



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

February 23, 2026

6:30 PM – Mallinckrodt

PRESENT

Commissioners: President Patrick Lahey, Vice President Allison Frazier, Julia Goebel, Julie Adrianopoli, Cecilia Clarke

Absent: Commissioners Mike Murdock, Patrick Duffy

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Visitors: Mary Lawlor, Walter Keats

1.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Vice President Frazier calls the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

The board has nothing to add.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

None.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

None.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 JANUARY 2026 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Superintendent Foy explains that the surplus actual is at \$2.786M and budget is at \$2.474M with a variance of \$212,000. The staff is going to be asked to explain variances at the GL account level for 10% or \$7,500 difference. She hopes to have this information by the Finance COW meeting on March 9th.

Property Taxes

We have collected 98.8% of property taxes.

2025 Budget

The books will official close this week. We will then know what amount of capital spending will move into 2026.



5.2 COMPREHENSIVE & STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL RECAP

Superintendent Thomas presents the Project Parks and Play update to the board.

Strategic Plan

The district has 71 Strategic Plan Initiatives, with 38 active in 2026.

Comprehensive Plan

The district currently has 97 Comprehensive Plan Initiatives, with 31 active in 2026.

Commissioner Goebel points out the statistic given for the growth in Before and After School Rec at McKenzie. She asks how this came to be. Superintendent Merrill answers that each school only has so much capacity. We had relatively low maximums based on perceived staffing constraints or operational constraints perceived by staff. So we increased capacity and found a way to safely staff the program, operating at a higher level in each school. Vice President Frazier explains the panic parents historically had around registration for Before and After School Rec because capacity was so limited. The increase in capacity has quelled the anxiety of many families.

Commissioner Adrianopoli asks to see a list of the strategic and comprehensive plan initiatives for 2026.

Vice President Frazier asks Superintendent Thomas to highlight how the comp and strat plans relate to Big Tree Lane, given they were completed prior to the purchase. Superintendent Thomas explains that included in the master plan is an indoor pool feasibility study, creating a master plan for Howard Park, looking at the CRC and Centennial and figuring out to renovate them or their structure to make sure we are getting the most out of them.

5.3 CENTENNIAL COOLING TOWER UPDATE

Superintendent Merrill takes a moment to introduce the new General Manager of Ice and Aquatics, Mike Carosielli.

President Lahey explains the Zoning Board process and why we sought a variance. The park district needs to replace a cooling tower at Centennial. The roof does not provide sufficient clearance to meet current engineering standards and manufacturer spacing requirements for new equipment. The new unit will need to be placed on the ground next to the building and an acoustic fence built around it. The fencing height requires a zoning variance. He then explains that even though our application received a 7-0 pass, we heard what the Zoning Board had to say and are revising our project the best we can to enhance the visual aspects.

Director Lindgren explains that staff have looked at all available options, including but not limited to, installing multiple smaller units to meet the cooling needs and placement of the unit. Smaller units would not meet the



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needs of the building and alternative placement areas do not meet the space requirements both from neighboring lots and proximity to the reformer. The goal now is to try and soften the visual aspects.

The board expresses their concerns and has their questions answered by Director Lindgren. The board explores ideas about putting art on the sides of the structure.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

President Lahey moves and Commissioner Clarke 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.

By a voice vote; **motion carried.**

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