

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS  
536 EAST AVENUE, LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS**

**FEBRUARY 09, 2026**

**President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioners Posey, Weber, Carter, Vear, Opyd

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold  
Director of Finance & HR Jamie Hollock  
Director of Recreation Kevin Miller  
Parks, Grounds & Planning Manager Tim White  
GM Facilities and Operations Mike Hay  
HR & Administration Coordinator Madonna Giampietro

OTHERS PRESENT: Rose Naseef, and Marian Honel-Wilson

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda and there was one. President Opyd explained that there would not be an action item to vote on for Item 11.1.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

President recognized that February is Black History Month and that we are celebrating diversity in the area. He encouraged people to attend the activities set up in the area, many organized by the CommUNITY Diversity Group.

Executive Director Bechtold announced that she is excited to introduce Tim White as our Parks, Grounds, & Planning Manager. Tim brings with him park district experience plus a degree in Horticulture and an MBA.

***Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)***

President Opyd mentioned that the public comments are limited to three minutes and commentors should state their name and address prior to their comment.

Marian Honel-Wilson, 950 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. La Grange, with the CommUNITY Diversity Group of the La Grange area thanked PDLG for their participation in the planning committee for the Building Inclusive Community conference.

**Consent Agenda**

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 12, 2026; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of January 12, 2026, Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated January 31, 2026; and Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for February dated February 09, 2026. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Carter, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Carter, Weber, Vear, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

**Staff Reports**

**Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold**

- Executive Director Bechtold presented her report. She highlighted that the Park District has been awarded a 2026 OSLAD grant in the amount of \$600,000 for improvements at Sedgwick Park. She added that additional projects from the referendum which were taken out previously are being reevaluated to see what we might be able to put back into the plans. This could include some additional work at Gordon Park which would delay bringing back Country Jam another year.

She reminded the board to complete their 2026 Cybersecurity Training and to be cautious with suspicious emails. She also announced that the Lynn Lacey Community Center grand opening would be Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 4pm-5pm.

Executive Director Bechtold opened the discussion on affiliate usage fees. Directors Hollock and Miller presented the proposed rental rates based on a cost recovery analysis and research of comparative field usage fees in surrounding areas. Commissioner Posey asked if the proposed fee structure eliminates the tiers model that is currently in effect. Executive Director Bechtold answered yes, there would no longer be tiers, it would be an across-the-board affiliate rate. Commissioner Posey also asked if there is any anticipated increase yearly, or will these fees be flat until the next rate increase. It was answered that staff are working through this to possibly include a CPI increase annually. President Opyd brought up how the operating budget for the Park District is higher than what is brought in through tax dollars, and that in order to keep the fields above a park district standard we can't just make that happen without charging a fee that is representative of the cost it takes to maintain the fields. Commissioner Weber asked if this issue has been discussed with the affiliate groups yet. Director Miller answered that he did communicate this to the soccer affiliates at a meeting in January, giving them the heads up that the discussion of a fee increase for 2027 would

be going to the board level. He indicated that it was important to communicate this as the affiliates will be planning their upcoming seasons soon and would need to know how the increase might impact their budget and fee structures. Executive Director Bechtold explained that staff is looking to get consensus on the proposed fee increase and that the final affiliate agreements will be brought back to the board for final approval. Commissioner Vear asked if there would be a difference in price between the various sized fields. Director Hollock explained that regardless of the size of the field, the cost recovery analysis was looked at from a whole perspective of cost for upkeeping of sport fields in total and the total of rental hours for all fields. Commissioner Carter asked about the fees of the surrounding park districts and if this increase in fees places the Park District of La Grange much higher than the competition. After an in depth discussion on the fields and how they are used, the difference in standard rates and premium rates for games, the pricing for surrounding park district fields, and the services that would be included in the rate increase or extra requests which would result in additional fees, President Opyd said that they are looking for a consensus to move forward with the increase in fees. He brought up the condition of our fields and wanted to note that if we move in the direction of increasing fees then we must deliver on an increased level of quality. The commissioners all agreed to move forward with an increase to fees while also being transparent with the affiliates. Commissioner Weber added that something should be added to the agreements that address the fees if an affiliate is acquired by private equity.

**Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock**

- Director Hollock presented her report. She noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> installment tax bills for 2025 have been pushed back to an April 1, 2026, deadline.

**Director of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- Director Miller presented his report.

**GM of Facilities and Operations Mike Hay**

- General Manager Hay presented his report. He added that the Fitness Center is making the transition to staffing group fitness classes in-house, starting May 1, 2026.

**Action Items**

*Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance O26-01 An Ordinance Adopting the Personnel Policy Manual Amended and Restated as of February 9, 2026, for the Park District of La Grange*

Executive Director Bechtold presented the updated Personnel Policy Manual which was comprehensively reviewed and updated with the assistance of HR Source. She added that there is a slight change to Section 846- Bring Your Own Device. The change is to remove the word remotely as staff currently do

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not have the ability to delete items from their own device remotely. A couple spelling/grammatical errors were also pointed out to correct.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 026-01, an Ordinance Adopting the Personnel Policy Manual as Amended and Restated as of February 9, 2026. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Posey, Weber, Carter, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

Commissioner Vear asked if we can explore possible incentives for commissioners as a way to attract possible candidates to the board. Executive Director Bechtold answered that this is something we can look into, with guidance from our legal team.

*Discussion and/or Approval of Temporary Construction License for La Grange Little League, Sedgwick Park*

Executive Director presented La Grange Little League’s request for approval to complete professional maintenance services at Sedgwick Park using Simmons Landscaping. President Opyd asked when this would take place. It was answered this would take place in the spring, prior to the referendum work at Sedgwick.

Commissioner Posey moved to approve the Simmons Landscaping field maintenance services for Sedgwick Park in the amount of \$6,200 per Estimate No. 0010504 and \$19,000 per Estimate No. 0010557, as presented (total cost \$25,200). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Weber, Carter, Vear, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

**Board Business**

**Old Business**

**New Business**

Executive Director explained to the board that she will be sending them proofs of 5ft x 7ft signs that La Grange Little League would like to put up on the batting cages at Sedgwick Park. She explained that their current agreement restricts signage amount and size.

**Committee Reports**

*Administration Committee*

No report at this time.

*Parks and Facilities Committee*

No report at this time.

*Recreation & Cultural Programming Committee/ Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee*

No report at this time

**Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)**

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, expressed her thoughts on the fees for field usage and the opportunity costs associated with a larger field, that it would make sense to charge more for larger spaces. She also introduced herself as someone who cares about the environment, to Tim White the new Manager of Parks, Grounds, & Planning.

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Posey thanked Rose Naseef for being an “environmental conscious” in our community and for attending meetings to advocate for what she believes in and providing her thoughtful comments with the board. She also applauded the staff for receiving another OSLAD Grant which is another example of the quiet methodical work that goes on behind the scenes at PDLG.

Commissioner Vear gave Marion Honel-Wilson a shout-out as a “social conscious” in our community. He also mentioned his experience at the IAPD Conference was fun and informative.

Commissioner Weber welcomed Tim White to the team. He also recognized the staff for their work on the Personnel Policy Manual and their work on the OSLAD Grant.

President Opyd reminded everyone about the Lacey Community Center grand opening on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**Executive Session**

At 7:05 P.M. President Opyd asked for a motioned to move to go into executive session for Item 10.4 Review of Personnel, 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1). The motion was so moved by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Weber, Vear, Carter, Posey, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

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At 8:19 P.M. Commissioner Opyd asked for a motion for the Board to rise from Executive Session. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Carter, Weber, Posey, Opyd  
NAYES: None  
ABSENT: None

**Action Items Discussed in Executive Session**

None

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Posey moved for adjournment at 8:20 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

  
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Brian Opyd, President

  
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Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary  
*Approved March 9, 2026*