



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

January 12, 2026

7:30 PM – 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: Alan Golden, Rich DeLeo

1.0 PUBLIC HEARING – 2026 BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS HEARING CALLED TO ORDER

President Lahey calls the hearing to order at 7:32 p.m. He then invites comments from Commissioners and then invites comments from the public regarding the 2026 Budget and Appropriations. No comments were offered.

There being no further business to conduct during this hearing, Vice President Frazier moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to adjourn the hearing. By a voice vote; hearing adjourned.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. President Lahey also offers some announcements.

2.1 ROLL CALL

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Adrianopoli moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds the motion to approve the Consent Agenda of January 12, 2026.

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.

Rich DeLeo – Mr. DeLeo comments about his desire for more passive recreation, namely bocce ball and ping pong.



6.0 STAFF REPORTS

6.1 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

2025 Tax Levy and 2026 Budget & Appropriations Process

On the agenda for the Board's consideration is the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance, which follows the Board's approval of the 2025 Tax Levy Ordinance last month. I would like to thank WPD staff and the Board for their thoughtful discussions, time, and effort dedicated to developing these documents. Together, they establish the district's revenues and spending authority necessary to continue serving the community and operating effectively. This process positions the district well for 2026, and staff look forward to the opportunities ahead to strengthen our programs, services, and community impact.

Notable Board Members

I am happy to report that both Julia Goebel and Cecilia Clark have reached the "Notable Board Member" status from the Illinois Association of Park Districts. This is accomplished through involvement in ongoing education and service. Congratulations!

Promissory Notes Approval

On the agenda for tonight is an ordinance to approve a taxable promissory ordinance. Many other taxing bodies have been looking at this as an option to assist with filling the gap in property tax dollars that have not been received. We feel that the agency is in good shape financially, but planning for a long-term gap in our revenue source from the county is in the best interest of the district. This will not cost the district anything, unless we need to pull the funds. We prefer to plan for it and not use it, then not plan for it and need it.

Commissioner Goebel states that many taxing bodies don't have their second payment of property taxes from 2024. We use this to fund all of our programming, and this promissory note would be a "holdover" just in case, and we don't expect to use it. Commissioner Adrianopoli asks when the second payment historically comes in. Superintendent Foy states that it has come in starting in October and as late as December, and one year we received it in January. Commissioner Murdock says this may be a good opportunity to review our fund balance policy.

Gillson Beach Concession Contract

The Park District has the renewal of the concession contract at Gillson Beach with The Fat Shallot on the consent agenda. This has been a good partnership with The Fat Shallot and feedback from both our team and the community has been overly positive. We have increased the fee and have a mutual agreement to move forward for the next three years in front of you tonight.

WPD Risk Management Review

I am happy to share that we received a 94% score on our risk management review from PDRMA, our risk management firm, resulting in an incentive check for nearly \$4,000. This was a large undertaking



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by our HR/Risk Management team as well as many other departments that played a role. This is a comprehensive review of our practices, and it is great to see that our agency is well prepared for mitigating risk across all departments. Safety is a critical priority, and I want to thank our team for achieving such a high score.

2025 Donations

Over the last few weeks of 2025, the district received two individual donations that were routed to the Foundation prior to the close of the year. We are so thankful for the generous donations to support our parks. One of the donations was in support for the Wallace Bowl and the other was directed towards sustainability efforts in our parks.

6.2 PARKS AND PLANNING REPORT

Superintendent Wallace gives his report to the board.

Gillson & Langon

Engineering firms are finalizing close-out documents.

Hibbard

Substantial construction has been completed. The vendor will do the punch list items in late spring 2026. They will also replace the playground surface at the Early Childhood Center to make it meet specs.

CRC Reconstruction

The contractor continues to patch and paint. Our staff is working with the contractor to keep that project moving.

CRC Solar

The panels are fully operational. We are waiting for system access from the contractor.

Parks Division

We got hit pretty hard with snow and ice during the first part of the month. Our crew responded and we are working to cross-train our staff to maintain consistency and coverage throughout the district. Crews also kept up with core maintenance and tree trimming for the winter, along with training in these areas. Staff installed memorial benches and informational signage related to the OSLAD grant.

Employee Recognition

Humberto Maldonado was at the park district for more than 36 years. He recently retired from his position as Parks Foreperson, and we would like to recognize him and thank him for his service to our district.



Building Services

Staff have been spending time at the CRC doing patching and painting. We have also replaced flooring at Mallinckrodt, changed out some light fixtures to make them LED, replaced HVAC units in the pool, completed flooring repairs at Lakeview and continued with our annual fire inspections district wide.

6.4 RECREATION REPORT

Superintendent Merrill gives some highlights from the rec report.

The holidays are a busy time in rec. We partnered with Santa on quite a few things. Some things that were different this year include Winter Break camp became part of our School Day Off program where they can choose individual days. We split into two categories, either Rec on the Road (field trips) or Rec at the Center (at the CRC). We offered a winter camp for preschoolers, including those who may not be enrolled in our preschool. We really enjoyed seeing kids interacting with other age groups this time around. We added a New Years Eve skate for families this year, which was a huge hit.

