

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

MAY 12, 2025

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Vear, Posey, Weber, Opyd

ABSENT: Commissioner Lacey

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: Wight & Company (Patty King and Gage Berger), Testing
Service Corporation (Eli Rogatz), Rose Naseef, Brad
Carter, Carla Carter and Martin Calik

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

Administration of Oath

Commissioners Vear, Weber and Carter were sworn in and recited the Oath of
Office.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

Public Comments

Carla Carter, 62 Dover Ave. La Grange, expressed how proud she is that her
husband, newly elected Commissioner Carter, is serving his community.

President Opyd announced that there would be a presentation from Wight &
Company regarding some referendum updates.

Executive Director Bechtold explained that Patty King from Wight along with
Eli Rogatz from Testing Service Corporation would be giving an update on some
findings at Sedgwick Park, specifically the north/east corner, during
environmental testing. To preface the update, she stated that during initial
environmental testing, which is part of the Park District's due diligence related
to the referendum projects, some PAHs and RCRA metals were found. A second
round of testing was conducted and a more in-depth look at the property

history was completed, which determined that there was a quarry located in the north/east location of the property in 1938.

Eli Rogatz, a licensed professional geologist from Testing Service Corporation explained that initial testing showed relatively high concentrations of metals and PAHs. Based on those initial results, they collected an additional 24 samples from the top five feet of the area. Those results showed similar concentrations of metals, PAHs and waste products. There is about a foot of topsoil acting as a cap, however the fill goes down about twelve feet in some sections of the area.

To clarify her understanding, Commissioner Posey asked what time frame the fill was from, and Mr. Rogatz answered that they believe it is from prior to the development of the park, so be for the 1950's. Executive Director Bechtold added that while it is safe, the one-foot barrier does not meet the EPA standard of three feet.

Executive Director Bechtold explained the options. One option is to remove up to 18 inches and put in a special barrier and then haul off and refill with clean soil. She added that the cost of this would be around \$7 million. The other option presented is that we can bring in two feet of soil and do some grading to meet the three feet EPA standard.

Patty King, from Wight & Company, spoke about keeping the park safe and not wanting to put foundations in an area where there is this type of material findings. As a result, they feel that there may need to be some adjustments to the park plan, which would include moving the senior field to the prep field area. She added that they are working on some concept updates for the park. She expressed that although it will add about \$1.3 million to the project, they do believe bringing in the additional 2 feet of soil is a good approach. This will meet the EPA standard for a protective cap. She added that working with the EPA and going through the Site Remediation Program (SRP) is an important step in showing the community that the Park District is dedicated to keeping the park safe.

Commissioner Posey asked if it is a fair analogy to compare the situation to owning an older house and that the house is safe but if you go to make some updates and find material that is not up to code now, remediation would be required. Ms. King responded that yes, that is a good analogy and that they would not want to disturb the area but still want to work through the pieces to give the Park District the most functional and safe amenities. To do this, an additional 2 feet of soil will need to be brought in for the area presented in the board packet in yellow. She added that precautions would also be put into place so that the area is not disturbed in the future, an example would be a note in the construction folders indicating the issues.

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Executive Director Bechtold clarified that essentially, the senior field would be moved to the prep field area and the current senior field would be green space and can be used for a soccer field. This would put the Park District down one baseball field. She added that the plans are still being reviewed but that with the additional cost of the remediation that the dog park would probably no longer be an option to add to Sedgwick Park.

Commissioner Vear asked if we can keep the area as it is. Patty from Wight answered that no, to meet the EPA standard, adjustments will need to be made.

Executive Director Bechtold added that later in the meeting there would be a discussion and/or approval of the Site Remediation Program through TSC and wanted to clarify that there would be additional testing throughout the process. Eli Ragatz from TSC confirmed and added information about the process. Ms. King added some details about what the process of bringing in the additional two feet of soil would look like.

