REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners
May 11, 2026
7:30 PM – Village Hall Council Chambers

Present

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

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Visitors: Alan Golden, Walter Keats, Mary Lawlor, Mark Weyermuller

1.0 Meeting Called to Order
The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m.

2.0 Consent Agenda
Commissioner Clarke moves and Commissioner Frazier seconds a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

3.0 Communications and Correspondence
Everything the board received is included the packet.

4.0 Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors
Alan Golden – Mr. Golden hanks the sailing beach staff.

Mark Weyermuller – Mr. Weyermuller self-promotes his website.

Walter Keats – Mr. Keats corrects the record regarding comments made about the police station and Howard Park.

5.0 Staff Reports
5.1 Executive Director Report
Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

Go Green Wilmette Beach Clean-up
Director Lindgren thanks Go Green Wilmette for arranging volunteers for beach clean-ups.

Centennial Ice Show
Director Lindgren thanks staff for working so hard to put together the event at the ice rink. The 2026 Spring Ice Show was held last weekend on May 8, 9 & 10. The entire team at Centennial worked tirelessly over the last few weeks in preparation for the show. The volunteers, staff & skaters all deserve a standing ovation for the countless hours put into this great show for the community.

Sailing Beach Opening
The sailing beach officially opened for the season on May 9th and runs until October 11th. I want to thank the beach staff, parks team and others that pitched in for the big "move day" last week to get everything moved back into place as that is a major effort. We are excited and we know that our sailing members are ready to get out there for a great season.

IAPD Legislative Conference
May 5th was Parks Day at the Capitol, followed by the legislative conference on May 6th. Three of our staff drove down to Springfield to meet with our legislators in person to discuss legislation and talk about what is going on in our district. The Legislative Conference was filled with over 300 park district board members, executive directors and leadership staff. This was one of the more eventful conferences as there are a handful of bills that will affect park districts and one in particular, SB 3907, which has the ability to negatively impact our ability to offer programs. Advocacy was our main goal on Tuesday and we were pleasantly surprised at our local legislator's willingness to listen and support park districts.

Annual Report
The WPD's 2025 Annual Report is complete and posted online. This is the second annual report for WPD, and the marketing team did a great job alongside our staff compiling all of the data in an easy to read, impactful way. This report is filled with financial, programmatic, social, and environmental information and accomplishments. We have some printed copies available tonight.

Staff Reports

Parks & Planning
- Major capital and shoreline projects continue to advance, with the Langdon Shoreline Protection project now complete and final walk-throughs underway at Gillson Park. We will have closeout conversations for these at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.
- Seasonal operations are fully underway, including athletic field preparation, landscaping improvements, tree planting, irrigation startup, and park enhancements across the district.
- Staffing updates included filling key Crew Leader and Parks Laborer positions to support peak-season operations.

- Building Services completed several critical facility improvements, including pool preparation, CRC lighting and carpet upgrades, HVAC replacements at the golf facility, and multiple safety and infrastructure projects district-wide.

Golf Report

- Despite one of the wettest spring seasons on record, golf revenues remain on budget and membership revenues are projected to finish at record levels.
- Golf events and outings have reached capacity for larger group bookings in 2026, reflecting strong demand and community engagement.
- Program participation remains strong, with youth, adult, family, and afterschool golf classes operating at or near capacity.
- Course conditions and capital improvements continue to progress, including drainage work, new equipment installations, sod replacement, and operational deployment of autonomous mowers.

Recreation Department

- Recreation staff are heavily focused on summer readiness, including staffing, training, logistics, and coordination for camp, pool, lakefront, and seasonal operations.
- Strong participation and community engagement continue across programs and events, including youth sports, Touch-a-Truck, theater productions, gymnastics, dance competitions, and lakefront activities.
- Enrollment growth continues in several core programs, including a 4.6% increase in Before/After School Recreation enrollment for the upcoming school year. Facility and program enhancements continue throughout the district, including CRC improvements, expanded fitness promotions, outdoor racquets programming, and preparations for aquatics and lakefront opening weekend.

5.5 Operations Report

Superintendent Thomas gives her report to the board.

Annual Report

This year's report is longer because this is our second Annual Report and we had more time to prepare and include all the information we wanted. We offered around 4,000 opportunities for patrons to be involved with us in 2025. We used the same image as the Village to show the percentage of tax dollars we use from each household.

In terms of our "open rate" for our emails, a good open rate is considered between 20% and 45%, while our open rate is 59% (page 18).

W.I.S.E. Workshop
Wilmette Internal Staff Exchange Workshop was put on by Dave Merrill, Doug Bundy and Carol Heafey. This was a new initiative this year which allowed staff to showcase their own knowledge to other employees. This workshop had over 40 attendees and was very successful.

