



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Park Commissioners

August 10, 2026

7:30 PM – Village Hall Council Chambers

Present

Commissioners: President Patrick Lahey, Allison Frazier, Cecilia Clarke, Mike Murdock,

Absent: Julie Adrianopoli, Patrick Duffy, Vice President Julia Goebel

Secretary/Executive Director: Chris Lindgren

Visitors: Angela Merrill, Walter Keats, Les Jackson, Sheridan Lichtor, Mary Latham

1.0 Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

2.0 Consent Agenda

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

Commissioner Murdock brings up item 2.8, the Policy for District Service Providers. He thinks it's a great policy and approach, but he suggests staff come up with guidelines for staff to use to bring in outside service providers. He asks staff to share that with the board when it is developed.

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

3.0 Communications and Correspondence

Everything the board received is included the packet.

4.0 Public Comment/Recognition of Visitors

Walter Keats – Comments about the packet and marketing updates.

Evita Vulgaris – Comments about the pool.

Sheridan Lichtor – Comments about the pool.

Les Jackson – Comments about the pool.

Maureen Tatosian – Comments about the pool.



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5.0 Old Business

6.0 New Business

6.1 Approval of the Bid for Sidewalk Improvements at Community Playfields

Commissioner Murdock moves and Commissioner Clarke seconds a motion to approve the bid for sidewalk improvements at Community Playfields with Patriot Pavement in the amount of \$133,060.50.

Director Lindgren explains that this is an ADA improvement to get the accessible sidewalk in around the pickleball courts. Doing this work creates some drainage concerns we will need to address. Commissioner Frazier asks what the impact will be to students using the sidewalk as a cut-through to school. Superintendent Wallace explains that students will be able to cut through on the grass.

President Lahey asks what the budget expectation was for this project. Superintendent Wallace answers that the expectation was \$55,000 for the sidewalk portion, but the scope of the project expanded to drainage, asphalt replacement, driveway and replacement of the sidewalk around the trees. Commissioner Murdock says that the board usually sees an aggregate number in the budget each year for ADA projects. He asks if the district will spend more than the budgeted \$175,000 this year to complete the six projects identified, which he is in favor of. President Lahey says that the information to answer that question will be presented at the Committee of the Whole this month. He adds that with debt service rolling off after this year, some ADA projects may be moved into next year. However, this becomes a tax levy discussion, which the board will have at the Committee of the Whole meeting later in August. Director Lindgren states that there are two projects that would be moved to 2027, one at the CRC and one at Lakeview Center. Those sites are still fully accessible at present.

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

6.2 Consideration of Resolution 2026-R-3: A Resolution Authorizing and Approving OSLAD Grant Program Application

Commissioner Frazier moves and Commissioner Murdock seconds a motion authorizing and approving the OSLAD grant program application.

Director Lindgren explains that there is a resolution allowing the district to pursue the OSLAD grant for acquisition, which would allow the district to pursue potentially purchasing a property. Prior to the board meeting this evening there was a meeting for the community to gather and look at drawings and renderings of what the space could look like. There will be another opportunity to gather and look at these renderings on Wednesday evening at the Wallace Bowl. Commissioner Frazier states that she is very proud of the district for taking this approach which she believes is ahead of the discussion which our community appreciates and seeks from the board and she is very supportive. President Lahey says this is a very methodical approach to survey the community to seek not only a grant from the state but



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also validate any ideas we have in this area. The district strategic and comprehensive plans both call for goals that would be achieved through specific types of land acquisition. The agency is seeking input and validation from the community for this endeavor.

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

7.0 Staff Reports

7.1 Executive Director Report

Director Lindgren gives his report to the board.

POOL UPDATE

The final pool schedule has been released for the remainder of the season. Every year, we work to finalize the end of summer pool schedule based on staffing availability which typically takes place in mid-July when we are able to guarantee staffing needed to safely operate the pool. Staff posted a flyer on August 7th to the public laying out the final public swim and post-season lap swimming. We have been balancing pool construction and maintenance work necessary to maintain our aging pool. We are pleased to be able to offer extended lap swimming through September 13th and will start work on the pool September 14th.

Commissioner Murdock explains that the non-resident fees are supposed to reflect the difference between what residents pay in taxes versus non-residents. Going back to 2013 the district experimented with non-resident fees, increasing them significantly to maintain the revenue and have fewer non-residents providing that revenue. Because of the sharp increase in non-resident fees, revenues decreased significantly which created budget issues. Commissioner Clarke points out that students go back to school beginning at the start of August, which significantly decreases the number of employees available to work at the pool. Commissioner Frazier states that because the pool is so heavily used, that makes it an amenity we want to maintain well.

POOL & BEACH FINAL AUDITS

Our risk management agency performs random audits of our lifeguards at both the pool and the beach each season. I am pleased to announce that both locations received the highest level of scoring! This is a true testament to the leadership and dedication of those teams, resulting in the highest quality of safety for our families. We will also receive a financial rebate from our risk management agency for this positive review. Director Lindgren calls out Sayre Froelich and Megan White and the great service they provide with the teams at the pool and beach.



