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
September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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
Dayell Houzenga, Superintendent of District Services
Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities
Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning
Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
Amy Vito, Superintendent of Parks
Alex Giannikoulis, Superintendent of Trades

Visitors and Citizens Present
Jeff Service, Resident

Approval of Agenda
Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of August 24, 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 Petricca 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 August 24, 2026, and Warrant #8. 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
None

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Insurance Renewal and Annual Salary for the 2027 Fiscal Year. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded, that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the benefit levels for the 2027 plan year, as outlined in bullets 1-4 of the board summary, the 2027 salary ranges, and the 2027 merit pool of 4.25% for full-time staff. In response to Commissioner questions regarding dependent coverage, the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC), projected rate increases, and deductibles, Director Eckelberry explained the cost advantages of IPBC for the District's covered population. She reported that the District's rates remain below those of many peer districts, several of which are experiencing increases of up to 20%. She also noted that, through minor plan changes, the District was able to reduce the rate increases for its health coverage plans by approximately 5%. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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 Palatine Hills Golf Course Irrigation Intake Pipe Replacement. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Earthwerks Land Improvement & Development Inc., Lisle, IL, in the amount not to exceed $54,444.44 for the PHGC Irrigation Intake Pipe Replacement Project. Commissioner Sammons inquired about the golf course irrigation intake pipe. Director Holder explained that the existing pipe has deteriorated and is allowing debris into the irrigation system, creating potential risks to the pumps. He also provided details of the replacement plans. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

Motion carried

Executive Director Report

Director Rea reported that the Pumpkin Plunge, which included separate categories for younger and older children, was very well attended and had a waiting list. He also reported that the Mobile Emissions Testing event held at the Family Aquatic Center served 144 vehicles and received positive feedback from both participants and organizers. Due to the strong response and demonstrated community need, organizers expressed interest in returning for a future event. Staff is exploring potential dates next year and alternative traffic-flow arrangements to better accommodate participants. Additionally, he reported that the Festival of Cultures was well attended despite inclement weather and thanked staff for their efforts in supporting the District's busy schedule of community events. In response to a question from Commissioner Sammons, Director Rea noted that staff will explore holding the Pumpkin Plunge earlier next year, if feasible. He also reminded Commissioners that the SLSF CelebrateAbility Gala is scheduled for October 23 and invited interested Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Rogers attended the Festival of Cultures and shared positive feedback regarding the event. She noted that staff were enthusiastic, the performances were well received, and attendees enjoyed the event despite the weather. She commended staff for their efforts in making the event a success.

Commissioner Sammons spent time at the Celtic Tournament over the weekend, noting that it seemed well attended and well run.
Commissioner Petricca said that the parking seemed better.
Commissioner Gould added that the Police were pretty good at doing laps in the neighborhood and issued about 19 citations for parking violations. She also noted that the wind was blowing away from the neighborhood, so it wasn't quite as noisy as it has been in the past.

Commissioner Gould reported that the Assistant Principal at Sanborn Elementary School expressed interest in partnering with the District to provide activities and parent engagement opportunities at Falcon Park for students living in the Randville Village apartment complex. She asked Assistant Principal to submit a proposal outlining their needs and suggested contacting Partners for Our Communities (POC) to explore collaborative opportunities.
President Rea shared that he recently met with the new District 15 Superintendent and discussed opportunities to expand after-school programming and transportation support for underserved areas of the community. He noted that staff will continue exploring partnership opportunities with community organizations and the school district.

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: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:

Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:

Greg Sammons
President

2026 Park Board Meetings	
October 12, 2026	November 23, 2026
October 26, 2026	December 14, 2026
November 9, 2026	