



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

May 18, 2026

6:30 p.m. - Mallinckrodt

Present

Commissioners: Vice President Julia Goebel, Julie Adrianopoli, Allison Frazier, Patrick Duffy, Cecilia Clarke and Mike Murdock (arrives 6:44 p.m.), President Patrick Lahey (arrives 6:51 p.m.)

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

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

Visitors: Walter Keats

1.0 Committee of the Whole Meeting Called to Order

Vice President Goebel calls the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2.0 Communications and Correspondence

None.

3.0 Public Comment and Recognition of Visitors

Walter Keats – Comments about the upcoming Tree Policy.

4.0 Old Business

None.

5.0 New Business

5.1 April 2026 Financial Update

Superintendent Foy explains that the exercise to explain the variances has not been done yet because this COW meeting being moved up a week and accounting being down a person since January.

Discussions are being had about how to be a little more accurate with capital next year.

5.2 Pool Pre-Season – Mike Carosielli, General Manager of Ice & Aquatics

Mike gives his presentation to the board. A full copy of the presentation and a video recording can be found on the park district website.

Sayre Froelich, Aquatics & Ice Supervisor, explains what the Sensory Swim is all about. Sensory Swim is designed to provide a quieter, low-stimulation environment for individuals with autism, anxiety, or sensory processing disorders. The next Sensory Swim will be offered July 5th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30



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p.m. Commissioner Duffy asks that these swim times be broadcast over a number of different outlets, including emails and social media. Commissioner Adrianopoli asks about the big increase in total number of staff, including lifeguards. Mike explains that this is to cover staff with backups to make sure we are never low on staff. Commissioner Clarke asks if there are extra staff on-call for busier days. Mike states that there are the same number of staff working each day, but now there is a larger pool of people to pull from if someone calls off work. Superintendent Merrill adds that we often have few staff to work on weekends where there are big concerts in town (i.e., Country Thunder, Lollapalooza, etc.). Having a larger pool of staff allows us to keep our operational hours toward the end of the season.

[Commissioner Murdock enters the meeting at 6:44 p.m.]

The board has questions about the new graphic that shows the pool schedule. Mike shows the board that when you click on a timeslot it brings up detail as to how many lanes are available to the public.

When the New Trier Aquatics contract is discussed, Superintendent Merrill clarifies that the contract is based on estimated use and Sayre reviews the actual time the group uses the pool and makes adjustments for billing. Adjustments are made for bad weather when the pool is not available.

[President Lahey arrives at 6:51 p.m.]

Commissioner Adrianopoli asks about updated membership cards with the new designs for pool and beach members. She asks if people will get updated cards as they come in, or if that is optional. Superintendent Merrill states that he will have to find out from the Marketing department to find out how that will be implemented. The board is assured that the green passes will still function.

Mike talks about the projected maintenance that will take place in the post-season. Commissioner Murdock asks what the expected life of the slides will be after the maintenance work is done. Sayre answers that it is usually around eight years, at which time the district will be looking at the end of useful life of the pool liners as well.

5.3 Tree Management Policy

Superintendent Wallace advised the Board that the Morten Arboretum awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Park District to remove invasive tree species (seven Callery Pear trees have been removed) and to replace them with trees that are suited for our park conditions (so far 93 trees have been planted). However, as part of the grant, and in order to receive the money, the board needs to pass a Tree Management Policy. Director Lindgren commented that the District is also supposed to build an inventory of its roughly existing 3,600 trees; which has been done. Anna Murray, Parks Planner, explained to the board that the Tree Policy and its procedures will help shape the future plantings of



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the park district. Commissioners ask if the park district could highlight special trees with historic significance in the district.

6.o Adjournment to Closed Session

Commissioner Murdock 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: **August 10, 2026**