



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025
7:30 p.m. – Village Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Visitor: Alan Golden, Walter Keats, Heather Oliver, Mary Lawlor

1.0 REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Frazier moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds the motion to approve the Consent Agenda of August 11, 2025.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Kosloskus, Duffy, Clarke, Goebel, Murdock, Frazier and Lahey. Voting No, none. Absent: None; **motion carried.**

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

President Lahey states that everything received prior to the packet being published is included in the packet.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

President Lahey explains public comment to the audience and states that the policy is located on page three of the packet.

Alan Golden – Comments about the sailing beach and how helpful the staff has been.

Heather Oliver – Comments about the speakers at Gillson. She also thanks Commissioner Kosloskus for her service.

Walter Keats – Comments about Langdon and South Beach. He also thanks Commissioner Kosloskus for her service.

Public comment is closed.

5.0 STAFF REPORTS

5.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

IAPD Legislative Update

On August 5th we received the notification that Governor Pritzker signed the IAPD Platform Initiative to increase bid limits. Public Act 104-0114 amends Park District Code to establish separate competitive bidding thresholds for work and supplies & materials. This will change the public bidding threshold for supplies and materials to \$60,000, while holding the bidding threshold for work at \$30,000. The current purchasing policy remains accurate as it states we are to follow the state statute.

Commissioner Duffy asks if we go to bid for a total project cost, are we able to break out supplies and materials from labor, or does that still fall under the \$30,000 threshold. Director Lindgren states that there are some circumstances where we are able to pull work out, but we just need to make sure we are following the spirit of the law.

IRS Notice for 2016 Tax Year

The Internal Revenue Service contends that for tax year 2016, District did not timely file the 1095 statement indicating employer health coverage. Staff will be working to resolve this matter using tax and legal counsel. The board will be kept informed to the outcome of these efforts, and to any penalties, if applicable.

Commissioner Residency Investigation

After hearing questions raised in the community about [Commissioner] Murdock's residency, the District hired the law firm Ancel Glink to conduct an independent investigation. Ancel Glink reported that based on the totality of its investigation, it found [Commissioner] Murdock's answers to be credible. It also collected information from public records and other sources. Overall, Ancel Glink concluded that a court would more likely find [Commissioner] Murdock retains his residency in Wilmette and remains qualified to serve as a Park Commissioner. Ancel Glink does not recommend further pursuing the matter at this time based on the information it was able to review. "We are excited to put this behind us and close out the investigation," Director Lindgren says.

Commissioner Murdock states that he has had several conversations with the lead attorney from Ancel Glink. The attorney originally indicated they were solely hired to do an investigation and would not be making any recommendations or come to any conclusions. Commissioner Murdock states that the statement sounds pretty definitive, but goes on to ask his colleagues on the board if anyone has any looming concerns regarding his residency. Otherwise, he would like to consider the matter closed. He would like to know if anyone has doubt.

President Lahey states that the board supports the determination of Ancel Glink and can consider the matter closed. He has not heard differently from anyone on the board.

Early Fall Registration

Early Fall Registration went smoothly with a positive turnout for the resident-only opening. Staff did a great job working with residents to answer questions, make changes and set up accounts. There were no complaints received on the process and non-resident registration will open on August 12th.

Centennial Water Main Break

On Saturday morning, August 9th, staff found a water main break just outside the entrance in the sidewalk area. Staff worked to empty the facility and pool so that we could close the facility down. A contractor was called and made it to the site around 11am and was able to repair the break, test the repair and backfill the sidewalk around 11pm. Staff re-energized the building and checked all equipment. The pool and facility was re-opened on Sunday morning. Kudos to all staff involved from parks, recreation and marketing to communicate the issue and get us back open. More to come on the sidewalk restoration soon.

Distinctive Board Member

Commissioner Kosloskus will be leaving under the Distinctive Board Member status.

Well at Golf Course

There are two wells at the golf course that serve irrigation. One of the pumps is down on the well. The district will be going through an emergency procurement process in order to fix the well. We are working with a contractor to finalize that number.

Commissioner Goebel ask if there is any way to work with the Village to have their public works services available to us. Director Lindgren states that the conversation has been started with the Village public works team. We are always looking for ways to partner with other public bodies for the benefit of the community.

Commissioner Murdock asks about the IRS issue, stating this predates all of us and the staff. He asks how long we have been aware of this issue and do we have any idea of the potential liability. Director Lindgren states that he found out one week into his tenure about the situation. The penalty is currently applied to an incorrect number of staff and current staff are trying to track down the proof that we filed. We have no record of the IRS reaching back out to the district in response to this missing document, which leads us to believe that it was done, as it has been done every single year since. At this point, we plan to engage a tax attorney help us solve this.

