



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT

Regular Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025
7:30 p.m. – Village Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Visitors: Walter Keats, Heather Oliver, Brett Rudawsky, Lauren Rudawsky, Jon Marshall, Kathryn Calkins, Beth Drucker

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1.1 ROLL CALL

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Murdock moves and Vice President Frazier seconds the motion to approve the Consent Agenda of November 10, 2025.

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

3.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

President Lahey asks the board to confirm that everything they received is in the packet. Commissioner Goebel states she received communication about the sauna and everything received by Friday is included in the packet. Commissioner Clarke confirms the same.

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.

Brett and Lauren Rudawsky – Comment regarding their business.

Heather Oliver – Comments about the intergovernmental food drive and pantry.

Walter Keats – Comments about new trees and pollinator gardens. Also comments about the sauna.

Anne Stevens – Comments about One Wilmette and immigration enforcement.

5.0 STAFF REPORTS

5.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

IAPD BEST OF THE BEST AWARD

The Illinois Association of Park Districts held their annual award banquet on October 24th and we received the Best Friends of Illinois Parks in partnership with Go Green Wilmette. This is a testament to our strong partnership and all the work that Go Green Wilmette and our staff do to help drive environmental stewardship here in Wilmette. It was a nice evening seeing the other award categories and learning about some of the amazing things going on in our field. The board and members of Go Green Wilmette take a photo together with the award. Beth Drucker from Go Green Wilmette gives a short comment thanking the park district for applying for the award and for their continued partnership.

FOOD DRIVE

In partnership with the New Trier Township's efforts to help provide food for so many families in need and affected by the reduction in food benefits, we have added drop off locations as the CRC and at Centennial. The community has come out in large numbers to drop off non-perishable items already and we are so thankful for the support. We will continue to have these available and encourage the community to continue assisting these families in need.

LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

I am happy to report that both leases have been signed for the extension of the Howard Park Lease as well as the lease at the Big Tree Lane Property that will temporarily house the police department as they build the new police station. The Village will begin some minor renovations in the temporary station starting in December to allow them to operate the police station in the coming months.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE

As many of you are aware there have been federal operations and activity over the last few weeks in Wilmette. The Park District has been vigilant in ensuring that our staff are given the training and information needed to respond to any activity within our properties. We started this in January of this year and with the recent activity, we have had a strong focus on re-educating our team in an effort to do all that we are able to do to keep both staff and patrons safe. We have been collaborating with the Village very closely and reaching out to our peers all over the Chicagoland area to share information and best practices.

President Lahey names off the many ways the park district is protecting its patrons as well as its employees. The park district is one of Wilmette's largest employers. Director Lindgren has prepared our staff and our facilities accordingly. Staff safety is a priority and the park district has clearly marked off staff-only areas, our vehicles are considered staff space, employees know where they can go if they feel unsafe. Every member of the staff has received know-your-rights training in multiple languages. Our parks and facilities are gun-free zones and anyone who sees a gun in any of our parks or facilities should call 911. Our ordinances prohibit use of park district property without permission. If you see something that doesn't look right and no park district employee is around, please call the police. The park district's actions are apolitical because these are things we do every day.

5.2 PARKS AND PLANNING REPORT

Superintendent Wallace gives his report to the board.

Gillson Park

Gewalt Hamilton has the completed the As-Builts, and is reviewing them, and will submit them to the Village. They are also working to close out the permit with MWRD, including submission of the Plat of Easements.

Langdon Shoreline Protection

The engineering firm is finalizing closeout documents, permitting, and pay estimates.

Hibbard Park

Work continues at the south baseball field. The fence and landscaping are being installed this week. The ECC playground officially opened on November 3, 2025. Staff worked on getting some of the pollinator areas cleaned out.

CRC Reconstruction

Staff held a project kick off meeting on October 23, 2025. Staff met with the general contractor and key subcontractors to review construction timelines, logistics, and potential impacts and coordination throughout the project. Work is starting November 6th with the plaster repairs to the outdoor soffits at the front entrance and on November 17th with the floors in studio A and the spin room. Staff have started patching and painting the hallways not covered by the general contractor.

CRC Solar Project

The contractor finished their punch list items. The inspections on building and electrical finals were passed on October 31, 2025. The final inspection reports will be submitted to ComEd to get authorization to liven the solar panels.

