

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

APRIL 20, 2026

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

PRESENT: Commissioners, Vear, Posey, Weber, Opyd, Carter*
Commissioner Carter arrived at 6:03P.M.

ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Marian Honel Wilson, Rose Naseef, Eli Rogatz, and Gage Berger

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone that this is one of two meetings annually held at the Community Center. He explained that because we are without microphones at this meeting that speakers should speak up so everybody can be heard. He asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. Executive Director Bechtold stated that there were no changes to the agenda but that she had one announcement. She introduced Robert Poirier, the new Parks and Facilities Foreperson.

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.

There were no public comments at this time.

Presentation from Wight & Company and TSC

Executive Director Bechtold thanked Gage Berger from Wight & Company and Eli Rogatz from Testing Service Corporation (TSC) for attending the meeting. She explained that Gage would be giving an overview of all the projects at the parks that are currently ongoing, ending with an update on Sedwick Park. Eli will focus on the topic of the contamination at Sedgwick Park and the resulting

mitigation project.

At this time, 6:03pm, Executive Director Bechtold asked to pause the meeting to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 026-02. President Opyd tabled the regular meeting and asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 026-02 the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriations for the Park District of La Grange on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:03pm. It 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
ABSENT: Commissioner Carter arrived at 6:03pm after this roll call

At 6:04pm the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of La Grange resumed.

Presentation from Wight & Company continued

Gage Berger from Wight & Company gave an overview of the referendum projects.

- Elm, Rotary, and Spring Parks- Under warranty, basically completed they will reassess these projects at the end of the summer to see if anything needs to be addressed and then those projects will be officially completed.
- Community Park- The color coating of the multi-sport court is the final item to be completed.
- Denning Park- There was a bit of a hold up on permitting in the beginning so there was a later start on this project. The Community Garden Plots will be open for the season. Working on the permitting from MWRD for the bathroom utilities. President Opyd asked if the permitting for the storm line is to reduce run off into the gardens. Gage indicated that was corrected.
- Gilbert Park- Working on permits with the Village of La Grange, MWRD and seeking sign-off from Western Springs because the storm line which the park ties into that surrounds the park is from Western Springs.
- Gordon Park- Working on completing the soccer field, it will be seeded and fenced off and ready for use in a year.
- Sedgwick Park- Village has approved the plans and we are finishing up some permit items with them. There are some delays in permits from MWRD regarding the storm line. We will need to work with IDOT for the parking lot on East Avenue. The board had a short discussion about the pedestrian crossing near 47th and East Ave.

Commissioner Vear asked about the water run-off from the parking lot at Gordon Park. Gage from Wight & Company said they are working on a plan with the Parks Department that will help mitigate the issue and be able to be

maintained effectively in the long term.

Commissioner Vear asked for clarification on the storm sewer tie-in at Sedgwick Park and what the issue is in permitting from MWRD. Gage from Wight and Company explained that MWRD is requesting that if there is a storm line within an eighth of a mile, that needs to be connected to the storm line instead of a combined sewer as it is currently. All lines in the park currently run to combined sewers, the closest storm line is near 49th and East Avenue.

Executive Director Bechtold reminded Gage to address the updated tree list for Sedgwick as presented in the board packet. He said they will still be at around 75% native but are diversifying some trees that will work in the park setting to meet the 20-10-5 rule in our Urban Forest Management Plan.

As part of the Sedgwick Park improvements, Gage presented the information outlined in the board packet, to proceed with purchasing the shelters, shade structure, and multi-goal equipment.

President Opyd stated that he would be interested in having a conversation regarding future plantings. If there are certain spots which would be good for planting trees in the future. He expressed that he would like to see a cohesive plan which would give the park district a way to identify places in our parks where it would make the most sense for future projects to plant and that can support tree growth.

Presentation from Testing Service Corporation

Eli Rogatz from Testing Service Corporation (TSC) gave a brief history of the environmental contamination identified at Sedgwick Park. The Park District and TSC entered into a site remediation program agreement to formally address the contamination in coordination with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Eli presented the Remediation Program Proposals as detailed in the board packet.

President Opyd asked for clarification about waste material from the removal being designated as “non-hazardous” for disposal. Eli explained that there are federal regulations for waste disposal which are different from the state EPA residential standards which set the regulations for human exposure.

President Opyd inquired about when the procedure is complete there will be testing on the walls, how confident does TSC feel they have the area correctly planned. Eli responded that they pretty much know the exact extent of the contamination and are confident that what is outlined is where the contamination is located.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes

of the Regular Board Meeting of March 09, 2026; Item 3.2 Approval of the Executive Session Meeting of March 09, 2026; Item 3.3 Approval of the Financial Reports dated March 31, 2026; and Item 3.4 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for April dated April 20, 2026. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Carter, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Executive Director Bechtold presented her report. She reminded the board that their Statement of Economic Interest was due by May 1, 2026. She also gave a brief update on the bids for the referendum bathroom projects. She will have the final letter of recommendation next month for board approval but informed the Board that Wight & Company will be moving forward with issuing contracts.

