



WILMETTE PARK DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes

December 8, 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: Lyn King, Mary Lawlor, Jon Marshall, Aly Jiwani, Elizabeth Clarke

1.0 TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

1.1 ROLL CALL

President Lahey calls the hearing to order. Director Lindgren explains increases and decreases in the tax levy. Commissioners are asked for written or oral comments. Commissioner Murdock explains that the park district is not required to do a hearing this year, since the increase of the park district portion of the levy is below 5%. The park district is over 5% between this year and last year on average. President Lahey then asks those present if there are any oral testimonies; there are not.

There being no further business to conduct during this hearing, Commissioner Goebel moves and Commissioner Clarke seconds a motion to adjourn the hearing. By a roll call vote; hearing adjourned.

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

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

2.1 ROLL CALL

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Adrianopoli moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds the motion to approve the Consent Agenda of December 8, 2025.

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

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

There is nothing in addition to what is in the packet.

5.0 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.

John Marshall – Comments about the updated ordinance which amends the current district conduct ordinance. He also makes suggestions for further action.

6.0 STAFF REPORTS

6.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

2025 TAX LEVY

On the agenda for the Board's consideration is the 2025 Tax Levy, which is collected in 2026 and directly related to the 2026 fiscal year budget of the District. The Truth in Taxation law requires a local government subject to tax caps to conduct a public hearing regarding the tax levy in excess of 5%, as a Board Policy and best practice for transparency, we have continued to hold a hearing even when below that threshold as seen tonight. The Board will vote on the Tax Levy Ordinance and the Reduction Resolution at this meeting. The Tax Levy must be approved in December so that staff can file it with the County by the deadline at the end of December.

The Reduction Resolution directs the County on how to reduce our levy in the event that too much has been levied once the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of all property is established.

2026 BUDGET

Over the last three months, the Board has been reviewing and adjusting the annual budget alongside staff. With consensus to move forward, staff are completing the final budget book that will be posted for 30 days prior to the Budget and Appropriations Hearing to be held on January 12, 2026 at the Regular Board Meeting. This will be posted on our website and available for review at our Administrative Offices at Village Hall.

2026 MEETING CALENDAR

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Annual Schedule of Meetings must be approved by the Board and posted on our website. The 2026 calendar is on the agenda for approval. We are happy to see that there are only two current deviations from our regularly scheduled days due to conflicts.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Park District is partnering with the New Trier Township, Northfield Township & Representative Gong-Gershowitz for the Holiday of Hope Blood Drive held on December 11th from 12-6pm at the Community Recreation Center. Staff are working on a promotional video with President Lahey and Gail Eisenberg from the Township to raise awareness. Feel free to sign up and donate!

CONDUCT ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

On our agenda this evening is a change to our conduct ordinance based on many discussions with the Board, staff and legal counsel. We have received numerous thoughtful emails and calls from concerned residents on the topic of community safety in light of the Federal Immigration activities here in Wilmette. We are bound by the law in what we are able to change and enforce, but the action we can take is in front of you tonight. We have our legal counsel to answer any remaining questions the board may have.

6.2 PARKS AND PLANNING REPORT

Superintendent Wallace gives his report to the board.

Gillson & Langdon

Engineers are still working through the permit process, MWRD and the closeout processes.

Hibbard

Construction is substantially complete. We did our final walk-through for punch list items. We have the list and those items will be completed spring of next year, and after that the ECC playground surface will be replaced, too.

CRC Reconstruction

The drywall is complete and they are starting to paint upstairs. Next they will work on the flooring. We received partial delivery of the cabinets. Staff have been coming in early and staying late to paint areas that are not affected by the incident so that the design is uniform throughout the facility.

Solar

Verde got approval from Comed and the system will be live and running by this coming Friday.

Parks

Parks division has been working very hard to clear snow and ice. They have also been doing some extensive cross training. Prior to the snow staff was working on the soccer fields and finalizing winterization. The sports fields were aerated.

Buildings

Staff installed power to the new automotive lift. They added security cameras at the CRC skate park. There were several facility upgrades completed, including HVAC, LED lighting and thermostatic mixing valves. Studio A and spin room flooring were replaced. When we say that crews upgraded lighting to LED, that means they have changed out those fixtures, not just lightbulbs.

6.3 GOLF REPORT

Adam Kwiatkoski gives his report to the board.

