



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

April 27, 2026

6:30 p.m. - Mallinckrodt

Present

Commissioners: President Patrick Lahey, Vice President Allison Frazier, Julia Goebel, Mike Murdock (via phone, arrives in-person 6:59 p.m.), Patrick Duffy, Cecilia Clarke and Julie Adrianopoli

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

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

Visitors: Mary Lawlor, Walter Keats, Alan Golden

1.0 Committee of the Whole Meeting Called to Order

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

President Lahey moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to bring Commissioner Murdock into the meeting via phone. By a voice vote; **motion carried.**

2.0 Communications and Correspondence

None.

3.0 Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors

Alan Golden – Mr. Golden thanks staff for meeting him at the Sailing Beach for a meeting.

4.0 Old Business

None.

5.0 New Business

5.1 March 2026 Financial Update

Superintendent Foy explains that everyone in the district who has a budget now has a monthly report they fill out to explain any variances over \$7,500 or 10%. There is still an issue with Comed because we are having trouble getting a bill for the CRC. Regarding property taxes, since 1978 the second installment has been late for 33 out of the last 48 years.

Capital

All of the capital projects that are late are in the report. We are doing our best to predict when each capital project will be completed.



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Commissioner Adrianopoli asks a question about the three items not reflected in the 2026 column on the report, but are carryover from 2025. She asks if those items will be spent. Superintendent Foy explains that one of them is the Gillson infrastructure project which is on the list because it's going to be finished up in the spring. The second project is the CRC restoration project which we knew was going to take longer. The keys project is a timing issue because there is a long lead time with the vendor. Commissioner Goebel asks if there is such a long lead time, is there possibly a suitable alternative. Superintendent Wallace answers that we have a lock system that we have invested a lot of money in with a specific company, so we have to stick with that vendor. However, he explains that the lead times are getting better.

5.2 Racquets Update – Jason Stanislaw, Racquets General Manager

Jason Stanislaw, Racquets General Manager, gives his Racquets update to the board.

Commissioner Duffy asks for clarification on the pickleball courts at Hibbard and Community Playfields. At Hibbard, residents can reserve courts and take lessons. Community Playfields is open play in the morning and reservations in the afternoon. He also asks about the donation given for Community Playfields pickleball furniture, and will there be shade added to that area. Jason answers that we want to have a shaded area, but we don't have that yet. Vice President Frazier asks about the space in between the tennis courts and the pickle/tennis combination area, as she sees that as the space where people gather. Jason clarifies that the open play pickle ballers gather on the tennis court, however people tennis players gather in between the two courts. The difference is that people playing pickle are waiting to rotate in and need to be able to see the courts, while tennis players are not. Commissioner Adrianopoli asks if there are any tennis courts that are underutilized in Wilmette, given the demand for pickleball. Jason explains that we are actually running low on tennis courts and could use more because of demand. The district has converted five tennis courts to pickleball courts. We are moving one of our tennis camps indoors because we are out of outdoor courts. Commissioner Murdock asks if the conversion of courts at the Community Playfields has impacted programming there, given there are no longer six courts in one location. Jason answers that the general compression of court space is becoming more challenging than he anticipated. We are grateful, however, that we have the indoor courts as well. He is considering moving team matches to Community Playfields this year so they're not blocking off four courts for a three-court event. Commissioner Murdock follows up with the question of how many courts Jason believes we need. Jason answers that three more courts would put us in a good place for programming. Commissioner Clarke raises the point that when tennis courts were being converted to pickleball courts at Community Playfields there was also an option to put another bank of courts there. She asks if there could be value in looking at that option again. Jason responds that if we looked at the space again he would want to make sure we were considering space as far from the homes as possible. Vice President Frazier recalls that there would be data taken after the courts were converted in order to determine if any further action was warranted. Jason suggests looking at Vattman, which already has tennis courts



which are not utilized well due to condition and orientation, to possibly support three more courts there.

[At 6:59 p.m. Commissioner Murdock joins the meeting in person.]

Vice President Frazier asks how the board should be preparing to plan for padel in terms of master planning potential. Jason describes what padel looks like in other countries and how he predicts padel will grow on the north shore. The season for padel is similar to that of platform tennis. We can do some surveying to try and figure out the desire for padel.

5.3 Centennial Cooling Tower Update

Superintendent Wallace updates the board on the cooling tower project at Centennial.

Superintendent Wallace explains that we received two competitive bids that were within our budget. We are in the process of finalizing the numbers because the scope of the project has changed slightly. Staff has been working diligently with Comed on a schedule to move the underground electric feed to the ice arena. When this work takes place, there will be a five-day time period where Centennial will be closed. There are three Comed feeds to the entire Centennial campus: one for the ice, one for tennis and the other for the pool. Tennis and pool will not be as impacted by this work. Additionally, so we do not lose ice, we will have a generator on site. We are looking at July 13-17.

Commissioner Murdock clarifies that the pool and tennis areas of the building will remain open during this work. Superintendent Wallace confirms. Commissioner Duffy asks if we have drawings showing where the utility access is located for the facility. Director Lindgren answers that, yes, we do have located plans with all of the utilities for Centennial.

6.0 Adjournment to Closed Session

President Lahey moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to adjourn to Closed Session for the discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Park District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired as well as the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, in accordance with Sections 2(c)5 and 2(c)6 of the Open Meetings Act.

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

Minutes approved on: **May 11, 2026.**