



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

June 8, 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: Walter Keats, Alan Golden, Alex Schneider, Mary Lawlor, Mark Weyermuller

1.0 Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

2.0 Consent Agenda

Commissioner Murdock 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; **motion carried.**

3.0 Communications and Correspondence

Everything the board received is included the packet. President Lahey and Commissioner Frazier also received a separate message thanking the district for the sensory swim.

4.0 Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Mark Weyermuller – Mr. Weyermuller comments about the number of music concerts there will be this summer.

5.0 Consultant Interviews

Director Lindgren explains that in early 2026, the Wilmette Park District initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) process for a Comprehensive Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study. The purpose of the study is to evaluate the District's existing recreation facilities, identify current and future community needs, assess facility conditions and operational considerations, and develop long-term recommendations regarding potential capital investments and facility improvements. Nine firms responded to the RFP and the final two are here with us tonight to present to the board.

Director Lindgren and President Lahey go on to thank all of the firms who took the time to respond with proposals.



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5.1 Dewberry Presentation

Dewberry makes their presentation and answers questions from the board. The full presentation and question/answer session can be found on the park district website.

5.2 Wight & Company

Wight makes their presentation and answers questions from the board. The full presentation and question/answer session can be found on the park district website.

Discussion

President Lahey asks each commissioner to discuss their thoughts on each firm.

Commissioners appreciated the firms highlighting community engagement. They especially appreciated the direct communication of Wight. They liked that Wight has in-house estimators. Overall the board believes that we would be in good hands with either firm.

Director Lindgren states he will put together the comments of the board to take into consideration for the final decision.

6.0 Staff Reports

6.1 Executive Director Report

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

BIG TREE LANE

We are reaching the final stages of our first phase in the planning process for the Big Tree Lane property purchased in 2024. We have had a lengthy, detailed process to build an RFP for the Comprehensive Recreation Facility Feasibility Study. The review team of 8 park district professionals has done a great job narrowing the strong candidate pool of 9 firms to the final two firms being interviewed at the June 8 Regular Board Meeting. I also want to thank all of the firms that submitted and spent their time and effort for this project. We are thrilled to get this important community focused project to the next step.

SUMMER SEASON

The WPD shirts have once again returned to Wilmette! If you were out an about this morning, I'm sure you saw people from all over town in their red shirts riding bikes, scooters, walking and driving in for their first day of camp at the park district for Summer 2026!

Summer is a special time around the district where every single department is involved in making Summer Operations and Summer Camp a success. From Recreation, Parks & Planning, HR, Customer



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Service, Accounting & Finance, Golf, Pool, Lakefront, Marketing, IT, Early Childhood, etc., and I could go on.

The Pool and Lakefront are up and running and we are grateful for all the staff coming to work with us this summer!

We have great leaders in place and hope all the kids and staff have a safe, happy summer with us here at the Wilmette Park District!

STATE GRANT RECEIVED

Upon the passing of the state budget, the District was notified from Representative Gong-Gershowitz that we would receive \$250,000 in funding from the Build Illinois Bond Fund through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the Centennial Recreation Complex Cooling Tower Project. We are so thankful for this grant that will go towards a much needed infrastructure project.

Commissioner Duffy commends Director Lindgren for taking the initiative of reaching out to our state representatives for additional partnership and funding.

Parks & Planning:

Major capital projects at Gillson, Centennial Ice, and Hibbard Park continue to advance while seasonal park operations support peak summer activity.

Building Services: Summer facilities opened successfully, key HVAC infrastructure projects were completed, and facility improvements continue district-wide.

Safety Town: A landmark partnership with New Trier High School delivered a fully completed Safety Town project that enhances community safety education.

Golf:

Golf operations continue to outperform budget expectations, supported by record membership revenue, strong program participation, and ongoing course improvements.

Men's & Women's club play has started match play along with NSSRA's Gator Golf Program.

Operations:

Summer staffing, training, and safety preparations are largely complete, while marketing efforts continue driving strong community engagement and participation.



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Finance:

The 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) final draft was distributed to Board and staff for review and the auditors will present the report findings at the June 22nd Committee of the Whole Meeting.

The District remains financially strong with a \$614,000 favorable variance through April and significant capital projects progressing across the organization.

IT successfully prepared all seasonal operations, enhanced communications through new digital signage, and supported district-wide summer programming needs.

6.4 Recreation Report

Superintendent Merrill gives highlights of his report to the board.

The most important highlight is the big push to get to the first day of camp. Superintendent Merrill thanks his colleagues for all their hard work getting camp off to a great start today.

We have three summer interns in the Rec department who are working very hard. They will be giving a report to the board in July.

The department is preparing for our event on July 3rd. It is heavily Wilmette themed this year. Through our partnership with Northshore Community Bank we have been able to get additional fireworks to help us celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the USA. There will be three Wilmette bands.

We have been working with Wilmette Hockey to determine what time they need versus the time we will use for programming. In addition, we have been talking about the impact on ice when we replace the cooling tower. We will work with other districts and within our walls to get through this project which will benefit the district.

We are fully staffed at the lakefront and have made staffing changes operationally to help bolster our customer service and better address the needs of the community. We are working on mitigating the parking issues we have had at the Lakefront.

The pool season has started off strong in terms of passes we have sold so far.

Our Summer Concert Series is all set and we are excited about offering these free concerts.

Summer camp started today! Everything went smoothly because of our great staff and kids.



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Commissioner Frazier compliments the signage at the CRC and how much easier it made things for drop-off this morning.

Commissioner Adrianopoli compliments the new beach mats, which extend longer than before and allowed her to take her parents to the beach to walk.

9.0 Adjournment to Closed Session

Commissioner Duffy moves and President Lahey 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: **July 13, 2026.**