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SUNSET OVER THE BEACH

The Ouilmette Foundation held the Sunset Over The Beach event on Saturday, August 1st at the Lakeview Center. Because of the weather, we shifted from the beach to the Lakeview Center. A big thank you to the parks staff for the quick pivot and to the Foundation for helping get the word out to our attendees. It was a great night with good conversations and connections. Thank you to all of those that came out and helped support the fundraising efforts of the Foundation.

RECREATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Internal meetings have taken place for the feasibility study and we have labeled this comprehensive recreation feasibility study the “Future of Rec in Wilmette.” Wight & Company have toured the CRC & Centennial Recreation Complex and met with the recreation team to learn more about our facilities and programming. The next few weeks will be spent gathering information, with community touchpoints at key community programs and events. We are currently planning a large outreach effort at the Block Party on August 29th. You can go to our website to see a dedicated page and link to a survey. The survey can also be found at all of our facilities for the next 3-4 weeks.

DOGS & DRONES TRAINING

We have been in conversations with the Fire Department and are happy to be able to assist in a training location at Gillson Park to simulate a lost person drill. This is a specialized group of first responder volunteers that use a combination of drones and dogs to perform a search and rescue operation. The drill will take place on August 11 from 8am -2pm. We expect it to be very minimal in regards to disruption at the beach and park. We are happy to provide a location for a very important life safety partner.

BLOCK PARTY

On August 29th from noon to 10pm, the park district in partnership with the Village, will be hosting the annual Block Party. Sponsorships for this event are at a new high, helping cover the costs of this amazing free event in partnership with the Village. This year, it will have the community’s first drone show at 8:45pm directly over Village Hall, allowing us to light up the sky for America’s 250th anniversary. The Block Party will have family friendly activities, food vendors, drinks, live music and much more. The park district will have a tent to engage our community for the Future of Rec in Wilmette, so look out for us and stop by to learn more and give feedback.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks & Planning:

Centennial Ice cooling tower project continues on schedule, with ComEd work complete, equipment ordered, and construction preparations underway; Hibbard Park pickleball court repairs are being coordinated.



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Parks crews maintained facilities while supporting summer programming, storm recovery, and Independence Day events across the District.

Staff completed an in-house restoration of the Mallinckrodt irrigation system for under \$4,000, avoiding an estimated \$120,000 replacement cost.

Building Services:

Completed preventative maintenance and facility improvements, including CRC fitness area preparation, LED lighting upgrades, roof repairs, and Centennial electrical coordination. Continued routine maintenance, inspections, vendor coordination, and operational support while adapting outdoor work schedules during poor air quality events.

Recreation:

Recreation staff successfully managed weather- and air-quality-related operational challenges while maintaining a strong focus on participant safety and communication. Summer camps remained highly successful, with strong participation across programs and several camps exceeding prior-year enrollment. Staff are now preparing for the upcoming fall season. Recreation continued to expand programming through new camps, facility improvements, successful performances and events, and growing participation across fitness, arts, sports, and community offerings.

Finance:

District remains in a strong financial position, finishing June \$1.9 million ahead of budget, driven by strong membership revenue, grant funding, and continued expense management.

Operating expenses continue to trend below budget, including more than \$300,000 in salary savings from vacancies and lower staffing needs.

Finance staff advanced the Capital Reserve Funding procedure, completed annual unclaimed property notifications, and began development of the 2027 budget timeline.

Technology:

Completed major infrastructure and software updates, including server platforms, wireless access points, financial software, email systems, VPN, and IT ticketing software. Configured security enhancements for the upcoming Wilmette events website, replaced a failed network switch, and coordinated laptop BIOS and driver updates district-wide.



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7.3 Golf Report

Adam Kwiatkoski explains that July was a difficult month for golf due to weather and smoke-related closures. Rounds are about 15% down compared to the last couple of years. However, when the course is open it is still packed. Most of the outings take place in August and September. We also hold tryouts for a number of schools in the area. Commissioner Murdock asks how many days the course was closed or users were prohibited from using golf carts. Adam explains that installing the cart path has changed operations significantly and users are able to have cart-path-only days, as opposed to not being able to use golf carts. Adam says there were four and a half days that the golf course was closed, which accounts for 15% of the month. The last six weeks have been tough on golf course superintendents, and we certainly appreciate ours.

Nick Marfise, Golf Course Superintendent, gives his annual presentation to the board. His presentation can be seen on the park district website. Nick details the issues and solutions of the golf course this season so far. He also covers the 2026 capital projects that have been completed and explains the impact of those projects on operations.

7.5 Operations Report

Superintendent Thomas gives her report to the board. She highlights the Wilmette Block Party, which is coming up on August 29th. Superintendent Thomas talks about being at the beach when the audit was taking place. She noticed that staff stayed calm and continued doing their jobs as usual.

Regarding the Block Party, we have over 25 vendors in the Kid Zone and over 20 vendors in the Sponsor Zone this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone for this great event!

7.5.1 Digital Marketing Report

JP McNamara gives his presentation to the board. His presentation includes an overview of general district trends, email campaigns, social media metrics, website analytics and digital program guides. The full presentation can be accessed through the park district website. President Lahey gives an overview of how the marketing department has improved district communications with the community.

8.0 Adjournment

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

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

Minutes approved on: **September 14, 2026**