We were able to complete a bit of drainage before the snow came. We completed the year in-line with budget. We have received more snow so far this season than the entire season last year. Staff has been working on getting the trail groomed for cross country ski.

6.4 RECREATION REPORT

Director Lindgren gives some highlights from the rec report.

Preschool had an art open house. The gymnastics rock wall installation is complete. The floor in studio A and other completed upgrades are a welcome sight to the CRC team, as it's been a long road. The team has done a great job balancing everything moving around. There was a great production of Elf Jr. in the arts department. Youth basketball leagues continue to grow. Dance and theater come together to put on Nutcracker which begins this weekend.

6.5 OPERATIONS REPORT

Superintendent Thomas gives the board highlights from the Operations Report.

We have been fine-tuning the annual report. Summer job postings are up!

We had over 2500 passes sold on Cyber Monday. The videos we posted on social media helped bolster the tickets sold for Breakfast with Santa.

Composting is still going strong. Staff got to go to a material recovery facility to learn more about recycling. The Village of Wilmette is supporting orange hefty bag recycling and information can be found on the Village website.

6.6 FINANCE REPORT

Superintendent Foy thanks the board for approving the engagement letter for the auditing firm.

The capital plan was at \$7.2M and we had about \$999,000 we carried over from last year to spend this year. Some projects were cancelled and some came in under budget, so we are saving about \$800,000. The capital spreadsheet shows what the savings are for each one of the projects.

We have not seen any property taxes come in yet. The due date is December 15th.

Commissioner Duffy asks about Village ticket revenue, whether it is \$18.40 or \$18,400. Superintendent Foy clarifies that it is \$18,400. Commissioner Adrianopoli asks about whether the \$17,000 of concession fee revenue is above what is projected in the budget. Superintendent Foy says that the concession fee revenue is in the projection and is not

in the budget. There was a catch-up of money that we had not collected last year that was collected this year.

Commissioner Murdock and Commissioner Adrianopoli state they would like more detail on the projects that are over budget. He states that big projects will have a summary at the end of what we spent and what was budgeted. Commissioner Duffy asks if the board will see the impact of the increase in minimum wage for part-time staff. Director Lindgren states they will have that information by Friday.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 CONSIDERATION OF CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE 2025-O-10

Commissioner Duffy moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to approve the ordinance.

Director Lindgren makes a statement from his memo to the board:

At the November 12, 2025 meeting, the Village Board unanimously adopted Village Ordinance No. 2025-O-92 in response to recent federal immigration enforcement activity associated with “Operation Midway Blitz.” One of the locations identified in connection with that activity, Howard Park, is leased to the Wilmette Park District and therefore falls under Park District jurisdiction and operational control. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 17, 2025, the Board discussed this ordinance and reviewed the Park District’s legal authority to regulate activities in our parks and facilities. At the end of the discussion, the Board directed staff and counsel to draft amendments to the existing conduct ordinance that reflect Village Ordinance No. 2025-O-92 and address community safety concerns.

Staff and counsel propose clarifying language within the Park District’s Conduct Ordinance to ensure clear, predictable guidance for staff, patrons, and other third parties seeking to use Park District property.

Staff recommends the Board adopt an ordinance amending Chapter IV of the Park District’s Conduct Ordinance to add new Section 4.08, “Use of District Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activity.” Adoption will clarify the Park District’s operational procedures and expectations for all persons on Park District property, including federal agents, consistent with applicable federal and state law.

Park district Counsel, Andrew Paine, clarifies that there was a very detailed discussion at the Committee of the Whole meeting in November. We all recognize that there are limitations on the park district, as a non-home-rule form of government and as a park district, but also trying to regulate a federal agency. We have worked with the Executive Director to push things as far as we could to create protections within the community

within the bounds that we have as a park district. The draft ordinance that is on the agenda tonight is where we ended up.