5.2 PARKS AND PLANNING REPORT

Superintendent Wallace gives the board the Parks and Planning report.

Gillson

The two stop signs have been installed. We are still waiting on our contractor to finish small punch list items at Gillson, in addition to Gewalt Hamilton to finish the as-builts and close out the permits with the Village and MWRD.

Langdon

There are a few small punch list items that need to be completed at the guard hut and our contractors are currently working on them. Superintendent Wallace met with the landscape contractors and they spoke about some of the rework that needs to be done; the contractor has agreed to do that work on the landscaping this fall. The sail fence will be installed within the month.

Hibbard Park

The shade structures and upright posts are up behind home plate. The contractor is planning to move over and begin working on the playground the week of August 18th. The playground will take approximately five weeks.

CRC Reconstruction

We have been working with two contractors to get us bids for reconstruction. One supplied us with an incomplete scope of work, and that was resubmitted. We should have a second quote within a couple of weeks.

CRC Solar

We are still waiting on a finalized date from Comed to do the shut-down/cut-over.

Parks

Staff supported the July 3rd event with the Rec Department. They repaired irrigation systems, did some tree work, removed debris from the water at Langdon. Our new horticulturalist designed a rain garden at Forest Park to help with storm water and to support pollinators.

Buildings Services

Buildings staff have been doing some preventative maintenance on HVAC systems around the district. They also supported Safety Town, did necessary pool repairs, and constructed a temporary chipper box for tree debris. They have also continued on with installing bottle fill stations and retrofitting LED lights throughout the district.

Commissioner Frazier asked where the new bottle fill stations are located. Superintendent Wallace answers they are at the golf course. Commissioner Duffy gives a shoutout to the crew who worked at Centennial for the water main break.

Commissioner Murdock asks about the timeline for the CRC reconstruction. Superintendent Wallace says they were projecting eight months from time of loss to complete restoration.

Commissioner Clarke comments on the other rain gardens that were recently installed near the train station at Shoreline Park. Commissioner Goebel adds that Langdon is stunning and she encourages everyone to head down to see it. She saw someone walking down the ramp with the assistance of a walker and a physical therapist, which would not have been possible without this work being done. She asks if we could continue working on removing the debris from under the water.

5.3 GOLF REPORT

Adam Kwiatkoski, Golf Course General Manager, gives his report to the board.

In relation to the well repair, they have a contractor they have worked with in the past who will be doing the work for us this time.

Golf course remains extremely busy every day. Outings and events have been busy. Junior tournament for member guests of our men's club was a huge success again.

In preparing for the budget, going through revenues and expenses, repair expenses will be high because we have had a lot of stuff break this year. Kitchen equipment, dishwashers, skid loaders, etc. Outside of that, there are no surprises on our end. Revenues are in line with what we expected.

From a golf maintenance standpoint, it's been very hot and humid which is not great for golf. Other courses in the area have been struggling a bit as well. We have been staying on top of our spray applications and hand-watering.

The current autonomous mowers we are using are called Nexmow, which are smaller and work in tandem with each other. Our golf course superintendent thinks these may be the best ones we have used yet.

5.4 RECREATION REPORT

Superintendent Merrill presents the Rec report to the board.

Superintendent Merrill expresses his gratitude to Commissioner Kosloskus for her service to the park district. He also expresses his appreciation for the parks team, working in tandem on the work in the CRC reconstruction.

July 3rd Wrap-up

There have been a series of July 3rd wrap-up meetings with the various constituents that participated: the Village, Police, Public Works, Fire. We had a great wrap-up meeting with our whole staff, as well. We talked about what went well, what we can consider for next year. General consensus from that group was that we could not have asked for a smoother event. By the estimation the police used for judging crowds at the event, it was a smaller event than we might have seen in the past, likely related to timing and the way the date fell during the week.

We talked with the community leaders who got the PACE bussing moving forward and what that might look like in the future.

There will be a community survey going out about July 3rd event.

Summer Recreation Intern

TJ Bechtold gives his report on his summer experience to the board.

TJ graduated from Oakton College and will be starting at University of Illinois in the fall where he will be studying sports management. TJ explains what activities he took part in this summer, which includes directing a basketball camp for 1st-3rd graders and the campout at Gillson. In addition, he got to run a sports event on July 3rd with Superintendent Merrill. He will be returning to run a sporting event at the Wilmette Block Party in September. He highlights what he has taken from this experience both personally and professionally.

