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

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Carter, Posey, Vear, Opyd

ABSENT: Commissioner Weber (participated remotely)

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: Lauterbach & Amen, LLP- Jamie Wilke
Wight & Company – Gage Berger
Testing Service Corporation (TSC)- Eli Rogatz
John Pluto, Linda Pluto, Steve Guggenheim, Ray Sipla, Marge Sipla, Mark Bently, Jim O'Connor, Brian Suchan, Avel Rodriguez, Norman Masden, Elizabeth Fisher, Joseph Talley, Marian Honel-Wilson, Danielle DeWall and Rose Naseef

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that before the regular board meeting, they have a public hearing related to the sale of bonds and that he will ask for public comments for the BINA hearing and that comments from that period should be related to the BINA hearing only. Once that session is closed, the regular board meeting will begin and there will be another public comment opportunity as outlined in the agenda.

President Opyd asked for any changes to the agenda. Executive Director Bechtold stated that there were no changes to the agenda, but she did want to let the board and public know that the October 20, 2025, meeting is scheduled to be at the Community Center, however, due to the construction projects, it is not ready so the meeting will be held at the Recreation Center. Then we will move the November or December meeting to the Community Center depending on availability.

President Opyd asked for a motion for remote participation by Commissioner Weber. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Public Hearing Meeting
Public Hearing Concerning the Intent of the Board of Park Commissioners to Sell Not to Exceed $419,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park bonds to Provide the Revenue Source to Pay Certain Alternate Bonds and for the Payment of Land Condemned of Purchased for Parks, for the Building, Maintaining, Improving and Protecting of the Same and the Existing Land and Facilities of the District and Payment of the Expenses Incident Thereto (BINA Hearing)

President Opyd asked for a motioned to enter the Public Hearing for the BINA topic. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

President Opyd opened the Public Hearing concerning the intent of the Park District to sell not to exceed $419,000 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds.

Public Comments (BINA Hearing)
John Pluto, 718 East Ave. La Grange, asked what the bonds were related to, or what was going to be bought with them. President Opyd responded that this is something the district does every year, the sale of the bonds is to pay off debt that was already incurred.

Jim O'Connor, 645 S. 10th Ave. La Grange inquired if it was a non-referendum bond and President Opyd answered yes.

With no letters or communications and no further public comments, President Opyd asked for a motion to close the BINA Hearing at 6:04 P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)
President Opyd mentioned that public comments are limited to three minutes and commentors should state their name and address.

John Pluto, 718 East Ave. La Grange, expressed his concerns regarding the Park District's request for a text amendment in March 2025 regarding hard court surfaces, being considered Special Use to Permitted Use with the Village. He also discussed his concerns about the water line that runs through Sedwick Park with the contaminated soil and the testing process.

2024-2025 Audit Presentation by Lauterbach & Amen, LLP
Jamie Wilkey from Lauterbach & Amen stated she was in attendance to present the audit results for fiscal year ending April 30, 2025. She provided a brief overview of the audit process and reported that this year once again resulted in a clean audit opinion, reflecting outstanding work which was also awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Sedwick Park Updates Presentation by Testing Service Corporation and Wight and Company.
Eli Rogatz of TSC presented the latest testing conducted at Sedgwick Park and reported on the district's voluntary enrollment in the EPA Site Remediation Program and next steps. Gage Berger of Wight & Company presented the site plan for Sedgwick Park, which will incorporate implementation of EPA standards.

Consent Agenda
President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 14, 2025; Item 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 11, 2025; Item 3.3 Approval Financial Reports dated August 31, 2025; and Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for September dated September 8, 2025.

The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports
Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold
- Director Bechtold presented her report. She added that she is looking for a consensus to move forward with Resolution 25-04, *OSLAD Grant Program Resolution of Authorization.* This will then be officially approved

at the next meeting as it will be added to the agenda.

Executive Director asked for a Roll Call Vote for consensus to approve Resolution 25-04, OSLAD Program Resolution of Authorization.

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

Executive Director, Bechtold also added to her report that she provided each board member with an updated Safety Manual. This is a draft to be reviewed prior to next meeting and if they have any change request, to please let staff know before Oct. 8th. She also added that the Park District will be putting on timers for the electric vehicle chargers. The stations will be turned off when the building is closed.

Another addition to her report was regarding La Grange Little League and that they are looking to potentially install a club house or crows' nests behind home plate at Sedgwick. She explained that while staff are always appreciative when LGLL gets involved with improvements, there are some concerns about the timing with all our projects coming up. They are eager to get their projects done, but one big concern would be having different contractors on site at one time with our referendum projects.

Commissioner Posey asked if the neighbors would like to see this type of structure looking out their window and if such a structure would pose a risk for people trying to climb it or break into it? She agreed that it would make more sense for us to complete our project before moving on to affiliate projects.

Commissioner Vear agreed about the timeline and that the large cumbersome structure might not be something area neighbors would like to look at. He added that if LGLL would like to add bathrooms, he would have no problem, depending on location, if they wanted to fund that project, but believes they had investigated this before and it was cost prohibited plus he would only want them open during games/practices.