Parks Team

The Parks team completed the safety audit at the ECC playground in preparation for its opening. Winterization began: district wide irrigation systems were winterized and planter bed maintenance performed. Staff prepared materials and equipment for the upcoming

snow and ice season. Our second tree order was delivered. Staff repaired and refinished picnic tables. Crews also completed turf repairs at West Park. At Hibbard Park, staff mowed and removed shrubs to prepare the site for the new pollinator gardens as part of the OSLAD grant. Staff also cross-trained with various equipment and attended training events.

Facilities Team

The Building Services Division completed several key seasonal and facility maintenance projects in preparation for winter. Staff winterized the Beach House and all pools. This included blowing out all plumbing lines with air and filling them with glycol at the Beach House. Crews repaired damaged thermostats at the Beach House. Additionally, staff performed needed preventative maintenance at the pools. At the CRC, RTU-6 was replaced as part of the approved CIP for FY2025. ADA faucets were installed at Mallinckrodt. At Golf, staff repaired the septic system and oversaw replacement of soffits, fascia, and gutters at the Golf House. Lastly, staff assisted with the setup and take down of the Wicked Wilmette Event.

5.3 GOLF REPORT

Adam Kwiatkoski gives his report to the board.

There has been some end-of-year maintenance happening on the golf course, so the course is currently closed. We plan reopen Wednesday and be open through Sunday, weather allowing.

Our final events of the year are coming up this weekend. We have a chili scramble on Saturday at 9am. Saturday evening is a holiday wine dinner at the restaurant, which will be our second year offering this event.

Commissioner Clarke asks what are the lowest temperatures people will golf. Adam answers it is usually above 40F.

5.4 RECREATION REPORT

Superintendent Merrill presents the Rec report to the board.

Lakefront operations have closed and sailing concluded in the middle of the month of October. Our staff worked really hard with Parks to get the boats moved and put away.

Wicked Wilmette moved from Hibbard Park to Gillson and went great.

Our soccer community did a great job of collecting food for the food pantry this weekend.

5.5 OPERATIONS REPORT

Superintendent Thomas gives the board highlights from the Operations Report.

Best of the Best Gala went really well and we are pleased to have won an award.

We have worked together with the New Trier food pantry to collect food.

Everyone in HR has been working hard on open enrollment to get our benefits up and running for 2026.

We were very proud of our staff working on the pollinator garden signage.

5.6 FINANCE REPORT

Superintendent Foy asks if the board has any questions on the financials, as there was a two hour finance meeting immediately prior to this meeting.

We found out late on Friday that Cook County plans to issue the property tax bills on November 15th and they will be due December 15th. We may start seeing cash from those after November 15th.

6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 TRUTH IN TAXATION RESOLUTION 2025-R-9

Commissioner Goebel moves and Commissioner Clarke seconds a motion to approve the Truth in Taxation Resolution.

Commissioner Murdock asks about item #2, which lists 2025 amount of the 2026 tax bill at \$7,000,848. He says that last year he voted against the levy because it represented an increase greater than 5%, and he made a suggestion on how we could reduce it to 5% and we decided not to. This year, the numbers are lower and the part we control is only projected to increase by 4.72% and overall by 4.1%, but the two years together average 11.1%. In the meeting earlier today he suggested a plan that would reduce the taxation amount from \$7,000,848 to \$6,932,398, which would reduce the levy over the two years to 5% per year. It would not involve any decrease in capital spending or any services provided. If we made that modification he could support this resolution and support the levy, while absent of that change he will not be able to support it.

Commissioner Duffy says he concurs with Commissioner Murdock and he is on the fence on supporting the levy because he would like to see us under 5%, which is where we are currently. He agrees with Commissioner Murdock's solution to lower it so we are not asking for as high a percentage of increase in taxes.

Commissioner Goebel shares that the solution is good until you realize it involves reducing how much we support the special recreation fund. For that reason, she does not support the proposed solution and she believes we can fully fund the special recreation fund because it represents a nominal difference in dollars per household.

Commissioner Murdock clarifies that he also supports the special recreation fund and his solution would not change the services provided nor the proposed increase in capital spending. Commissioner Duffy agrees.

President Lahey says the tax levy is something the board has been discussing since August. The factors involved include CPI; we need to keep pace with inflation to maintain our purchasing power. And, as the special recreation fund is involved, last year we raised the special recreation fund to cover what we thought were our annual costs. It turns out that wasn't enough; we still had to divert revenue from operations to pay those costs. PTELL is normally the avenue we would use for this. This year we are matching our expected expenditures in special rec and ADA with our PTELL. Last year we had the lowest percentage of tax dollars since 1988. PTELL is the avenue which the community supports special recreation and ADA. We have been very public about what we have done.

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

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Minutes Approved on: **December 8, 2025**.