5.5 OPERATIONS REPORT

Superintendent Thomas gives the board highlights from the Operations Report.

Block Party

Block Party will be held on September 6th. We have secured almost \$40,000 in sponsorships for the event. Our lead sponsor is Heil & Heil Insurance. We have over 25 booths and 12 performances on the Kid Zone stage. The Kid Zone will be open from 1pm-4pm on Central. We have three bands on the main stage, along with a drumline performance. We have 10 food vendors and more coming.

Human Resources

We have lots of performance discussions going on as we wrap up the summer season. We now have a LinkedIn Page where we will be sharing out positions for which we are hiring. We are updating our emergency response plan.

Marketing & Communications

We have updated the search feature on our website.

Sustainability

We partnered with the Village and now have five new compost drop-off locations around the community.

Commissioner Goebel states that she knows the updates to the website are a lot of work. She wonders if the district can mine the data from the search field to find more programming ideas.

5.6 FINANCE REPORT

Superintendent Foy gives highlights of the Finance Report to the board.

We are running \$3M over budget through June. \$1.7M is related to unspent capital that has been spent in July and August, so that will catch up. The remainder is a positive surplus variance.

Regarding electric expense, the components that made up the budget for 2025 included an increase of 28% in the electric commodity and a 20% increase in the delivery charges. We experienced an increase in the commodity expense of only 11.5% for the first 6 months of 2025 and we will not see that 20% increase in the delivery charges until next month. In addition to the actual expense being less than budget, our total usage is down throughout the district by 11.15%. The new electricity contract went into effect at the beginning of June. Superintendent Foy will be tracking all the components closely to ensure a good 2025 projected cost and 2026 budget number. We also expect our community solar project to start picking up in September.

Commissioner Clarke asks if the changeover to LED lights throughout the district has contributed to the drop in electricity usage. Superintendent Foy does believe this is what we are seeing.

Moving the PCard

We are trying to move the PCard from JP Morgan to Fifth Third Bank. Superintendent Foy hopes to have it done by September.

RFP for Audit Services

Every few years we go back out to market to get audit pricing. Superintendent Foy is finishing the RFP for audit services to make sure the price we are paying is still competitive. She enjoys working with our current auditors and states they have taught her almost everything she knows related to government accounting.

Property Tax Bills

Property tax bills have not been sent out yet. As soon as she knows when the bills will go out, Superintendent Foy will let the board know.

IT

IT is working on a camera project that was started in 2020; they hope to be finished with it soon.

Lastly, Superintendent Foy thanks Commissioner Kosloskus for her service to our district.

6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 CONSIDERATION OF COMPETITIVE BID FOR VEHICLE LIFT

Director Lindgren explains that the current lift has reached the end of its useful life. Superintendent Wallace and his team have sourced a comparable lift in hopes to get this moving quickly. The lift they found is part of a joint purchase contract, meaning it has already been competitively bid, so we are able to move forward. We believe this is a good value and will allow us to service our wide range of vehicles, as the current lift did as well.

Commissioner Duffy moves and Commissioner Clarke seconds a motion to approve the competitive bid for vehicle lift at \$79,897.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Kosloskus, Duffy, Goebel, Clarke, Murdock, Frazier and Lahey. Voting No, none. Absent: None; **motion carried.**

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 BOARD VACANCY PROCESS UPDATE

President Lahey explains that there is a memo in the packet from himself to the board discusses a board vacancy process. He reads the memo, which outlines the timeline for filling the vacancy on the board. Anyone interested in applying can head to the park district website under Park District Board: <https://wilmettepark.org/wilmette-park-district-board/>.

7.2 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2025-R-4 RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF KARA KOSLOSKUS

Commissioner Kosloskus gives a closing statement and expresses her gratitude to the board. She states that she resigned her position on the board effective August 12, 2025.

Members of the board express their gratitude to Commissioner Kosloskus before voting on the resolution.

Commissioner Duffy moves and Vice President Frazier seconds a motion to approve the resolution recognizing the service of Kara Kosloskus.

President Lahey reads the resolution.

By a roll call vote, voting Yes, Commissioners: Duffy, Goebel, Clarke, Murdock, Frazier and Lahey. Voting No, none. Abstain: Kosloskus None; **motion carried.**

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

The board foregoes the closed session on the agenda and moves to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Duffy moves and Commissioner Kosloskus seconds a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

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

Minutes Approved on: **October 13, 2025.**