

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

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

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

PRESENT: Commissioners, Posey, Vear, Opyd

ABSENT: Commissioners, Carter, Weber

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: Nancy Bramson, Regina McClinton, Rose Naseef,
Martin Calic, Bernadine Sims, Dr. Bessie Boyd,
Sherry Robinson, and Alice Woodson

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)

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

Regina McClinton, 208 East Ave, La Grange, stated her concerns about the renaming of the Community Center and adjacent park and the signage that goes along with the name change. She also shared her concerns regarding the fence around the basketball court at the same park.

Nancy Bramson, Brookfield, thanked the board for the quick response regarding the signage at the Community Center. She also stated her support for more discussion regarding the renaming of the park at the Community Center.

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President Opyd clarified some information regarding the mural sign at the Community Center. He explained that the mural sign was taken down temporarily to ensure that it was not damaged during construction and would be put back up with the completion of the project. He also confirmed that the park ID sign which was recently put up on the Northeast corner of the property is in the wrong spot and will be moved.

Bernadine Sims asked about when and how the Park District determines a park name change. She also stated her concerns about the name change to the Community Center park.

Marty Calic, 616 Selborne, Riverside, AYSO secretary for AYSO 300 region. He Presented the Fall AYSO data. He stated that there were 2651 registered for this AYSO region and 800 of those participants are from La Grange. He added that they would like to get an understanding of the construction schedule for the coming year. He included thoughts on seeding at Sedgwick and possible partnership in sod installation.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 20, 2025; Item 3.2 Approval of the Financial Reports dated October 31, 2025; and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for November dated November 10, 2025. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Executive Director Bechtold presented her report which included a draft of the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule. An addition to her report was that she wanted to recognize Kevin Miller and Mike Hay for their efforts to ensure all Park District employees have completed CPR training. She also wanted to make sure that the board saw the taglines proposed by staff, and asked if the board had a direction they would like to see staff take in creating a new tagline.

Commissioner Posey said she liked the taglines which demonstrate that the Park District is more than recreation, it is a place to gather and have a sense of community.

President Opyd liked the taglines which had a focus on community and

belonging. He felt that the word “play” gives a perception of catering toward youth, but that the Park District is so much more than youth programming, and we should consider this in our word choices. He also mentioned that we want to differentiate ourselves from the surrounding park districts and we should avoid similar taglines when we create ours.

Commissioner Vear reiterated the thought that the park district is more than “play”. He added that possibly using “joy” in place of “play” would represent more of what we do at the Park District.

Commissioner Vear asked if there is an update on the MWRD permits for Denning and Gordon. Executive Director Bechtold explained that we are still waiting for those permits.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report. She explained that she received communication (after completing her report) that the second installment property tax bills for Cook County will be mailed on November 14, 2025, and will be due by Dec. 15, 2025.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report. He added that the Winter/Spring brochure will be posted on November 21. Registration for these programs will start at 10am on December 3rd for residents and 10am on December 10th for non-residents.

Commissioner Vear asked how the dance classes are doing this fall. Director Miller answered that they are doing well. A short discussion on the dance class offerings for the winter and spring followed.

Parks Facilities and Operations

- General Manager Hay presented his report. He added that the Fitness Center will roll out Student Holiday Passes and a Black Friday Sale for fitness and training sessions. He added that some youth programming has started at the Community Center.

Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley presented his report.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of the Draft Proposal Levy and Assessment of Taxes of the Park District of La Grange for the 2025 Tax Levy Year.

Director Hollock explained that after calculations and required approvals, the Park District must prepare an ordinance to levy and collect taxes on all taxable

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property within the district. She then presented the proposed tax levy of \$4,273,872 which was an increase of 2.42% over last year's levy amount.

President Opyd questioned if he is correct in his understanding that when we do this calculation, we try to keep taxes flat with the information we have at the time. Even in the case of this year's calculation, when we have not yet gotten the finalized EAV numbers which come from the County. Director Hollock answered that yes, that explanation is correct.

Commissioner Vear asked for an explanation of Truth in Taxation. Director Hollock explained that if the proposed aggregate levy is greater than 105% of the last amount of tax collected and paid to the District, then the Truth in Taxation publication and hearing requirements are triggered.

Commissioner Vear asked if we are accounting for any new properties. Director Hollock explained that while there is no new development in line for 2026 in La Grange, there are some existing "new growth" in the community which could come into fruition in 2026.

Commissioner Posey added if the tax dollars are not captured that tax revenue will not be available to the Park District.