Commissioner Goebel asks about staging, stating that during the Democratic National Convention the Department of Homeland Security used Gillson Park for staging, a request which the park district granted. She goes on to ask if we are asked for staging space, do we decline? Andrew explains that the ordinance restrictions relate directly to staging activities of civil immigration enforcement, which, if passed, would be prohibited. For other types of staging, like for a convention or rally, those would be outside the province of this ordinance, but it would still need to be approved by the district, since it is use of the district property and parks. Commissioner Goebel asks Director Lindgren if there were a request to the park district for staging of civil immigration, would the answer be no? Director Lindgren states that the answer would be 'No.' Commissioner Adrianopoli asks staff to continue to monitor as the situation evolves and other municipalities pass various legislation. Commissioner Murdock echoes that sentiment and thanks the Village staff for their presentation on their ordinance during the Village's meeting. Director Lindgren explains that the park district will prioritize training for employees so they know what to do if federal agents show up in our facilities. President Lahey says that in a few weeks we will be onboarding several hundred employees for summer that will need to be trained as to what to do if armed and masked men show up at their facility, which is absurd. He stresses that the park district will do everything it can to support our staff, patrons and community members.

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

8.2 CONSIDERATION OF CRC BASKETBALL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Commissioner Clarke moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to approve the CRC basketball equipment purchase.

Director Lindgren explains that the current hoops are not adjustable, but the new equipment would be adjustable to accommodate younger children. There are two options, but option two is similar to what the schools currently have and what staff recommends.

Commissioner Clarke amends the motion: Move to approve the CRC basketball equipment purchase in the amount of \$42,689.95. Commissioner Murdock seconds the amended motion.

Commissioner Adrianopoli asks what happens to the current hoops. Director Lindgren says we auction it off.

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

8.3 CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATE TAX LEVY ORDINANCE 2025-O-9

Commissioner Murdock moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to approve the alternate tax levy.

Commissioner Murdock explains his reasoning for wanting the alternate tax levy. This levy represents a 5% average tax levy over a two-year period. Historically with this agency we have been fiscally prudent. We have never been required to have a truth in taxation hearing until last year. Commissioner Murdock states that in 2025 we transferred funds from another fund that has excess reserves in order to stay in compliance with our fund balance policy, which means we did not cut any services or change any of our programming. This is something we could do again in 2026. Because of this he believes it is fiscally responsible for the board to approve the lower levy. Commissioner Duffy agrees that we would not be cutting any services if we approve the lower levy. The park district accounts for a very low percentage of each person's tax bill. In 2019, the park district accounted for 5.3%. In 2020: 4.79%; 2021: 4.08%; 2022: 4.07%; 2023: 4.05%; and 2024: 4.23%. He explains that if we can do something about our tax bills, we should.

Commissioner Clarke asks why Commissioner Murdock is using a two-year average. She would like to see it staying more consistent, rather than high one year and low one year. Vice President Frazier makes the point that had the district been fully funding the special rec fund we may not have had to increase the levy 7% in 2024. Commissioner Goebel says that when she joined the board six years ago she was surprised to learn that there were still ADA projects to be completed. She supports the plan the board has worked on over the past few months and believes the difference is nominal. Commissioner Adrianopoli says understands concerns from residents about tax bills and she shares in that concern. Moving forward she believes that staff can look at operational costs (staff, benefits) as well as revenue generating opportunities. She agrees that the district needs to focus on ADA compliance.

Commissioner Murdock agrees that completing the ADA plan sooner than later is advisable. He points out that we have allocated money to capital projects over the last few years that we did not spend. However, this discussion doesn't have anything to do with the amount of outstanding capital projects and whether we accelerate them. The board is in agreement we would like to get as many projects done as quickly as possible. We drew down our reserves too quickly, so Commissioner Murdock advocates to build the reserves back up over a 2-3 year period. He says he is using the 5% set by the state as a guideline. Commissioner Duffy points out that the board agreed unanimously to increase the amount budgeted for ADA projects and that there is no deadline to complete those projects. They will continue to do the projects in measurable amounts. He points out, that is possible without increasing the special rec fund.

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

8.4 CONSIDERATION OF TAX LEVY ORDINANCE 2025-O-8

Commissioner Goebel moves and Vice President Frazier seconds a motion to approve ordinance 2025-O-8.

President Lahey says that August 22nd they posted a calendar of the budget which included the August 25th meeting about the truth in taxation levy. Obviously there have been some changes but it's part of discussion. We talked about it in October 10th, six meetings we talked about matching revenues and expenditures, including the tax levy. On the 22nd President Lahey gave a speech at the League of Women Voters where he devoted part of it to our levy and the aging infrastructure needs. He put the speech in the meeting packet. The packet was broadcast to the community through our Board Brief newsletter at the end of November.

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

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Minutes Approved on: **January 12, 2026**.