6.5 OPERATIONS REPORT

Superintendent Thomas gives the board highlights from the Operations Report.

Printed Packets Update

Packets will no longer be printed unless they are requested in advance.

Positions Posted

Parks Foreperson and Building Services Foreperson positions are posted on our website. Summer positions are also posted! We will have three job fairs at our own facilities, in addition to the job fairs we attend at other locations outside the district (high schools, neighboring communities, etc.). There are a wide variety of positions open at the park district.

Marketing Communication re: Construction

There has been a lot of construction going on around the district and Marketing has been working really hard to get information out to the community regarding these construction projects. Transparency is important to the agency, and we continue to improve as time goes on.

Wishlist

There were 3,600 views of the Wishlist page on our website. This confirms that an idea we had to benefit the community is proving useful.

Composting

There were nearly 7.5 tons of compost through the pilot program between us and the Village this year. We are increasing capacity at all of the composting sites around town due to its popularity.



6.6 FINANCE REPORT

Superintendent Foy gives the board highlights from her Finance report.

We expect to hit the numbers we have projected through November. We are projecting a loss of \$3.9M. We are closing December now and will have a capital project updated for the COW.

Commissioner Goebel says that the district has gone cashless. Superintendent Foy explains that we were having issues balancing cash, so we got everyone onboard to go cashless.

Regarding the budget, Superintendent Foy explains that she went through the voucher lists for Jan-Mar 2025; we spent \$5.7M. Our cash position right now, after covering the fund balance, is over \$5.5M. Assuming we don't collect another dime from Cook County over the next three months, we should be okay. She has not seen a huge increase in spending. She is looking for the property tax payments every day.

The board had questions regarding the promissory note the district has the ability to invoke. Commissioner Murdock asks if the board would consider dipping below our fund balance before employing the promissory note. Commissioner Duffy asks if there is specific language that says the borrowing ability is specific to replacement of the taxes that we are expecting from the County. He also points out that there is a "sunset" date in the promissory note language that the district can only use it until July 12, 2026. Superintendent Foy answer that the purpose of being able to issue the promissory notes is because it is backed by the property taxes that are coming. Once we receive the property taxes we use that money to pay off the notes. Commissioner Murdock clarifies that the district would incur some interest expense. Superintendent Foy adds there would also be an issuance cost of about \$10,000. Commissioner Murdock asks if it is our believe that we would issue the promissory notes rather than dipping into our reserves. Superintendent Foy explains that if we dip into our reserves we would risk an issue with our Aaa bond rating from Moody's in the even that we are audited during that period of time. Moody's has already informed us that we may be reviewed. We have monthly billing that we collect at the district as well as camp registration coming up that we expect will bring us an influx of cash. The municipal advisor for the County has indicated there could be a problem with the first half of property tax payments, and because of that Superintendent Foy wanted to prepare the district for the worst case scenario. Commissioner Duffy asks if there is a difference to Moody's if we take on additional debt or dip into the reserves. Superintendent Foy answers that she is certain there would be some impact of having additional debt, but we would be clear with Moody's that the purpose of this debt was to tithe us over until the property tax payments come in.

7.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE 2026-O-1

Director Lindgren explains that we are required to hold a hearing and file this ordinance within 30 days of the budget being approved. We also published a notice in the newspaper 30 days ago of the budget being available.



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Commissioner Duffy moves and Commissioner Goebel seconds a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-O-1.

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.**

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 CONSIDERATION OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR GOLF

Commissioner Clarke moves and Vice President Frazier seconds a motion to approve the capital equipment purchases for Golf.

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 ORDINANCE 2026-O-2: TAXABLE PROMISSORY NOTE

Commissioner Goebel moves and Commissioner Clarke seconds a motion to approve the taxable promissory note, not to exceed \$4,000,000.

Commissioner Duffy states that he would like to require that the note have two signers in order to execute the promissory note. Director Lindgren agreed. Commissioner Murdock says he would like to learn more about the impact of drawing these funds down as opposed to using some of our reserves. He will support it, but would like to understand more and have more conversations about it, should we need to execute this action. President Lahey says he supports this because there are multiple districts around us who are struggling without their property tax payments and this district is in a position to prepare ourselves.

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.**

9.0 ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Murdock moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to adjourn to closed session for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the district, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the district or against legal counsel to determine its validity, in accordance with Section 2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act, and for the review minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of review, approval or release of such minutes, in accordance with Section 2(c)21 of the Open Meetings Act.



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9.1 CONSIDERATION OF ACTION, IF ANY, OF ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Duffy moves and Vice President Frazier seconds a motion to destroy recordings from February 27, 2023 through October 23, 2023, as they have minutes approved by the board.

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.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Minutes Approved on: **February 9, 2026.**