



# **WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT**

## **Committee of the Whole**

### **Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, June 23, 2025*  
*6:30 p.m. – Mallinckrodt*

#### **PRESENT**

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

**Assistant Secretary:** Michelle Parson

**Staff:** Superintendent Sheila Foy, Superintendent Dave Merrill, Superintendent Josh Wallace, Superintendent Lindsay Thomas, Adam Kwiatkoski

**Visitors:** Walter Keats, Alan Golden, Mary Smoley, John Galanty, Connie Siegel, Hanna Danecker

#### **1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

##### **A. ROLL CALL TAKEN**

#### **2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Vice President Frazier says there was one email in the packet regarding the search for Executive Director.

#### **3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

John Delaney – Comments about people parking on their street for Langdon.

Alan Golden – Comments about the rotted tree that fell onto his and his neighbor's property.

#### **4.0 OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 MAY 2025 FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Superintendent Foy states that through May 31, there is a \$2.6M favorable variance. In the revenue section, we are collecting revenue faster than we expected and it is off about 1%. Some rental revenue being collected this year that was accounted for in 2024. She says the biggest difference is in the skating rink and studio rink. Vice President Frazier asks if this is a recurring revenue stream. It is not known. Commissioner Murdock asks if we did not know we would be accruing this money when we were doing the budget; Superintendent Foy answers that we did. Commissioner Murdock asks what the variance will look be at the end of the year; Superintendent Foy answers she will get the board that info. Miscellaneous revenue is off because of interest income and the OSLAD grant.

Superintendent Foy is spending a lot of time looking at all of the utility expenses. She is pulling invoices back to the beginning of 2024 to look at usage, to compare 2024 to 2025. There are two parts of the bill: delivery and commodity. We negotiated better rates on the commodity charge. She will be watching the utility bills closer in 2026 to see the changes with the solar panels and solar farm. Commissioner Duffy asks what percentage of the utility bills is electric and what percentage is expected in the reduction next year. Superintendent Foy answers that she has that already broken down and will get it to the board. Commissioner Clarke asks when we will start to see the credits from community solar; Superintendent Foy answers that she has a call to get an update. Commissioner Goebel asks if the utility line is off due to timing; Superintendent Foy answers that she pays all of our bills as soon as they come in. Commissioner Goebel says that it has been unseasonably cool this year, which could be contributing to the difference but would not explain a difference this large. Vice President Frazier asked if an email could be sent when there are any updates on this difference.

Commissioner Duffy asks if we received the entire OSLAD grant; we have received half, which accounts for \$300,000 of the variance. Interest income is about \$130,000, which is regular interest on our cash balances.

Commissioner Goebel asked if the board could see the results of the rental income and utilities differences as soon as they are known.

## **Capital**

We are behind on capital by \$2.2M; most of that is Gillson and Langdon. We paid \$1.1M on Gillson in the beginning of June, so it didn't hit May financials. We should get rid of the timing difference after June when we pay a bunch of bills that are expected to come in. Commissioner Murdock asked to see the comparison of what we budgeted for projects versus what we spent, along with any change orders, etc.

## **5.2 NAMING RIGHTS POLICY DISCUSSION**

Vice President Frazier states that we are keeping the framework of this discussion as it relates to the Wallace Bowl.

Superintendent Thomas states that we have a policy for naming parks and a memorial policy. The Ouilmette Foundation is interested in naming rights guidelines for this facility/amenity, so they understand what the board is willing or unwilling to do, and also so it can guide the fundraising efforts of the foundation. Staff is also seeking clarification on a cost to naming rights where the board would be most comfortable.

Commissioner Duffy wonders if we could look at the naming rights as a percentage of the cost of the project, so that the standard could be used in other parks and opportunities across the district in the future. For example, if someone would like to donate 85% of the project cost, we would allow them naming rights. Similarly, in the future, if someone wants to donate 85% of the cost of the project, we will allow them naming rights. Commissioner Kosloskus suggests that we could have a certain threshold of cost over which this potential standard applies.

Commissioner Murdock reminds the board that the Wallace Bowl was built and 40 years later, when it had fallen into disrepair, the Ouilmette Foundation was created to restore it. Now, here we are another 40 years later needing funds to restore it again.

The board then goes through one-by-one to say who 1) would be open to renaming the Wallace Bowl; 2) whether they would be willing to name individual elements within the Bowl; and 3) whether anything is a non-starter.

Commissioner Duffy asks if it is easier for the Foundation to sell naming rights to the elements or the whole. Commissioner Murdock answers that the Foundation thinks there are a few opportunities around town for a seven-figure check. The Foundation is focused on a single large donor. Commissioner Duffy says there may be more opportunities for smaller naming rights, like benches, rows or sections. It also may be more communal as well, for people to be able to go and sit with their family on their named bench or section.

Commissioner Duffy: Naming the bowl: no, unless donation is 100% cost of the project. Individual amenities: yes.