Youth Mental Health First Aid
The Josselyn Center came out and trained 36 of our staff on youth mental health first aid. It was a training that was important and we were glad to receive the grant which allowed us to hold this training for our staff.

Commissioner Duffy commends staff on the exponential increase in open rates on emails and engagement with the community.

5.5.1 Summer Staffing Presentation – Carol Heafey, Manager of HR & Risk Management
Carol Heafey presents on Summer Staffing to the board. Her presentation can be found in the packet for this meeting. A video of the presentation can be found on our website.

Commissioner Frazier asks Carol about the pool of staff we now have to call on during the summer. Carol explains that we have a pool of counselors on call who were not available for the entire summer, but can be called upon for one day or one week here or there throughout the summer when they are available.

President Lahey and Vice President Goebel speak to the high retention and return rate of employees, as well as the fact that the park district provides good job opportunities for teenagers both inside and outside Wilmette.

5.5.2 Marketing and Communications Update
JP McNamara presents the Branding updates to the board. His presentation can be found in the packet for this meeting, as well as on video on the park district website.

Commissioner Adrianopoli asks about a budget for implementation of the branding rollout. JP answers that we started with internal branding that had little to no cost. When teams were working on their budgets last year, marketing gave pricing information and asked departments to work the rebranded items into their budgets. Larger items like facility signs will be worked into capital funding. Commissioner Adrianopoli also asks if patrons have to pay for new ID cards in order to get updated ones. JP answers that at this time we do not plan to charge anyone for new ID cards, as we have enough toner and cards to replace everyone's card who is currently active in our system.

Commissioner Frazier asks about the different brands and whether or not merchandise will be offered to the public for purchase. JP answers that the Tennis gear shop has items for sale as well as the golf pro shop. Commissioner Frazier thanks JP for all the work he has done since his onboarding at the district. JP thanks his team, Natalie Heleniak and Mariana Uriostegui, for all their work on the rebranding efforts.

President Lahey states that retail is not a meaningful part of the budget, but he appreciates that brand recognition builds community support and loyalty at a time when the district is thinking about making large changes.

5.6 Finance Report

Superintendent Foy says we will have a Finance COW in June. Director Lindgren says the intent of the FIN COW this month was to review the audit. There is a component to finish the report that comes from IMRF that we only received last week.

There is more detail on the variances in the financials. There are some permanent variances already identified as well. From actuals to budget we are showing a $1.2M variance. The board has a detailed list of all the capital projects that were budgeted and haven't finished.

Superintendent Foy is reviewing the third draft of the audit. She and her department are reviewing the cell phone and cable contracts. This is something that hasn't been done since Superintendent Foy started at the park district.

6.0 Unfinished Business

6.1 Consideration of Centennial Cooling Tower Project

Vice President Goebel moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to approve the Centennial Cooling Tower Replacement Contract in the amount of $1.359M with ProTemp of Illinois, Inc.

There was a memo and conversation at the COW about where we are regarding the contractor for the Cooling Tower replacement project at Centennial. We had $2.052M budgeted for this portion of the project, which is half the project. The competitive bid came in at $1.359.

Commissioner Clarke asks if the roof will need repairs once the tower is moved off the roof. The answer is yes. She then asks if there is an estimate for that work yet. Director Lindgren explains that roof repair was part of the updated estimation given to the board at the end of last year. Commissioner Duffy asks Superintendent Wallace to talk about the bid process. There were two bids and references were checked for both. One had a timeline of around five months while the other came in at 330 days to do the same work. Director Lindgren adds that there will be a shutdown in July, for which staff will work to minimize the impact on the ice rink. President Lahey stresses that there is no getting around doing this work, as it is an essential infrastructure project.

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

7.0 New Business

7.1 Consideration of the Sailing Shack Design Engineering Contract

Commissioner Adrianopoli moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion to approve the Sailing Shack Engineering Contract in the amount of $114,700 with Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.

Commissioner Murdock says there was a lower cost bidder with whom he has been corresponding, for which Director Lindgren slowed down the process to take a closer look. At the end of the day, the district has a successful history working with Gewalt Hamilton and chooses to work with them. Commissioner Duffy explains more about the project and its complexities. Vice President Goebel adds that in local government it must be a responsive and responsible bid. Commissioner Adrianopoli adds that staff has been very diligent in exploring the options available for the district in such detail. President Lahey adds that Gewalt knows us and our lakefront and he is comfortable supporting their bid.

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

8.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Duffy moves and Commissioner Frazier seconds a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

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

Minutes approved on: **June 8, 2026**