

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
536 EAST AVENUE, LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
200 S. WASHINGTON AVE, LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS**

APRIL 21, 2025

President Opyd called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioners, Vear, Lacey, Posey, Weber, Opyd

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jenny Bechtold
Director of Finance & HR Jamie Hollock
GM of Parks Maintenance Larry Buckley
GM of Facilities and Operations Mike Hay
HR & Administration Coordinator Madonna Giampietro

OTHERS PRESENT: Jennifer Rowe, Becky Lorentzen, Harold Gibson Linda Eastman, Cheryl Anderson, Sharon Williams, Regina McClinton, Freddie Dickerson, Marian Honel Wilson, Thomas Wells, Thelma Montgomery, Pam McKinnon, Mary Wilkerson, Aaron Hill, Carol Singleton, William Branch, Bernadine Sims, Nancy Bramson, Damon Hill, Alexander Hill, April Hill, Claudia Godfrey, Derrick Janssen, Armanda Killingham, Martin Calile, Drew McElligott, Rose Naseef, and Rezza Popovec

President Opyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for any announcements or changes to the agenda. Executive director Bechtold stated that there was one change to the agenda. During printing, two action items got merged so she distributed the corrected agenda to the board. No information was changed, it was missing a separate bullet point. She also noted that staff would like to address 5.3 prior to 5.2 as it relates to the budget.

Communications, Presentations & Declarations

President Opyd announced that he would like to begin the meeting with item 2.1, a special recognition for Commissioner Lacey and her many years of service to the Park District of La Grange and the community.

Executive Director Bechtold presented Commissioner Lacey with a certificate of recognition.

Commissioner Lacey thanked the board, past and present and the park district staff for all the work they do in making things work. She also acknowledged the residents of La Grange for their commitment to their parks. She thanked Executive Director Bechtold for her hard work. Finally, she thanked her family.

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.

Derrik Jansen, 4147 Western Ave, Western Springs, introduced himself. He is the commissioner for AYSO 300. He explained what AYSO does in La Grange and what is offered to the community through the program. The organization has been in the community for 40 years. He stated that there are 844 La Grange participants in AYSO.

Consent Agenda

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve Item 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2025; Item 3.2 Approval of the of the Financial Reports dated March 31, 2025; and Item 3.3 Approval of the Consolidated Vouchers for April dated April 21, 2025. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Weber, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Staff Reports

Executive Director Jennifer Bechtold

- Executive Director Bechtold presented her report. She introduced the new General Manager of Facilities and Operations, Mike Hay. She also reminded the board that their Statement of Economic Interest was due by May 1, 2025, and that they also need to complete the annual cyber security training.

Director Bechtold gave a brief update regarding the IT outage experienced during the 2025 Summer Camp registration. She outlined the efforts that have been made by our IT provider to eliminate further issues for larger registrations.

Director Bechtold brought up a new development regarding one of the renters in the recreation center, IPRA. Their lease is up on September 1, 2025, and they informed staff that they have been exploring alternative options. They said they found a viable option in Hinsdale. She explained that IPRA's current cost is about \$24/sq. ft. She listed all the additional

amenities included in their rent. They have requested to reduce their rent to \$3400/month to move forward with a new lease. This would bring their cost down to \$18/sq. ft. Staff feel that this is too low considering all the amenities, benefits, and utilities included along with the large office space. One of the solutions suggested is offering a smaller area of office space if they want their rent reduced. This reduced area includes seven offices. While this can reduce their rent, the cost/sq.ft. is higher than the current \$24/sq.ft. closer to \$29/sq.ft.

Director Bechtold stated that staff are looking for a consensus on direction. Staff recommend offering the smaller office space for the reduced rent. The lease will be a board approved lease.

President Opyd expressed his concern with subsidizing another entity with taxpayer dollars. He explained that if there is a going rate for rent in the area, the Park District should be at, or near that going rate for rent per square foot. Especially given the amenities and benefits included. He said it makes sense to do the move.

Commissioner Posey explained that if IPRA moves into the smaller space, then the cost per square foot, even with reducing the rent, would be at or above the average for the area. She was also in favor of offering the smaller space for the reduced rate.

A consensus was reached to move forward with the proposal to offer the smaller office space for the reduced rent.

Commissioner Lacey left the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Finance & Human Resources Jamie Hollock

- Director Hollock presented her report.

Director of Recreation Kevin Miller

- Executive Director Bechtold entertained questions on the Recreation Report in Director Miller's absence.