Commissioner Kosloskus: Naming the bowl: yes, \$3M or 90% of the project cost. Individual amenities: yes.

Commissioner Goebel: Naming the bowl: yes, \$1.5M-\$4M. Individual amenities: yes.

President Lahey: Naming the bowl: yes, at or near 100% of the cost of the project, or \$4M, for 40 years.

Commissioner Clarke: Naming the bowl: no. Individual amenities: yes.

Commissioner Murdock: Naming the bowl: yes, \$1.5M+, but will agree with the group at 85-90% of the cost of the project. Individual amenities: yes.

Vice President Frazier: Naming the bowl: yes, \$3M+. Time period: 40+ years.

Of those who are willing to have the bowl renamed for donation, they agree that the rights would be for 40 years.

### **5.3 ICE & CENTENNIAL OPERATIONS UPDATE – PRESENTATION**

Rochelle Kruse gives the board the current state of Ice and Centennial Operations.

Notable is that Mark Sak will be retiring on Monday after 40 years of service with the Park District. We will miss him.

At the end of her presentation, there is a brief conversation about a new Zamboni that is needed for Ice. The recommended rotation of the machine from the main rink to the studio rink is every 7-8 years, while the main rink Zamboni has been pushed back and is now 10 years old. The studio rink Zamboni was purchased new in 2008 (17 years old). The dollar amount in the capital sheet is lower than the cost of a new machine will be today, as the current cost will be around \$140,000. The lead time on purchase is 12 months,

and the machine is currently slated for purchase in 2026. Commissioner Kosloskus asks about the prospect of having a family sponsor the Zamboni and have their name put on the machine. Commissioner Murdock asks how many hours a machine typically lasts; 10,000-11,000 hours. Commissioner Murdock asks why the purchase would be urgent, given one of the machines is at 50% and the other at 60% of their projected useful life. Rochelle answers that the resale value is a consideration, and also if both machines are old and one breaks down, that would be a concern.

104 pairs of rental skates were purchased in February, which was a capital purchase. Some will be held in storage to be traded out as they are needed. Skates come unsharpened and will need to be sharpened when they are placed out for rental. Mark Sak has been taking care of this for us.

The new generator is currently sitting in the back area by the studio rink and will be installed by the end of July.

#### **5.4 MENTAL HEALTH POSTS PERFORMANCE – PRESENTATION**

JP McNamara and Superintendent Thoams explain the mental health posts performance. Marianna Uriostegui made the presentation for this meeting and is included in the packet.

JP explains that Marianna worked with the Village and put together all of the social media aspects of the Wellmet campaign.

#### **New Executive Director**

At this point, President Lahey shares that Chris Lindgren accepted the position to be the next Executive Director. His first day will be July 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **6.0 ONGOING DISTRICT PROJECTS**

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#### **6.1 GILLSON PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The contractor has a punch list to complete at Gillson. The electrical subcontractor has completed the electric and fiber runs. All work has been deemed acceptable, and the network equipment is fully operational. The landscape contractor still has work remaining to complete their scope.

#### **6.2 LANGDON SHORELINE PROTECTION PROJECT**

Windows and doors are scheduled for delivery during the week of June 17. Siding installation is planned for June 23, with roofing and gutters scheduled between June 17 and June 27.

Commissioner Murdock repeats a question from a resident and asks when we will begin collecting fees and patrolling the beach. Staff will find out and get back to the board. Commissioner Goebel confirms there were lifeguards at Langdon and passes were being sold Saturday. She goes on to say it is stunning and she is very pleased with the work that has been done.

Commissioner Murdock also asks if staff could look at one tree at the edge of the bluff to see about safety and whether that tree should remain after the bluff around it has been disturbed. Staff will look into it.

### **6.3 SOLAR PANEL PROJECT AT CRC**

**Roof 1:** All wiring and optimizers have been installed. Module installation has begun.

**Roof 2:** All home runs have been pulled and managed.

**Roof 3:** Installation of jumpers and grounding is in progress.

A rough electrical inspection was completed on June 11, and was approved with no concerns noted.

### **6.4 CRC RESTORATION**

There is still a small section of mitigation work remaining. The Flood Committee met with PDRMA and LJ Shaw on June 17 to review the damage and advocate for full floor replacements.

### **6.5 HIBBARD PARK OSLAD DEVELOPMENT**

Project began Thursday. The contractor, Innovative, has been coordinating with vendors to schedule delivery of the purchased playground equipment and play features.

Commissioner Clarke asks if the accident at the CRC will affect insurance premiums going forward. Superintendent Foy states that we determine what our premiums are based on operating expenses and other things. Then, they add some equalization to come up with our cost. However, PDRMA is an insurance pool.

Vice President Frazier states that in light of the recent events, including the trees that fell in Community Playfields and the sprinkler incident at the CRC, an after-hours emergency number should be put in place and she believes it is being looked into by staff.

### **7.0 ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Kosloskus moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole.

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

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