



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF PALATINE PARK DISTRICT
Village of Palatine, 200 East Wood Street in Palatine
Second Floor- Village Room B
April 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

These minutes are not a verbatim record of what was said during the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Ruff

Commissioners Present

Terry Ruff, President
Jennifer Rogers, Vice-President
Susan Gould
Joe Petricca
Greg Sammons

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director	Chris Cronkhite, Superintendent of Trades
Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance	Amy Vito, Superintendent of Parks
Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant	Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities
Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance	Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services	Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.
Dayell Houzenga, Superintendent of District Services	Lisa Swan, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning	

Visitors and Citizens Present

Frank Skorski, Resident	Diane Lancour, Palatine Township Senior Center
Andrew Paine, Attorney, Tressler LLP	Bob Haas, Palatine Township Senior Center

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of April 14, 2025, was approved. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented. By a roll call vote, the following items on the consent agenda were approved: Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2025, Executive Session minutes of March 10, 2025, and Warrant #3. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Visitors and Citizens' Comments

Commissioner Ruff asked Mr. Skorski to please keep his comments to Park District business and refrain from personal attacks.

Frank Skorski: Mr. Skorski asked, What do you consider a personal attack, just for the record? If I say, I don't believe you're doing a good job, is that a personal attack?

Commissions Sammons replied to Mr. Skorski that it would be great if he had something new, valuable and constructive to share.

Mr. Skorski said that's all he does and asked why the park district is wasting money on a survey; Commissioner Sammons answered that we are not, and Mr. Skorski continued, stating: I noticed you guys did not respond. Very strange. This is one of the few committees, whatever you call yourself, that does not allow conversation between the committee and the public, which you're supposed to serve. I think it's pathetic. You go to the school board, and you have discourse. There is none here and that's why you guys frequently do a lot of crazy, crazy things; like this survey you're collecting. How much money are you spending on that, Greg? Commissioner Sammons explained that we do the same thing every 10 years; it's nothing new. In response to Mr. Skorski's comment that he doesn't listen to the people, Commissioner Sammons responded yes, we sure do. Mr. Skorski proceeded to ask; Can I have that in writing? Somebody put that in the notes. Greg said he listens to the people. You're going to interview approximately 3000 people, have a couple of these dog and pony shows throughout the district to ask people if they want a green wall or a brown wall or a purple wall. You're going to ask them what they think about recreational rooms when we have more than enough recreational rooms. If we don't, we have the library, the board of education, etcetera. We delivered to this board - 6,000 requests to keep the stables open, but nobody listens! We delivered about 350 emails and letters. Unfortunately, my friend, the mayor, got a lot of copies and had to explain that he has no power over you. I guess no one has any power over you except maybe the big guy in Springfield or maybe an investigative department within the big guy's state organization. Now, I can't believe that you guys are going through this dog and pony show to appear that you're doing something. It's a complete waste of money. I noticed you have a police officer here again tonight and you had one at the meeting I attended the other day. I was wondering how much these officer's cost. I don't see them at the school board or the library board. Why does the park district need a cop? Now with regard to ideas to try and help this organization save money so that the taxpayers could perhaps get a little savings. I would like to know why we don't sell Juniper Park. To me, Juniper Park is not accessible to the majority of Palatine residents. They have to walk over the Inverness Country Club, walk through Inverness, and walk through a part of Hoffman Estate before you can use the park. I'm suggesting that this board, sell trade or do whatever you do behind closed doors in an executive meeting, which is prohibited. The purchase and sale of land and the hiring and firing of bodies is a perfectly legal thing to do during the executive session. Well, I'm suggesting you sell it, take the cash and put it into the stables. You may have illegally closed the stables on July 13th, and then legally closed them on July 8th. Again, nobody listened to the people. 90 - 95% of the people that use it are women. The little girls who came here and cried, you guys didn't give a damn. It's incomprehensible. I hope you sleep well at night.

Presentation of Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council (PTSCC)

Director Palmer introduced the Executive Director of PTSCC, Diane Lancour to give her annual presentation which included the following highlights: in 2024, we served 3,424 people, 1,816 of them were in the recreation department for trips and daily activities. 1,608 received social services from our staff there. We had 374 members last year and already we're at 260 starting in the new year. They do not have to be a member to participate in our activities. There is a member fee and if you're a non-member, you pay an extra dollar or two. There is no charge for people who want to drop in for coffee and do some of the other free activities. Our partnership with you, the Park District has been going on for over 50 years. You were a very critical member of the community of agencies that helped create us as a 501C3. 25 years ago, that partnership was strengthened when you purchased 505 South Quentin Street, so we

were able to have one location. Before that we were at the township, I think we were at the library and a little church. Now the beauty of that is we have a new sign out front and people know where we're at. I think that's really helped our membership and the awareness in the community. The critical services we offer, such as the social service team which helps guide the 50 plus people on discounts with benefits to help give them a financial peace of mind and become more involved. Statistics show that if a person is less stressed about their finances, they are more willing to be engaged in the community. I believe that we share the same goals and it's a real pleasure to work with you. Diane introduced Bob, the PTSCC Chair; we have 12, very strong, committee people so we're thankful for that. Diane closed by asking the Board if they have any questions. Commissioner Gould said that they are doing a great job and Commissioner Sammons commented on another fantastic budget and that he enjoyed the survey comments. He said that goes a long way to showing the value of the services provided.

