



**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

Oakton Community Center  
4701 Oakton Street, Skokie, IL 60076  
**Thursday, April 26, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETING**

Board Members Present: Commissioner/Chair Khemarey Khoeun  
Board President Susan Aberman

Staff Present: Executive Director John Ohrlund

Committee Members: None appointed yet

Public Present: Jessica Beverly  
Cesar Pulex  
Ashley Wooten  
Rebecca Abraham

**CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Khemarey Khoeun called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.  
Commissioner Khoeun thanked everyone for attending. Introductions were made.

Commissioner Khoeun said that the Community Engagement and Outreach Advisory Committee is an attempt to give residents a voice in local government by providing input to the Board's Marketing Committee. By engaging in such dialog the Board can better serve the community. She reviewed the District's Vision and Mission Statements and its Core Values.

The District is seeking members for the Community Engagement and Outreach Advisory Committee, who will consist of residents who have established networks or relationships within the community and will report back to the Skokie Park District's Board Marketing Committee. Its purpose is to:

- Provide outreach to the community to increase awareness of Skokie Park District programs and events
- Help us understand barriers for participation and
- Provide community feedback about Skokie Park District programs and initiatives

The committee hopes to find out why some residents don't use the District's programs and facilities, and to better engage those who do participate. To become a member of the committee you must be a District resident and agree to a two year commitment. There will be about six meetings per year. Scheduling of the meeting dates and times was discussed.

Ashley Wooten noted that Skokie has wonderful parks and a quality library, and also noted the diversity of the community. She said nature programs at Emily Oaks Nature Center and the parks are amazing.

Rebecca Abraham discussed her reasons for moving to Skokie, which includes the public schools and the parks.

Cesar Pulex called the parks and facilities "the best" and said his family has participated in soccer. He asked about the fields east of Sports Park and Executive Director Ohrlund discussed the environmental cleanup of the site, prior development plans, and future use this fall as soccer fields and a cricket field. Additional and better communication of this development is needed. Mr. Pulex also recommended an indoor soccer facility.

Discussions of language being a barrier to use took place.

Additional use of newsletters, such as those provided by the Skokie Library and the Village of Skokie was discussed. Various means of communication to the public was discussed. The Iplan Committee through the Health Department is promoting the idea of a "welcoming center."

President Aberman noted that the District has been responsive to requests in many ways. She noted the creation of separate male and female swim programs which lowered the barriers for those who need these separate for religious or cultural reasons.

Special individual cultural programs were discussed, such as a cultural food night at one of the schools (District 73.5) where food from India was brought in. It was noted that parents, children and families have a built-in comfort level with schools, as children already spend much time there.

Transportation as a barrier was discussed. Providing bus service takes place in Chicago.

Utilizing the Festival of Cultures for surveying was suggested to determine what the needs are. Perhaps a quick survey could be developed with questions about how the park district could better serve the residents.

"Ambassadors" to schools and to where various cultures gather was suggested. Ambassadors could go to community/cultural representatives to check out their needs.

Attendees were asked to develop a list of community leaders for the next meeting. Commissioner Khoeun asked attendees to identify active residents who have networks to others and bring those names to the next meeting as potential ambassadors.

Commissioner Khoeun established the next meeting of the Community Engagement and Outreach Advisory Committee for Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Oakton Community Center

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Khoeun adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

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Khemarey Khoeun, Commissioner

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John Ohrlund, Executive Director

**Vision Statement**

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first rate facilities.

**Mission Statement**

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

**Core Values**

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

- Commitment ● Integrity ● Innovation ● Service ● Openness ● Environmental Stewardship