Parks & Maintenance Larry Buckley

- General Manager Buckley presented his report.

Action Items

Discussion and/or Approval of Ordinance 025-2, Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange, Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

Director Hollock explained that staff presented the 2025/2026 budget at the March 10, 2025, board meeting and was made available to the public for at

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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 few items that needed adjustment. Director Hollock presented the adjustments and recommended the PDLG Board of Commissioners approve the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 025-02 as updated and presented at this meeting.

Director Bechtold added that the approval is for both operating and capital budget for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve of Ordinance 025-02, the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Park District of La Grange, Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Posey, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Policy Section 820, Employee Classification and Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025/2026, as presented, along with the relocation of this policy to Section 200 and its reclassification as Section 282.

Director Bechtold explained that with the approval of the 2025/2026 budget, staff has a few updates to Policy Section 820. The changes are limited to title updates reflecting the changes in the organizational chart. This policy also classifies positions and includes the minimum and maximum salary ranges. She noted specific changes to the Park Maintenance I and II grading. Indicating that the Park Maintenance II staff members would be expected to be more specialized and have certifications. To meet the needs of the district, there needs to be a distinction between the two positions including the pay range. Director Bechtold explained that two staff members will be grandfathered into Grade I, Park Maintenance I, at a higher salary, and their salary will be capped. They will remain eligible for a bonus.

President Opyd asked about the cost and time commitment required for the certifications. General Manager Buckley responded that each certification requires a short class and final exam. He stated that the certifications are achievable.

Commissioner Posey moved to approve the updated Section 820: Employee Position Classification and Compensation Schedule for Fiscal Year 2025/2026, as presented, along with the relocation of this policy to Section 200 and its reclassification as Section 282, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Referendum Project Purchases-Shelters (PARKREATION), Multi Goals (Kompan), Rotary Park Playground (Burke), Spring Park Playground (Little Tykes).

Director Bechtold presented the quotes for the park shelters, Multi Goals, and playgrounds previously approved by the board. The park shelters which will be purchased through the cooperative purchasing program Good Buy, ensuring compliance and competitive pricing. The Multi Goals are being purchased through the OMNIA cooperative purchasing program, and the Burke and Little Tykes playgrounds will be purchased through the Sourcewell cooperative.

Executive Director Bechtold asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the shelters through the Good Buy Co-op in the amount of \$355,420.00 for the shelters for the Community Center, Gilbert Park, Gordon Park, Rotary Park, and Spring Park, purchase of the multi goals from Kopan in the amount of \$42,226.00, and the purchase of the playgrounds for Spring Park and Rotary Park from Little Tykes and Burke in the total of \$212,554.00. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Deletion of Policy 272, COVID-19 Safety in the Workplace Policy.

Executive Director Bechtold presented the recommendation to delete the COVID-19 Safety in the Workplace, as it is no longer necessary given the current public health landscape.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the deletion of Policy 272, COVID-19 Safety in the Workplace Policy. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Posey and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

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Discussion and/or Approval of the Temporary Access License Agreement with Maglux Construction and Restoration, LLC., Stone Park.

Executive Director Bechtold detailed that the Village reached out to the Park District on behalf of Maglux Construction regarding access needs at 46 N. Stone Avenue.

Commissioner Vear asked how long they will need this access. Director Bechtold answered that the agreement states 30 days but might not take that long. He added that it would be nice to add some trees or bushes when the work is completed. A discussion followed determining that the amount of payment that should be requested from Maglux should be a total of \$1000.00, \$300.00 for legal fees and \$700.00 for the park district to recoup administrative fees and possible trees or bushes for the area being used.

President Opyd asked for a motion to approve the Temporary Access License Agreement with Maglux Construction & Restoration, LLC at Stone Park including an amendment that the consideration fee is increased by \$700.00 for a total fee of \$1,010.00. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Vear, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Vear, Weber, Posey, Opyd

NAYES: None

ABSCENT: Commissioner Lacey

Board Business

Old Business

Discussion and/or Approval of Updated Referendum Plans.

Executive Director Bechtold presented several proposed updates for upcoming projects. These updates include Tee ball field naming consolidation, park signage to include only the logo and park name, community garden modifications, and tree removal and replanting plan.

Commissioner Posey expressed her approval of the new signage with more the more modern feel. She also questioned whether there is a process to let the families know of the name change for the tee ball field.

