



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

June 22, 2026

Immediately following Committee of the Whole Meeting

Present

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

Absent: President Patrick Lahey

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

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

Visitors: Alan Golden, Aly Jiwani, Mary Lawlor, Laurie Leibowitz

1.0 Special Board Meeting Called to Order

Vice President Goebel calls the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

2.0 Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors

None.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Consideration of the 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Commissioner Murdock moves and Commissioner Duffy seconds a motion to approve the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2025.

By a roll call vote: voting Yes, Duffy, Adrianopoli, Frazier, Clarke, Goebel; voting No, none; absent, Lahey; abstain, Murdock. **Motion carried.**

3.2 Consideration of Ordinance 2026-O-5 Approving the Tree Preservation Policy

Commissioner Frazier moves and Commissioner Adrianopoli seconds a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-O-5 an Ordinance adopting a Tree Preservation Policy.

Commissioner Frazier asks what Director Lindgren's feedback is regarding the emails sent regarding the policy. Director Lindgren answers that he does not think the policy needs to be changed. The Arboretum's list that is listed in the policy names all of the possible species of trees that could be planted in our climate zone; it is not a recommendation or requirement of what species need to be planted. We have spoken with our professional staff who would be selecting the trees from the list and those individuals will be selecting the correct native trees for our parks. In addition, there is an organization we work with called Tree Keepers who know how to prune and mulch trees appropriately.



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Commissioner Clarke says the policy states “This policy shall apply to all trees located on land owned by the Wilmette Park District.” However, there is property in the district owned by the MWRD that is leased to the park district. Similarly, the park district uses Howard Park, which is owned by the Village. Shouldn’t this policy apply to all trees on all land managed by the park district? Commissioner Duffy points out that the Park District may want to check the leases for these parks to see whether the Policy could be extended to all trees managed by the park district. Commissioner Clarke also points out that under the policy, anyone who picks up a stick to throw for a dog or who picks up leaves for a school project would be in violation of the ordinance. These are two issues that staff should consider revising.

At this point, Commissioner Frazier asks if there are any repercussions if the board does not approve the policy today. Superintendent Wallace states that we would need an approved policy by the end of the month in order to receive the \$20,000 grant. Commissioner Murdock states that language can be clarified after approval. Commissioner Clarke states that she will approve the policy as written to be revised after approval to address her concerns.

Commissioner Murdock asks if this policy would affect how we manage our golf course. He remembers a time when a number of healthy trees were removed from the course due to play conditions. Commissioner Duffy points out that the policy states that any action would need the approval of the Superintendent of Parks. Commissioner Murdock states that he has been told in the past that we could only plant a certain number of trees because we are only capable of maintaining a certain number of trees. He is worried about the standards of the policy preventing the district from implementing our landscaping plans at an expedited pace. Director Lindgren says that the challenge is watering new trees. We are making a push to plant more trees and that may mean we need to bring on more seasonal staff or a contractor to help us water. Commissioner Adrianopoli asks if, based on the current policy in front of the board, does Director Lindgren anticipate any staffing changes/additions. Director Lindgren says he does not anticipate any changes at this time. Commissioner Duffy asks how many trees have been planted over the last few years. Superintendent Wallace answers that we have around 100 trees being planted this year, and we have been planting around 100 per year the past couple of years.

By a roll call vote: voting Yes, Duffy, Adrianopoli, Frazier, Clarke, Murdock, Goebel; voting No, none; absent, Lahey; abstain, none. **Motion carried.**

3.3 Consideration of the Comprehensive Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study Professional Services Contract

Commissioner Adrianopoli moves and Commissioner Frazier seconds a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract with Wight & Company for the Comprehensive Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study for an amount of \$210,400.



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Vice President Goebel says that at the last board meeting we had two excellent presentations. Director Lindgren says he went over the process and thanked the internal team for all the work they put in. After hearing feedback from the board and the internal team, he believes we have a firm that will listen to the community and push the project forward for the betterment of the community. They will also incorporate sustainability in design. Commissioner Duffy says that this will help the district move forward in creating a plan to help our aging facilities.

By a roll call vote: voting Yes, Duffy, Adrianopoli, Frazier, Clarke, Murdock, Goebel; voting No, none; absent, Lahey; abstain, none. **Motion carried.**

4.0 Adjournment

Commissioner Duffy moves and Murdock seconds a motion to adjourn

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

Minutes approved on: **August 10, 2026**