Executive Director Bechtold asked for a motion that the Board approve the proposed 2025 Tax Levy as presented in the amount of \$4,273,871.99. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Purchases of Gilbert Park Playground and Sedgwick Park Dugouts.

Executive Director Bechtold presented the final procurement phase for the Gilbert Park Playground and the Sedgwick Park Dugouts. She explained that both purchases are from approved cooperative purchasing partners; the Gilbert Park playground equipment from PlayPower LT Farmington, Inc. through the Sourcewell Cooperative in the amount of \$149,895.00 and the Sedgwick Park dugouts from ICON Shelters through the Good Buy Cooperative in the amount of \$45,218.00.

Commissioner Vear asked if the dimensions of the dugouts, which are for the Senior Field are similar to the Little League dugouts. Executive director Bechtold said that she will get him that information.

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President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the purchase of:

1. Playground equipment for Gilbert Park from PlayPower LT Farmington, Inc. through Sourcewell Contract #100743 in the amount of \$149,895.00; and
2. Two dugout shelters for Sedgwick Park from Parkreation, Inc. (ICON Shelters) through Good Buy Cooperative Contract #25-26 9B000 in the amount of \$45,218.00, to be funded through the 2024 Referendum Capital Fund.

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

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

Board Business

Old Business

New Business

Discussion and/or Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Village of La Grange for Vac Truck Storage and Catch Basin Maintenance.

Executive Director Bechtold presented the proposed IGA with the Village of La Grange which formalizes the mutual benefits related to the storage of the Village's vacuum truck during the winter season and the District's stormwater infrastructure maintenance.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of La Grange for Vac Truck Storage and Catch Basin Maintenance and authorize the Executive Director to execute the agreement. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and approved by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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. Commissioner Posey is delighted to see some public art being installed.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Dr. Bessie Boyd, 234 Sawyer Ave. La Grange, IL, thanked the board for all the improvements happening in the parks. She expressed her concerns about communication and how information regarding changes is dispersed to the community. Her comments were directly related to the renaming of the La Grange Community Center and the newly added name to the adjacent park. She asked the board to reconsider the name change and take into consideration input from the Eastside La Grange community.

Alice Woodson, 112 Sawyer, La Grange, thanked the District for putting in a higher fence by Rotary Park. She also stated her concerns about the location of the dog waste bags at Rotary Park being at the end of the alley instead of near the entrance. She also explained that it is not clear if Rotary is a dog park or not. President Opyd respond that it is not a dog park, but that dogs are permitted in all of our parks as long as they are on a leash.

Sherry Robinson, 140 Washington Ave. La Grange, thanked Dr. Boyd for her comprehensive summary of the concerns of many residents of the community on the renaming of the La Grange Community Center and park. She reiterated the importance of understanding the diversity of the community and the unique history of the building and property. She expressed her thoughts and reasoning for having the name not representative of one person.

Bernadine Sims, 117 Washington, La Grange, added to the comment regarding the lack of clarity regarding dogs at the parks. She suggested the Park District should have clear signage displaying dogs must be on leashes and dog waste should be picked up.

Dr. Bessie Boyd, 234 Sawyer Ave. La Grange, mentioned that there are some concerns about the court now being fenced in and a lock on the fence for the basketball court at the Community Center. She also asked if there is a sign showing time restrictions. She questioned if the bleachers would be replaced for more seating.

Board Comments

Commissioner Posey said that she appreciates it when the public attend meetings and raises questions and concerns. She added that she takes that feedback and uses it in preparation for decision making, as well as staff and expert input.

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Commissioner Vear thanked everyone for coming and sharing their comments. He also wanted to mention the Holiday Day Off Camps he has received feedback that these camps are very useful for working parents.

President Opyd highlighted a few things. He is really excited to see that Fitness Center class participation has continued to increase. He also wanted to thank the staff for their continued work on the referendum projects and the community for supporting these projects. He added that he is happy to hear that our BASE program is doing well. On a final note, he said that prior to becoming a commissioner, he would attend the board meetings and share his comments and concerns, and he understands feeling passionate about something and attending the board meetings to share that passion with the board. He thanked everyone for sharing their thoughts and concerns.

Executive Session

At 7:01 P.M. 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 Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

At 7:28 P.M. President Opyd asked for a motion for the Board to arise from Executive Session the motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.

Action Items Discussed in Executive Session


None

Adjournment

President Vear moved for adjournment at 7:28 P.M. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved January 12, 2026