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of the Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council (PTSCC) 2025 Funding Request. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the PTSCC Funding Request in the amount of \$262,643.77 for the 2025 year, payable bi-annually in the amount of \$131,321.89. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of the Celtic Cup Special Use Permit. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Special Use Permit for the 2025 Celtic Cup. Commissioner Gould mentioned that the Special Use Permit they checked off Soccer Tournament as if that covers everything. However, the next permit request for Palatine Community Baseball Softball (PCBS) is requesting amplified sound as late as 11:00 p.m., which is in violation of our affiliates' agreement when the lights were installed at Hamilton. She would like the Board to hold fast to that. Commissioner Gould is addressing the two permit requests together because PCBS asked for it, but Celtic did not; she would like Celtic to clarify what they are asking for. She is concerned there will an amplifier and want to make sure that they follow the rules put in place when Hamilton was developed. Every year she has remind everyone of the agreement because the houses were there first. Director Rea stated that our Athletic Manager has talked to PCBS about this due to the issues with sound at their tournament last year. The PCBS President has discussed it at their Board Meeting and Director Rea has reminded them of the sound study that was done per that agreement; moving forward we are confident they will be abiding by those rules. In response to Commissioner Goulds comment about the 11pm time listed on the Permit Request; Director Rea replied that they will be given a time that they will have to shut it down. Commissioner Gould also wants that applied to baseball and remind them of the rules again. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Palatine Community Baseball Softball (PCBS) Special Use Permit Request. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Special

Use Permit for PCBS which includes amplified sound and permitted fields for the following events: Casey Pohl Tournament, Stingray Showdown, Championship Weekend, and the Palatine Pride Tournament. Commissioner Gould noted that the permit request is for amplified sound up to 10:30. That is too late; 10:00 is the cutoff. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of Bid for The Grove playground installation. Commissioner Petricca moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Landscape Structures, in the amount not to exceed \$311,590.00 for the acquisition and installation of playground equipment and pathways for The Grove Park through Sourcewell. In response to Commissioner Gould's question, Director Holder answered that The Grove is completely new; needs path work, grading and accessibility there. Commissioner Gould stated that she was a little shocked at the cost. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of Bid for the Degner playground replacement. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion That the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Landscape Structures, in the amount not to exceed \$227,070.00 for the acquisition and installation of playground equipment and pathways for Wally Degner Park through Sourcewell. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of bid for the Tracked Spider Lift. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners reject the lowest bidders, Osprey Industries Corporation of Waco, TX, Wellbuilt Equipment of Crete, IL, and Alexander Equipment of Lisle, IL and approve the lowest qualified bidder, Vermeer of Aurora, IL in the amount not to exceed \$143,949.00 for one (1) Tracked Spider Lift and both alternates. Commissioner Gould asked what this will be used for; Director Holder explained that it's primarily for tree removal; it is a 70-foot bucket truck that fits through a standard doorway so it can be used inside gymnasiums if needed. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Affiliate Agreement for Palatine Bike Palatine Club. Commissioner Petricca moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Special Interest Group agreement between Palatine Park District and Bike Palatine Club. Commissioner Gould commented she finds it interesting that we're forming a new affiliate group. We haven't done that for quite a while and there were some other groups in the past that hinted they would like to become affiliates, but we didn't take that step. She just wanted to point out that it's interesting we have a bike club that thinks it's going to be to their advantage, and it probably will be to become one of our affiliates. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Resolution #25-04 confirming the Park District's Duties and Obligations under Easement E-351 with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD). Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the Board move to approve Resolution 25-04, a resolution with MWRD recognizing the park district's maintenance responsibilities as outlined in the Temporary Easement agreement dated March 12, 1981, for the proposed sidewalk extension project at Plum Grove Reservoir with the Village of Schaumburg. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Executive Director Reports

Director Rea reported that the paving contractor was out at Meadowlark Park today doing some finish grading. We are hopeful they will be back on site this week to start the paving as the plants should be opening up here in April. We also received the signed paperwork from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to extend the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) project so we can get that done in the timeframe needed which is believed to be through October. As part of the process, you have to audit everything and submit the final paperwork so that gives us plenty of time to get it all done.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould was at the Hound Dog Egg Hunt on Saturday. It was very successful, there were over 100 dogs there and it was a lot of fun. The only comment she had was regarding payment to Sponsor the event; they couldn't take a credit card, so she had to write a check to the park district. She thought that was awkward in this day and age and just wanted to mention that. Overall, it was a very nice event, well run and the weather cooperated.

Commissioner Rogers gave a shout out to Lisa Swan for her wonderful presentation at Women in Leisure Services (WILS), she did a great talk about Ted Lasso and leadership; it was a great session. She also congratulated Terry on his re-election to the Park Board.

Executive Session

President Ruff requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and convene in Executive Session under Open Meetings Act, Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) personnel matters involving specific employees (discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District). Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by a roll call.

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:20 p.m.

Return to Open Session

President Ruff entertained a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:55 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding the Executive Session Section 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) Open Meetings Act for discussion of personnel matters involving specific employees. There was no action at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Park Board on this date, Commissioner Sammons moved that the regular meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

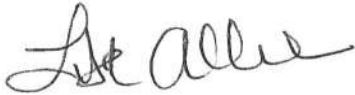
ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Terry Ruff
President

<u>2025 Park Board Meetings</u>	
April 28, 2025	May 27, 2025
May 12, 2025	