



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
 May 11, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Commissioner Sammons

Commissioners Present

- Greg Sammons, President
- Jennifer Rogers, Vice-President
- Susan Gould
- Joe Petricca
- Michelle Rushing

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

- Benjamin Rea, Executive Director
- Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance
- Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant
- Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services
- Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance
- Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities

- Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning
- Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation Facilities
- Katie Waszak, Supt. of Recreation Programming
- Alex Giannikoulis, Superintendent of Trades
- Marty Vyeniolo, Cutting Hall Technical Director
- Natalie Wood, Recreation Program Manager

Visitors and Citizens Present

- Shannon McGuire, Resident
- Gina Kiefer, Resident

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of May 11, 2026, was approved. The result of the roll call vote follows:

- AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons
 - NAY: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Motion carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. Commissioner Rushing moved and Commissioner Petricca 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 April 27, 2026, Closed Session Minutes of April 27, 2026, and Warrant #4. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

- AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons
 - NAY: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Motion carried

Visitors and Citizen's Comments

Shannon McGuire and Gina Kiefer: Shannon and Jennifer, who live on Russet Way, expressed concerns with the ongoing noise, parking, and safety issues near their homes. Shannon stated that when soccer practices are held in the middle of the day, coaches often play loud music through speakers. As a resident who works from home, the noise is disruptive and makes it difficult to keep windows open. Gina is happy to see that kids are playing outside, but the combination of aluminum bats, dinking the ball all day, yelling from the parks, and the music coming down the street from amplification when it's not allowed. Additional concerns included unsafe driving and littering during tournament weekends, as well as the issue of kids racing on e-bikes up and down the bike path behind their houses with no apparent enforcement. They questioned why noise exceptions were approved before resident concerns were addressed, what plans are in place to ensure amplification only occurs during approved times, how parking and traffic will be managed during tournaments, and whether the neighborhood will receive future communication regarding events and enforcement efforts.

President Sammons and Director Rea acknowledged that e-bikes and motorized bikes have become a growing issue throughout the area, noting that staff and police are actively working on enforcement and education efforts. They reported that the state is updating regulations, although technology is advancing faster than existing laws. They also shared that the police department plans to monitor bike paths with radar equipment, educate riders exceeding the 12-mph speed limit, and enforce existing ordinances, including posted speed limit signage on the paths.

Commissioner Gould added that Plum Grove and Russet Way are not full-width streets and are not suitable for parking on both sides, particularly during large tournament weekends. She noted that Celtic Soccer sent the Board a letter outlining plans for Labor Day weekend, which she offered to share with Shannon and Gina. However, she feels that the letter does not address the larger issue of excessive traffic and limited parking caused by the number of teams invited to tournaments. Commissioner Gould expressed frustration that the root issue—too many vehicles for the available parking capacity—has not been adequately addressed.

Commissioner Rushing shared that she used to help run some affiliate programs and offered to work with them to encourage attendees to use designated parking areas outside of the major tournament weekends.

Superintendent of Recreation Programming Katie Waszak introduced two new employees recently hired: Marty Vyenielo, Technical Director at Cutting Hall, and Natalie Wood, Recreation Program Manager. The Board welcomed Marty and Natalie to the Palatine Park District.

New Business

The Park Board began the Annual Meeting with the election process, and nominations for Park Board President during the 2026-2027 fiscal year were opened. Commissioner Rogers nominates Commissioner Sammons for President. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the nomination of Commissioner Sammons for the office of Park Board President.

Commissioner Gould reminded everyone that they previously discussed rotating officer positions and restated support for doing so. She acknowledged that Greg has done and will continue to do a fine job, but she would like to return to the previous practice of rotating offices. She feels that rotation is important to provide everyone with the opportunity to serve in different roles and increase public recognition of officers. Commissioner Rogers agreed that it would be beneficial to change the offices next year, but she does not want to return to annual rotations. From the consensus of the Park Board, and with no further nominations offered, the Board of Park Commissioners agree that the nomination for Park Board President be closed; therefore, Commissioner Sammons will be nominated for the position of Board President for the 2026-2027 term. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

President Sammons asked for nominations for the office of Park Board Vice President for the 2026-2027 year. President Sammons nominates Commissioner Rogers for Vice President. Commissioner Sammons moved and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the nomination of Commissioner Rogers for the office of Park Board Vice-President. From the consensus of the Park Board, and with no further nominations offered, the Board of Park Commissioners agree that the nomination for Park Board Vice-President be closed; therefore, Commissioner Rogers will be nominated for the position of Board Vice-President for the 2026-2027 term. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

President Sammons moved that the appointment of Andrea Fisher for Park Board Treasurer for the 2026-2027 year be approved. Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. From the consensus of the Park Board, Andrea Fisher is to be appointed for the position of Board Treasurer for the 2026-2027 term. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

