

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

**JANUARY 12, 2026**

**President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:02 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  
GM Facilities and Operations Mike Hay  
HR & Administration Coordinator Madonna Giampietro

OTHERS PRESENT: L. Christianson, Martin Calik, and Rose Naseef.

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda and there were none.

**Communications, Presentations & Declarations**

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

Martin Galik, 616 Selbourne Road, Riverside, representing AYSO, had a few items he wanted to mention to the board. First, he thanked the Park District for their continued support for the AYSO program. Secondly, with the referendum projects happening at our parks, he would like to know which fields are going to be available for the spring 2026 season. Finally, he wanted to advise the board that AYSO is willing to assist financially with sodding for some of the fields.

**Consent Agenda**

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2025; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 08, 2025; Item 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting of December 08, 2025; Item 3.4 Approval of the Financial Reports dated December 31, 2025; and Item 3.5 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for January dated January 12, 2026. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner

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Weber, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

**Staff Reports**

**Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold**

- Executive Director Bechtold presented her report. There were a few updates to her report. She let the board know that the Cyber Security Training for 2026 has been sent to all employees and commissioners, and they should check their email for that training link. She also advised them to keep an eye on their email for the Statement of Economic Interest which will be coming soon for them to complete. She announced that the Park District will be having the Community Center Grand Opening on February 13, 2026, from 4pm-5pm with a private event immediately following. She also let the board know about a ComEd incentive program we will be taking part in for the Recreation Center which will save about \$90,000 on a total of around \$112,000 lighting project. She added that not only will we save on the initial costs of this project, but also, over time, with these being LED lights, our energy usage will go down. Another addition to her report was an update from USTA (US Tennis Association) for the grant for 105,000, they are waiting for additional information on the asphalt and once we get that information to them, we should hear back from them on the grant. She also added that we have still not heard back regarding the OSLAD Grant for Sedgwick Park.

Executive Director Bechtold informed the board that staff are going to start looking at our affiliate agreements. One item to be determined will be the field availability as some of our outdoor athletic programs grow, so will our need for field usage. She added that another consideration while looking at the affiliate agreements will be cost recovery as our current fees do not meet the cost of maintaining the fields for the usage happening. A discussion followed with Director Hollock giving a breakdown of how the cost recovery numbers were determined and the board engaged in a discussion regarding the cost recovery numbers and asked if a summary of those numbers could be provided. The discussion also focused on whether this means that the fees will need to be increased for the affiliates. Executive Director Bechtold stated that the purpose of bringing this information to the board is to make them aware that staff will start working on the agreements and fees will be investigated including surrounding neighborhood comparative fees and possibly taking over some maintenance which historically have been provided by the affiliates. Staff also proposed removing the tiers within

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the agreements and the Board were in favor of removing the tiers. There was no decision to be made at this meeting; the board gave staff the okay to move forward with exploring the possible restructuring of the affiliate agreements.

**Director of Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock**

- Director Hollock presented her report.

**Director of Recreation Kevin Miller**

- Director Miller presented his report. He added that the Recreation Department conducted a Community Needs Assessment where 438 individuals viewed the survey and 145 completed responses staff will look at that data. He mentioned that Katie Wagner our Marketing Specialist will be writing a four-part series for Greet La Grange Magazine which will be in the February, May, July, and November issues.

Director Miller stated that he will be meeting with the affiliates for spring field usage, and he advised the board that with the current referendum projects the Park District will only have 4 fields available this Spring: Sedgwick Main, Gordon NE, Gordon Softball, and Waiola.

**GM of Facilities and Operations Mike Hay**

- General Manager Hay presented his report. There was a question regarding hours and why the Fitness Center closes earlier on the weekends. GM Hay said he would review the survey to see if we received feedback on the hours.

**Parks & Maintenance**

- Executive Director Bechtold stated that she added some Parks updates to her report. Commissioner Vear asked if the catch basins were cleaned out by the Village at Sedgwick. Executive Director Bechtold answered that yes, the catch basins were cleaned out at Sedgwick. She added that Gordon Park is getting a new electrical box and will be closed for 3-5 days for installation per ComEd. She said that she is keeping in communication with the Village, Police, and Fire so they are aware the lights will be off during this time.

**Action Items**

*Discussion and/or Approval of Musco Lighting Proposal/ Sedgwick Park Through Sourcewell*

Director Bechtold explained that as part of the 2024 Referendum, the Park District of La Grange is advancing planned improvements at Sedgwick Park. One component of the redevelopment includes installation of new, energy-efficient sports lighting to improve safety, expand program capacity, and enhance overall park usability. She presented the purchasing agreement with Musco Sports Lighting.

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Commissioner Carter asked if this was the only bid we received for this project. Executive Director Bechtold explained that while there were other bids, Musco Lighting was the better quality and comes with a 25-year warranty and that by procuring this through Sourcewell it comes with competitive pricing. Staff prefer to have all lights on the same system.

Commissioner Vear asked what Ball Tracker Technology is and it was explained that the way the light is dispersed down on the field makes it easier to track the ball off the bat. He also asked about the angle of the lights, and it was explained that the new lights will reduce light pollution. He also asked about the footcandles and asked what the new lights would be in comparison to the lights at the Little League fields and Gordon Park. He also added a question about the lighting at the Recreation Center which was mentioned earlier in Executive Director Bechtold's report. She answered that with the incentive being so beneficial, the district will be changing out all lights in the Recreation Center, the whole building will be LED if our application is chosen for funding.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve a Sourcewell cooperative purchase with Musco Sports Lighting, LLC, in the amount of \$541,600 for turnkey sports lighting improvements at Sedgwick Park with final approval of agreement by legal counsel and Executive Director. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

**Board Business**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**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*

Commissioner Posey stated that School District 102 has made a lot of

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improvements to their band and orchestra program. She suggested that Gordon Park would be a good site for a concert. She added that there might be a fun partnership with Maria from Tate's Ice Cream with the hiding of Tate's coins in the parks at the beginning of the school year. She also added that with the 100th anniversary of Route 66 there might be some opportunity for some programming to tie into this anniversary.

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

Marty Calik, Riverside, representing AYSO reiterated a statement made earlier about volunteerism, AYSO is all volunteer lead, and they would be intrigued in learning how the park district would be planning on moving forward with striping if it was not left to their organization. He also mentioned that Western Springs is looking to invest in some robot to do their striping. It was then added that the Park District of La Grange is also looking into this, Turbotank.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, thanked the district for switching to LED lights at the Recreation Center. She added that she would be in support of switching at the satellite locations as well.

### **Board Comments**

Commissioner Posey loves driving through the village and seeing all the park improvements.

Commissioner Vear gave appreciation to the staff for a great job with the Tree Lighting at Waiola.

### **Executive Session**

At 7:03pm President Opyd asked for a motion for the Board to move to Executive Session for Item 10.4 Personnel, 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1). The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

At 7:13 P.M. President Opyd asked for a motion for the Board to arise from Executive Session the motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

### **Action Items Discussed in Executive Session**


None

### **Adjournment**

President Opyd asked for a motion for adjournment at 7:14 P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

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Brian Opyd, President

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