



**WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Meeting Minutes**

*Monday, November 17, 2025*  
*6:30 p.m. – Mallinckrodt*

**PRESENT**

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

**Executive Director/Secretary:** Chris Lindgren

**Attorney/Corporate Counsel:** Andrew Paine

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

**Visitors:** Mary Lawlor, Jon Marshall, Alan Golden, Walter Keats, Maureen Dulen, Amanda Nugent, Karen Glennemeier, Mark Steen, Bonnie Kim, Anne Treadway, Mark Weyermuller

**1.0 MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**A. ROLL CALL TAKEN**

**2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

President Lahey states that Karen Glennemeier sent an email a week ago and it is not in the packet, but will be in the next packet.

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

John Marshall – Comments about immigration enforcement events in Wilmette.

Bonnie Kim – Comments about immigration enforcement events in Wilmette.

Anne Treadway – Comments about immigration enforcement events in Wilmette.

Amanda Nugent – Comments about immigration enforcement events in Wilmette.

Karen Glennemeier – Comments about immigration enforcement events in Wilmette.

Mark Weyermuller – Comments about the Big Tree Lane property. He also comments about immigration enforcement.

**4.0 OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

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### **5.1 FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES BID UPDATE**

Superintendent Foy explains that there was a winning bid for audit services for the park district and the contract will be awarded to Lauterbach and Amen.

### **5.2 DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-O-92**

Director Lindgren explains the memo he sent to the board regarding an ordinance passed by the Village which prohibits federal immigration practices from being carried out on Village property. Pursuant to this memo:

At the November 12<sup>th</sup> Village board meeting, the Village Board unanimously adopted Ordinance 2025-O-92 in response to recent federal immigration enforcement activity associated with “Operation Midway Blitz.” One of the listed locations, Howard Park, is leased to the Park District and therefore falls under our purview.

Since January, the Park District has taken proactive steps to protect staff and patrons from both real and perceived risks tied to federal enforcement actions. All facilities now have clearly designated staff-only areas, Park District vehicles are secured as staff spaces, and employees know where to go if they feel unsafe.

Every employee has received “Know Your Rights” information—much of it delivered in person. Bilingual staff have met face-to-face with colleagues to ensure full understanding. We have also advised all staff to carry identification as a precaution. All parks remain gun-free zones, and we consistently direct the public to call 911 if they see weapons.

Existing Park District ordinances prohibit unauthorized or abnormal use of Park property. Only the Park District determines what constitutes “normal use,” and organized gatherings require District approval. When activity looks irregular and no Park District staff are present, the public is instructed to contact the police. As our enforcement partners, the Wilmette Police will document incidents as required under the Trust Act.

We are unaware of any other Illinois park district navigating a situation with a Village ordinance of this kind.

### **Discussion**

Our current ordinances and staff protocols provide a solid foundation, but the inclusion of Howard Park within Ordinance 2025-O-92 warrants board-level discussion. Staff is seeking guidance on whether adjustments to our ordinances or if practices should be pursued to improve alignment with the Village’s approach while maintaining the clarity and predictability our staff and patrons rely on.

Our legal counsel has been coordinating closely with the Village’s attorney and has reviewed both sets of ordinances. Andrew Paine explains the role of the park district and

its jurisdiction and how that differs from the Village of Wilmette. The park district operates under statutory authority that we have. The Village is a home-rule body of government that can do whatever it would like on a local level regarding its government and affairs as long as it is not preempted by the state. The Village has broad authority to enact policies it thinks are best for the Village. The park district, in contrast, is a non-home-rule body of government, which means that the only power it has are those specifically granted by statute and those reasonably inferred by those grants. For the park district to enact an ordinance, it would have to point to a statute that states it has the power to do so. State law essentially says that state and local law enforcement cannot participate or assist federal agencies with civil immigration action. However, in Section 8-1 of the Park Code the park district has general authority to adopt reasonable rules to regulate the public's use of its parks and facilities. The district already does that in our general conduct ordinance. It has language within the ordinance that it could point to, including how parking lots are used, park hours, certain types of conduct requiring permits. Corporate counsel for the park district, Andrew Paine, explains the possible routes the park district could take to combat federal immigration on park district property.

Commissioner Clarke asks: since the park district uses the Wilmette Police Department for enforcement and the Wilmette Police Department is constrained by the Illinois Trust Act, doesn't that imply that the park district is operating under the Illinois Trust Act as well? Andrew Paine answers: that is correct. Because the Wilmette Police Department is the Wilmette Park District's enforcement authority, this ordinance is already governing how they police park district property.

President Lahey asks how Wilmette differs from Evanston, which has a recreation department that operates under the purview of the city/village. Andrew Paine explains that Evanston recreation department operates almost as a separate division, but it is a department of the city and under the management and control of the city, with home rule.

Andrew Paine recommends using similar language from the Village's ordinance to update the current park district ordinance, in order to make the rules more consistent in parks across the Village, if that is the way the board is leaning. Director Lindgren asks the board if they would like to see changes in the current existing conduct ordinance. Commissioner Murdock lists out the options the board has, and brings up that the board could request a resolution be made (similar to the library), which would be more of a public statement that the board would like the constitution to be followed and they disagree with the actions being taken against immigrants. Mr. Paine recommends, if the board would like to make specific changes, similar to the Village and the library, to make an amendment to the current conduct ordinance. The board is in consensus that they would like to see a draft of an ordinance that would modify the current conduct ordinance.

### **5.3 DISCUSSION TO CANCEL DECEMBER 15, 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Vice President Frazier asks the board if, at this stage in the budget process and at this time of year, the board would like to consider canceling the December 15<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole meeting. Director Lindgren states that staff does not have anything they need discussed prior to the end of the year. The board decides to cancel their December 15<sup>th</sup>

COW meeting.

## **6.0 ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further business to conduct, Commissioner Clarke moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to adjourn to Closed Session.

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

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