA members in attendance. We had additional people show up for a total of 50. It was a good event.
- **November Workshop** – Thank you to IPRF for the scholarship which allowed us to decrease the fee and were able to charge \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. It will be on November 17 at Palos Heights Parks & Recreation Department. There are 2 different sessions and you can earn up to .6 CEUs for the day. If you have anyone that works with children, the afternoon session will be very beneficial. We will send the workshop information out again.
- **Apparel Order – Due Oct. 12** – The deadline has been extended to October 14. We have a t-shirt, men's and women's quarter zip and a windbreaker. An email reminder was sent out.

### **New Business**

- **IPRA update:** Barbara from IPRA discussed membership renewals. IPRA is offering a group renewal for agencies. If you are not a member, you can sign-up for the early bird and get a few month free. Conference registration is now open. Early bird registration going on through December 12. Through the Foundation we have scholarships for conference. Conference award nominations are open through November 11. Through IPRA, we offer awards that you can give out to your staff. Professional Development School is coming up

and there is 1 week left to register. Next year we are looking at new opportunities; and AFO class, Finances for Park Districts class, and playground maintenance. Look out for those opportunities.

**Announcements –**

- **Marie Piotrowski:** I have an unofficial Adult/Senior committee and we are meeting October 19 via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, let me know. Also, I train instructors to teach WERQ fitness. I am doing a training at the Core in Lemont on Sunday, November 20. If you are interested in offering this format to your group fitness schedule, let me know and I will share the link.

**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn the meeting: Delaney Harty, Oak Lawn Park District,  
Second: Sarah Hamilton from the Lockport Township Park District.  
Motion carries.

**Meeting adjourned:** 11:44am