

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

AUGUST 11, 2025

Vice President Vear called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners Carter, Posey, Vear

ABSENT: Commissioners Weber and Opyd

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Director of Finance & HR Jamie Hollock
Director of Recreation Kevin Miller
GM of Parks Maintenance Larry Buckley
GM of Facilities and Operations Mike Hay
HR & Administration Coordinator Madonna Giampietro

OTHERS PRESENT: John Pluto, Martin Calik, Carla Carter, Rose Naseef,
Beck Lorentzen

Vice President Vear welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. Executive Director Bechtold announced that next month there will be a BINA public hearing regarding the sale of our 2025 general obligation bonds. She added that this is something we do every year.

Vice President Vear announced that it was time for public comments. He reminded guests that for the public comments section of the meeting, to please state your name and address and limit your comments to 3 minutes.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments

Martin Calik, 616 Selborne Road Riverside, representing AYSO 300 Region, stated that they are in the final planning stages of setting their schedule and getting final registrations for this upcoming fall season. He said the numbers will be similar to last year, so 950 to 1,000 La Grange area children will be playing in their league. He mentioned that AYSO will sign a letter of support for the Sedgwick OSLAD grant application and added some thoughts on that grant. He added that as a general consensus with all the other sports, they want to be collaborative, and they want to make sure all the sports have the ability to use the fields, but he just wanted to make sure that they let us know that there is a bit of a squeeze being felt since the addition of flag football.

Becky Lorentzen, 103 E. Cossitt La Grange, a representative from the Community Diversity Group, informed the board that the annual Unity Rally will be September 14th at the Village Hall and she will bring over a flyer.

Consent Agenda

Vice President Vear announced that with the current members in attendance, the board could not approve Item 3.1 the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 14, 2025. Vice President Vear asked for a motion to approve Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated July 31, 2025; and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for August dated August 11, 2025. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Carter, Posey, Vear

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Weber and Opyd

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Executive Director Bechtold had a few things to add to her report. She stated that TSC is continuing to progress with their testing at Sedgwick. They found similar results as the first testing, and no volatiles were detected, so capping remains the recommended direction for the site. TSC and Wight & Company will be attending our next meeting to present the results, and Wight will address the overall plans including drainage. Executive Director Bechtold announced that there is a tentative soft opening for Viola Park with the fence coming down on August 27, 2025 (ahead of schedule). She added that we're looking to do the grand opening on Wednesday, September 3rd at 4 p.m. Executive Director Bechtold presented her report including the discussion of Gordon Park, she wanted to make sure that the board saw in her report about the handball and the shelter at Gordon, that we're going to move in a different direction, to eliminate the Gordon Park small pavilion that was going to be put on the side and instead, we will proceed with an open-air pavilion over the bleachers on the asphalt in front of the handball courts, which will be more cost-effective and require less maintenance. She added that she exchanged emails with Mike (Zahorik) from the handball group, and he was excited about this change. Commissioner Vear asked what the material of the tarp is. General Manager Buckley answered that it is like a solid canvas mesh. He added that it won't be left up year-round so, as Executive Director Bechtold stated, we can get approximately 5-7 years of use from the tarp.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report. She pointed out that we've passed

the second draft stage in the audit process and we're now in final writing. It will be finalized and ready to be presented at next month's board meeting.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report.

GM of Operations and Facilities Mike Hay

- General Manager Hay presented his report.
Commissioner Posey asked if we have ever thought about having off-season training for the different sports affiliates, like personal training etc. She mentioned that many players are looking for more training once their season ends, and that could be a revenue source to explore.
General Manager Hay answered that it is certainly something we can investigate.

GM of Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley presented his report.
Executive Director Bechtold reminded the public and board that currently several parks are closed due to construction. Rotary Park, Community Center and adjacent park, Waiola and Spring Parks are all closed for construction. Elm Park is partially closed. The playground is still open, but the basketball court is blocked off. Denning and Gordon, we are still waiting for the MWRD permits, so construction has not started. She advised the public to check the website as we have been trying to keep that up to date, but dates are subject to change.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Updated OSLAD Site Plan (Rain Garden Addition).
Executive Director Bechtold explained that staff are requesting approval from the board to amend the site plan for Sedgwick Park for the 2026 OSLAD Grant by replacing the pollinator garden with a rain garden and boardwalk and taking out the volleyball court lighting from the OSLAD scope to include it in the overall park lighting package to support better pricing.

Commissioner Posey moved to approve the 2026 OSLAD amended site plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Posey, Carter, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Weber, and Opyd

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Discussion and/or Approval of Resolution R25-03 a Resolution Declaring Surplus Property.

Executive Director Bechtold presented that staff recommend the Board of Commissioners approve Resolution 25-03 seeking to dispose of or sell the items listed in Exhibit A, also adding a Stairmaster which is broken to the list. Commissioner Vear asked if we are going to be donating any of the playgrounds and Executive Director Bechtold indicated that two of the three playgrounds were going to be donated.

Commissioner Posey moved to approve Resolution R25-03, *Declaring Surplus Property*, as recommended by staff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Facilities License Agreement with the Catholic Bishop of Chicago (Saint Francis Xavier BASE Site).

Executive Director Bechtold explained that as part of the district's renewal agreement process, documents are reviewed by staff and sent to Ancel and Glink for thorough review of all legal matters. She added that the only change is that the usage fee was increased from \$300/month to \$400/month.

Executive Director Bechtold asked for a motion to approve the term sheet with the Catholic Bishop of Chicago for the annual amount of \$3600, with final agreement approval by the Executive Director and legal counsel. It was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioner Posey, Carter, Vear
NAYES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Weber and Opyd

Board Business

Old Business

New Business

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 Stove Ave, La Grange, proposed “a friend of the park district” program, or a volunteer opportunity to help with native planting. People approach her all the time about how they can help with projects like the pollinator garden or native plantings. Possibly even if we could do more at the recreation center, she believes there is an opportunity worth considering.

Carla Carter, 62 Dover Ave. La Grange, asked when the Gilbert Park project will begin. Executive Director Bechtold answered that Gilbert and Sedgwick Parks are part of our 2026 projects.

Board Comments


Commissioner Posey acknowledged the massive undertaking of the project manager for all the different projects that are happening in the parks. She expressed how exciting it is to see photographs and to hear from the public about how excited they are to see the change in the parks. She added that it is so satisfying to see progress and said “bravo” to everyone on staff especially Executive Director Bechtold.

Commissioner Vear had a few comments. First, regarding the Little League State tournament. He thought it was phenomenal. He said that it was really cool to see all the teams come in and the players get all excited. He thought the way they took care of the fields to get the games in even through severe weather was amazing. He mentioned how the Gurrie Middle School running team uses the track at Sedgwick and how it brings him back to when he would bike to the park when he was a kid. There were like 50 bikes there. He said that it is just really neat to see people using the park. Finally, he addressed the “Friends of the Park” idea. He likes the idea as an informal group and was actually thinking in front of the recreation center might be a good area that can be used for a group wanting to volunteer.


Vice President Vear announced that there would be no executive session tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

Vice President Vear moved for adjournment at 6:28 P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved September 8, 2025