



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

260 Madison Oak Park Illinois 60302 ph: 708.524.3000 fax: 708.524.3030 www.op97.org

To: Dr. Sheila Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

From: John Pahlman, Senior Director of Buildings and Grounds

CC: Dr. Ushma Shah, Superintendent of Schools

Re: **IGA - Sports Field Maintenance**

Date: May 14, 2024

Purpose

This memo aims to inform you of the changes to the IGA - Sports Field Maintenance agreement with the Park District of Oak Park. The current agreement is from 2019-2024. [Link](#) to the new agreement

Overview of the IGA

- The Park District maintains our athletic fields including natural turf fields, artificial turf fields and our ball fields. Besides cutting the grass the Park District manages the rentals/use of the fields, conducts maintenance of the natural turf fields including, overseeding of the entire area, slit seeding of heavy use areas in need of repair, fertilizing using natural fertilizers, top dressing the turf and aerating the fields. For the ball fields, the Park District maintains the tuft as described above and also maintains the pitchers mounds, infield ball mix and the mechanical weeding. For the artificial turf areas, the Park District

Costs and Benefits to D97

- The cost of the agreement for the last calendar year was just under \$60,000.
- PDOP knows and understands the community and the shared expectations.
- PDOP provides expertise in ball field management which is not easy to find in a contracted landscaper
- PDOP understands the needs and care which must be taken when working around children
- PDOP is fully aware and in compliance with Village of Oak Park regulations and initiatives.

Changes to the new proposed IGA

There are two changes to the new proposed agreement; see below.

- 1) Date changes from 2019-2024 to 2024-2029 and
- 2) Lawnmower shared cost 50/50

In Section 8, Mower and Mower Maintenance of the current agreement

A. Purchase of Mower. D97 purchased a lawnmower in 2014 for the Park District to use in the care of the Sports Fields. That mower is anticipated to last two more years of this agreement, and a new mower will need to be purchased. The two Districts agreed to buy a new mower in spring 2026 and will split the cost of the unit 50/50. The anticipated cost to D97 for the new mower in 2026 is \$22,600. The Park District may purchase at their sole cost, additional equipment for the mower to be used for snow removal. The repair costs of the mowing equipment will be shared 50/50 and the repairs of the snow removal equipment will be paid for by the Park District.

Recommendation

Administration recommends the approval of the revised and extended Intergovernmental Agreement with the Park District of Oak Park as presented.