Commissioner Weber suggested seeing something similar to the Babe Ruth Senior field for the clubhouse behind home plate at the Little League fields.

Staff are looking for consensus for construction schedule for 2027, after the Park District projects are completed and will supply Little League with portable scoring structures to review as an alternative to the large crow nest structures. Commissioners Posey, Vear, Carter and Opyd agreed that this would be the direction to take. Commissioner Weber indicated that he would not want to wait until 2027 and suggested that maybe there is a middle ground where some things could be completed concurrently. He added that LGLL does an amazing job making Sedgwick look great at the little league fields.

President Opyd agreed that LGLL has done a great job with making improvements to Sedgwick.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report.

General Manager of Facilities and Operations

- General Manager Hay presented his report.

Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley presented his report.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Restroom Facilities Final Design and Engineering Professional Services Proposal with Wight & Company.

Executive Director Bechtold explained that in March the board had approved restroom structures as part of the referendum projects. The estimated budget was $700,000. The prefabricated proposal received from the vendor is $873,177, exceeding the estimated budget and carrying a 10–12-month lead time for installation. Wight & Company has confirmed they can design buildings and deliver them at a lower cost with substantially less lead time. Staff recommend approval of the Restroom Facilities Engineering and Final Design Professional Services Proposal in the amount of $60,000 with Wight & Company.

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve the Restroom Facilities Engineering and Final Design Professional Services Proposal in the amount of $60,000 with Wight & Company. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

Old Business

New Business

Committee Reports
Administration Committee
No report at this time.

Parks and Facilities Committee
Commissioner Carter was happy to report that the opening of Waiola Park was a success and loved seeing so many people out using the park.

Recreation & Cultural Programming Committee/Arts & Cultural Affairs Committee
No report at this time.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)
Marion Honel Wilson, 950 8th Ave. La Grange, President of the Community Diversity Group of the La Grange area, reminded the board and public that the 34th Annual Race Unity Rally is set for September 14th at the Village Hall at 3pm.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone Ave, La Grange, expressed her concerns about removal of bushes at the parks. She also asked which parks are going to be sprayed with herbicides and if the playgrounds get sprayed or just the lawns? General Manager Buckly reported only the lawns were sprayed.

John Pluto 718 East Ave. La Grange stated his concerns about the water that comes from Sedgwick Park and how it impacts the residents around the park and his concerns with the findings and solutions from TSC.

Dr. Danielle DeWall, 855 12th Ave. La Grange, agreed with John Pluto's statements regarding the drainage issue at Sedgwick Park.

Mark Bently, 740 S. 7th Ave. La Grange, thanked John Pluto for putting in the time to look into the drainage issues around Sedgwick.

Jim O'Connor, 645 S. 10th Ave. La Grange, stated his concerns about possible contamination from the property across the parking lot on 47th Street and if that is the source of the contamination.

Norman Masden, 708 10th Ave. La Grange brought concerns about the elevation changes to the park and concerns with the testing process.

President Opyd, for clarification, explained that there have been soil samples taken from all areas of the park. As a result of the initial testing, that is why the focus is on the one corner of the park.

Linda Pluto, 718 East Ave. La Grange, Inquired about additional testing being completed.

Steve Guggenheim, 321 6th Ave. La Grange, expressed his concerns about the drainage going into the 36in pipe, which is already running at capacity. He also noted that he was a geologist by training and agreed that testing the catch basins would not really help because you would not be able to identify the source of what was in the catch basins.

Executive Director Bechtold wanted the public to know that everything that will be done will have to go through the Village and approved through MWRD.

Commissioner Posey explained that this is a process and that information is being gathered and then decisions will be made. She stated that they must rely on professional experts so they can make informed decisions.

Dr. Danielle Dewall 855 12th Ave. La Grange expressed her concerns about the drinking water in La Grange and wanted it tested. To which President Opyd explained that the water supply is managed by the Village so if that is a concern, she is encouraged to speak at the Village meeting.

Jim O'Connor, 645 S. 10 Ave. La Grange, had concerns about "Action Items" and what can be voted on based on the agenda.

Executive Director Bechtold, with the help of the board, explained the process of what can be voted on based on the agenda items.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone Ave. La Grange, stated that she would have liked to see more storm water management in place, like detention, included in the plans for the parks. She gave an example of possibly looking at what they are doing at Springdale Park in Western Springs.

Board Comments

Commissioner Vear affirmed that anything the park district does is to all EPA and MWRD, County, and Village standards and the board have the best interest of the public in mind. He also said that Waiola looks great.

President Opyd echoed Bob's comment and expressed that he has a six-year-old and he makes decisions as a person with kids who use our parks. He also expressed his excitement about the opening of Waiola and how great it was to see the park full of kids.

Adjournment
President Opyd moved for adjournment at 7:29 P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Brian Opyd, President

Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved-October 20, 2025