President Opyd asked about the grading line going through one of the soccer fields. A short discussion about possible plans for that area and the soccer field followed.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Public Hearing of April 21, 2025; Item 4.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2025; Item 4.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated April 30, 2025; and Item 4.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for May dated May 12, 2025. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Weber, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Director Bechtold presented her report and reminded the Board that June is the annual meeting, and officers will be elected at that meeting. She added that she spoke with the Yelnick family, and they were pleased with the renaming of the T-ball field to Burson/Yelnick field and would also get her in contact with the Burson family. Another addition to her report was that IPRA has decided to end their lease but is looking to continue to use storage space. An agreement would be put together to outline the details, which would then be brought up for approval by the

Board. A consensus was reached to allow staff to move forward.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report. He reminded the Board about the Pet Parade. He provided updated BASE enrollment numbers which were slightly different from the board report.

Commissioner Vear asked what the drop in programming for Performing Arts is attributed to. Director Miller's answer included information regarding contractors no longer offering classes or reducing the number of classes being offered.

President Opyd asked if Director Miller could include the age ranges for Summer Day Camps in his report for reference. He also suggested looking into possible earlier programming on Wednesdays when schools have early dismissal. He added that he saw that the Egg Hunt event was fantastic and had a great turn out.

Operations and Facilities

- General Manager Mike Hay presented his report.

Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley presented his report.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Policy Section 284, Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Prevention Policy.

Director Bechtold summarized the proposal of this policy and how it aligns with PDRMA best practices. She explained that while the Park District has maintained procedures to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, this policy consolidates conduct expectations, reporting, procedures, and training requirements into a single, comprehensive framework.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Policy 284 the Child and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Prevention Policy as presented. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Board Business

Old Business

New Business

Discussion and/or Approval of Site Remediation Program Proposal with Testing Service Corporation (TSC) in the amount of \$43,260.

President Opyd stated this is what was discussed earlier in the meeting with Wight and Company and Testing Service Corporation regarding Sedgwick Park.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the Site Remediation Program Proposal with Testing Service Corporation in the amount of \$43,260. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of the First Amendment to the License Agreement for Recreation Center Baseball Facilities with White Sox Ltd.

Executive Director Bechtold presented the request from White Sox Ltd. to modify the agreement's format to an annual agreement commencing November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026. The current agreement ends October 31, 2025.

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the First Amendment to the License Agreement for Recreation Center Baseball Facilities with White Sox Ltd. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion which passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Review of Bid Results for 2024 Referendum Group A # 1 (Facilities).

Executive Director Bechtold explained that there is no Board action required. She presented the bid packages for informational purposes and to document the outcome of the May 6, 2025 public bid opening.

Discussion and/or Approval of Electrical Work at Gordon Park.

Executive Director Bechtold provided information regarding the lighting issues at Gordon Park. She indicated that staff have received one quote from Lyons-Pinner for repair, but that they will be looking for one or two more quotes. The quotes are under \$30K which is in the Executive Directors spending authority. This repair will be added under paving and lighting in the capital budget, but

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staff wanted to keep the board informed.

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 spoke with Marketing Coordinator, Katie Wagner. They discussed meeting with administration about getting some murals/art on the walls at the recreation center.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, congratulated the newly appointed board members. She expressed her concern about the remediation issue at Sedgwick and how it might impact drainage. She also wanted to remind the district to look for electrical options for yard equipment which would be more environmentally friendly. Rose suggested a possible living wall for the recreation center to add to the discussion on murals/art on the walls.

Martin Calik, 616 Selborne Road, Riverside, introduced himself as a representative for AYSO as the organization is trying to have more of a presence at community meetings.

Board Comments

Commissioner Weber welcomed Commissioner Carter to the Board.

Commissioner Posey welcomed Commissioner Carter to the team

Commissioner Vear welcomed Commissioner Carter to the Board

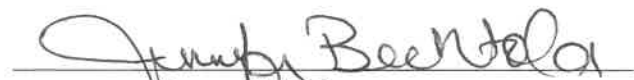
President Opyd reminded everyone that with summer coming, to encourage kids to get out and use the green spaces and parks. He acknowledged that with the various projects some of the space will not be accessible, but he knows the areas not being worked on will be prepped and looking good for summer use by the parks department. He is looking forward to summer and seeing people in the parks.

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

Adjournment

President Opyd moved for adjournment at 6:57P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Carter, seconded by Commissioner Weber, and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President

Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved June 9, 2025