President Sammons moved that the appointment of Lisa Allie for Park Board Secretary for the 2026-2027 year be approved. Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the appointment of Lisa Allie for the office of Park Board Secretary. From the consensus of the Park Board, Lisa Allie is to be appointed for the position of Board Secretary for the 2026-2027 term. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

President Sammons asked for approval for the Designation of Appointments for the 2026-2027 year. Commissioner Rogers made a motion and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the following appointments for May 12, 2026, through May 10, 2027. Ben Rea: Executive Director, Secretary Pro Tem, Representative to the Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), Representative to Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA), alternate to the Metro Risk Management Agency (MRMA), and Liaison to the Rotary Club of Palatine; Andrea Fisher: Compliance Officer and IMRF Authorized Agent; Ben Rea, Lisa Allie and Jennifer Garcia appointments as and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) officers; Jennifer Garcia, Secretary Pro Tem; Michelle Eckelberry appointment of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) officer; Cheryl Lufitz: Liaison to the Greater Palatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Park Foundation Liaison;

Commissioner Rushing: Liaison to PALS (Palatine Affiliate Leader Society); Colleen Palmer and Jim Holder appointments as ADA Representatives. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to approval of the Award of Bid for the Administration Center Remodeling Project. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidders and move to award Break Thru Enterprises, Lombard, IL; DBM Services, Mokena, IL; Sterling Commercial Roofing, Sterling, IL; IG Commercial, Elgin, IL; International Decorators, Barrington, IL; Rockford Carpet Land USA, Rockford, IL; Ascher Brothers, Chicago, IL; Colley Elevator, Bensenville, IL; Nelson Fire Protection, Rockford, IL; A&H Plumbing & Heating, Elk Grove Village, IL; Oak Brook Mechanical, Elmhurst, IL; Ascend Electric, Elgin, IL; and Chicagoland Paving, Lake Zurich, IL, for a total combined amount not to exceed \$6,306,048.00 for the Administration Center Remodeling Project. In response to Commissioner Roger's question about the budget, Director Rea reminded the board of the \$295,000 worth of allowances built into several trade contracts and the \$200,000 project contingency. If we were to remove the contingency and allowances, the project would be about 5% over the previous estimate. He also said that he is comfortable with the pricing, given the strong response of 90 contractors bidding on 13 trades. President Sammons requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Michelle Rushing, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval to Decommission Administrative Policy Numbers 2.01, 2.03, 2.04, 2.05.1, 2.05.2, 2.05.3, 2.06 and 2.06.1-2.06.4. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve the decommission of the following policies: 2.01 Forward Policy, 2.03 Definitions Policy, 2.04 Statement of Objectives, 2.05.1 Designations – Leadership Team, 2.05.2 Administrative Offices, 2.05.3 Corporate (General) Fund, 2.06 Official Records, 2.06.1 Designation of Records, 2.06.2 Records Location, 2.06.3 Records Security, and 2.06.4 Records Storage and Disposal. Director Eckelberry explained the rationale for decommissioning the policies, as they are deemed redundant or unnecessary. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

Executive Director Report

Director Rea shared an update on the Big Trucks event, with an estimated attendance of 3,000 to 4,000 people. The weather cooperated and was well run; he expressed his appreciation to all staff involved for their efforts. Director Rea also attended the legislative conference, where the Illinois Department of Early Childhood gave a presentation regarding the Senate Bill 3907. Their presentation did little to address concerns, so he reached out to our representatives again to let them know that we remain fundamentally opposed to what they're providing. The bill would require licensing for recreational programs, which is opposed by the parks and recreation community. Director Rea continued to say that the district supports

safety measures such as background checks; however, it does not support adding another agency to oversee Parks and Recreation. The district will continue to follow developments and remain engaged in the process.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Sammons noted that he was unable to attend the Legislative Conference this year but hopes to make it next year. Director Rea shared that Secretary of State Giannoulis attended the conference and advised them that legislation passed on e-bikes that morning, so changes are coming. Commissioner Gould commended staff for the success of the Big Trucks event. She commented on the nice weather and how fun it was seeing all the children walking around in their vests with big smiles. She also shared that her table held a raffle for a fire truck, which attracted many people, and noted some attendees coming from Indiana and Iowa.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Park Board on this date, Commissioner Rogers moved that the regular meeting be adjourned, and Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Greg Sammons
President

<u>2026 Park Board Meetings</u>		
May 26, 2026	August 10, 2026	November 9, 2026
June 8, 2026	August 24, 2026	November 23, 2026
June 22, 2026	September 14, 2026	December 14, 2026
July 13, 2026	October 12, 2026	
July 27, 2026	October 26, 2026	