Another addition to her report was an update on the La Grange Little League signs which were discussed at the March board meeting. One location that LGLL proposed instead of the batting cages is on the outfield fencing. Executive Director Bechtold added that staff is in favor of this option provided the signs fit the fence panels and are made of a banner material, not any heavy material that might pull the fencing. Commissioner Vear asked why they don't put the signs on the building. President Opyd added that he would want to confirm that whatever material is used, it is the safest for the players.

Executive Director Bechtold highlighted a point from her report regarding new legislation being proposed in IL which would require state licensure and oversight of many existing recreation programs. Attorney, Dierk Price, explained that there would be significant issues in hiring enough qualified employees who meet the licensure requirements and programs would have to be scaled back to meet the required ratios. Executive Director Bechtold added that we are working with our elected officials regarding this legislation.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report. She highlighted that the district has met the requirements to be awarded Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Director Miller presented his report. He advised the board that the Park District will be participating in the Pet Parade on May 30, 2026, and commissioners can let Executive Director Bechtold know if they would like to participate.

GM of Facilities and Operations Mike Hay

- General Manager Hay presented his report.

Parks, Grounds, and Planning Manager Tim White

- Executive Director Bechtold presented Manager White’s report. President Opyd added that the mosaic sign and the little library were put back up at the Lacey Community Center.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Testing Service Corporation (TSC) Site Remediation Program Proposals, TSC Proposal 76,928, TSC Proposal 76,923, TSC Proposal 76926.

Commissioner Weber moved to approve TSC Site Remediation Program Proposals, TSC Proposal 76,928, TSC Proposal 76,923, TSC Proposal 76926. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 026-02 the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange, Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Director Hollock explained that staff presented the 2026/2027 budget at the March 09, 2026, board meeting and was made available to the public for at least 30 days prior to the final action. She noted that after the budget draft was presented to the board and community, the staff found a couple minor items that needed adjustment. Director Hollock presented the adjustments and recommended the PDLG Board of Commissioners approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 026-02 as updated and presented at this meeting.

Commissioner Vear moved to approve Ordinance 026-02, the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange, Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of the Grant Agreement Between the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Park District of La Grange, Agreement No. 25-203807.

Director Bechtold explained that The Park District of La Grange has been awarded a \$250,000 grant through the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), secured with the support of Senator Porfirio. This funding is intended to support capital improvements at the Recreation Center, specifically a partial roof replacement.

Commissioner Posey moved to approve the Grant Agreement between the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Park District of La Grange, Agreement No. 25-203807, for the acceptance of \$250,000 in grant funding to support a partial roof replacement at the Recreation Center, and to designate Jennifer Bechtold, Executive Director, as the Authorized Designee for the execution of routine grant documents, reports, and reimbursement requests, with all non-routine or significant items to be brought before the Board for approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carter and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Owner Purchases for Sedgwick Park Project OSLAD Project.

Executive Director Bechtold presented purchase proposals to provide park amenities, including shelters, shade structures, and site furnishings at Sedgwick Park. Commissioner Vear asked if there would be enough room for shelter between the pickleball courts and Executive Director Bechtold responded that there is enough room for the ICON Shelter at the pickleball courts.

Commissioner Carter moved to approve the proposals as presented for Sedgwick Park improvements, including ICON Shelters (Parkreation, Inc.) in the amount of \$61,490; Shade Systems shade sail in the amount of \$20,643.51; and KOMPAN multi-goal equipment in the amount of \$22,998.50 for a total cost of \$105,132.01. The motion was 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

New Business

Review of Crisis Management Plan.

Executive Director Bechtold presented the updated Crisis Management Plan for review by the board. There was no board approval required. Board members are encouraged to review and provide any feedback, questions or updates.

Old 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 but suggested a picnic in the park to which Executive Director Bechtold answered that there is one scheduled for this summer.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

President Opyd read an email from Johnathan Robinson for the public comments section of the meeting. In his email, Mr. Robinson requested that the district investigate and implement a system for officially recording and posting videos of the board meetings. He gave information and suggestions on how the district could accomplish this through low-cost video cameras and hosting through YouTube.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, gave her thoughts on storm water and trees. She expressed her concerns that lessons have not been learned from past developments and hopes the Park District and the Village can both recognize their part in managing storm water. She would like to see less development with concrete and more thoughtful ways of designing our parks. She believes the “playable field” importance tends to supersede the importance for trees.

Marion Honel Wilson, 950 8th Ave, La Grange, would like to have year-round porta-lets at the parks.


Board Comments

President Opyd welcomed Rob Poirier to the Park District team and stated that the parks team is doing an amazing job even with all the rain, in particular the softball fields at Gordon look amazing.

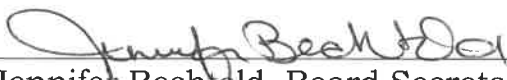
President Opyd announced that there would be no executive session tonight and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment

President Opyd asked for a motion for adjournment at 7:04 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 May 11, 2026