Executive Director Bechtold asked for a motion to approve the renaming of the tee ball field at Gilbert Park to Burson-Yelnick Field, with relocation of the dedication boulders, proceeding with the updated park identification signs that include only the logo and park name, approving the reduction of six community garden plots to protect the river birch tree, and acknowledging the tree removal list and the 4:0 replanting plan. The motion was so moved by

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Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Vear, and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

New Business

Discussion and/or Approval of the Professional Service Proposal with Wight & Company to Apply for the 2026 OSLAD Grant.

Executive Director Bechtold presented a proposal from Wight & Company to complete the 2026 OSLAD application to update and enhance Sedgwick Park. She outlined some possible uses for the funding at Sedgwick could be the play environment, the soccer fields, adding a shelter, enhanced park games, a pollinator garden and update landscape and green infrastructure.

A discussion followed regarding specifics of the grant, the odds of receiving the OSLAD Grant three times in a row, and if the fees to Wight & Company are warranted. Commissioner Posey expressed her concerns about the Park District receiving the award again and how big of a risk it is in paying for the completion of the grant, and then not receiving the funds. Executive director Bechtold explained that we would also receive the plans which would represent \$10,000 of the fees paid. Commissioner Vear requested to move this discussion and approval to next month.

Commissioner Posey motioned to table the discussion and/or approval of the professional service proposal with Wight & Company to apply for the OSLAD Grant for Sedgwick Park, seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Discussion and/or Approval of Energy Procurement (Electric).

Executive Director Bechtold presented energy procurement pricing and gave the recommendation of locking in a 36-month rate of \$0.051390, with capacity and transmission costs passed through. Due to market volatility, staff also recommends authorizing the Executive Director to approve a rate up to 5% higher than this amount, if necessary, to secure favorable pricing.

Commissioner Vear questioned the pass through and the implications on the pricing. Executive Director, Bechtold, explained that the capacity and transmission cost are the most volatile and those costs would be at a variable rate. She explained that we would like to lock this in sooner rather than later because it is anticipated that pricing will be going up as there is an auction every June.

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President Opyd asked for a motion to approve locking in a 36-month rate of \$0.051390, with capacity and transmission costs passed through and authorizing the Executive Director to approve a rate up to 5% higher than this amount, if necessary, to secure favorable pricing. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Weber and seconded by Commissioner Vear and passed by Roll Call Vote as follows:

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

Discussion and/or Approval of Waiola Park Renovation Change- Anticipated Change Order.

Executive Director Bechtold explained that during the site work at Wiola Park, a buried concrete foundation was discovered near the playground area, and the existing fill material was determined to be too organic to support proper installation. To move forward the site will require removal of the concrete and import of suitable clay-based fill material.

Commissioner Posey motioned to approve the authorizing the Executive Director to approve a forthcoming change order for the Wiola Park Renovation Project, not to exceed \$150,000, related to unforeseen site conditions, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed by Roll Call Vote as Follows:

AYES: Commissioners Posey, Weber, Vear, Opyd
NAYES: None
ABESENT: Commissioner Lacey

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.

Public Comments (Board Manual Section #152)

Drew McElligot, 1521 Forest Road, La Grange Park, thanked the board and staff for all they do.

Rose Naseef, 911 S. Stone, La Grange, asked about the herbicide to be used at the parks. She added that she is sad to see some large trees having to be

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removed but appreciates that some native trees will be planted. She also added her thoughts on the OSLAD Grant. She also urged the board to consider looking into community solar energy.

Board Comments

Commissioner Posey congratulated the Park District financial team for the governor's award. She also said it was an honor to serve on the board with Lynn Lacey, who has such dedication to the community.

Commissioner Weber thanked Commissioner Lacey for her years of service to the Park District and it was nice to see so many people come to support her at the meeting. He also congratulated Director Hollock on the award and expressed his appreciation for all the hard work put forth.

Commissioner Vear said it was a pleasure serving on the board with Commissioner Lacey the entirety of his tenure on the board. He also wanted to make sure that the field users have been notified about the herbicide treatment.

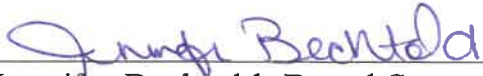
President Opyd stated that it was an honor servicing with Commissioner Lacey. He expressed his appreciation for the years of service and integrity from Commissioner Lacey.

Adjournment

President Opyd asked for a motion for adjournment at 7:46 P.M. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Posey, seconded by Commissioner Weber and passed unanimously by Voice Vote.



Brian Opyd, President



Jennifer Bechtold, Board Secretary
Approved May 12, 2025