ORIGINAL

DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President James Grady called the Regular Meeting of the Des Plaines Park District Board of Commissioners to order at 4:40 pm. Commissioners answering present to the roll call in person were Commissioner Erin Doerr, Commissioner Eli Williams, Commissioner Jana Haas and President James Grady. Staff in attendance were Executive Director, Donald Miletic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
President Haas motioned to enter Executive Session at 4:40, prior to regular Park Board Meeting, due to Personnel.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Williams
All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent:0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

Close Executive Session and return to OPEN SESSION:
Commissioner Williams made a motion to close the Executive Session and return to open session at 5:45 pm and took a short break until 6:00 pm.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Doerr

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye;
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

President James Grady called the Regular Meeting of the Des Plaines Park District Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00pm. Commissioners answering present to the roll call in person were Commissioner Erin Doerr, Commissioner Eli Williams, Commissioner Jana Haas and President James Grady.

Staff in attendance were Executive Director, Donald Miletic; Director of Facilities and Recreation, Brian Panek; Director of Parks and Planning, Aurelio Marquez; Director of Business, Annette Curtis; Superintendent of Administration, Liz Vinakos; Administrative Assistant, Julie Bohannon

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. <u>Action Item 2 – A: Approval of Ordinance #25-07 Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property</u>
Executive Director Miletic presented a list of decommissioned Park District vehicles to be approved as surplus property.

Commissioner Williams motioned to approve Ordinance #25-07 Authorizing Sale of Surplus Property.
Motion second by: Commissioner Haas

Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye;
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

B. Action Item 2 – B: Approval of Resolution #25-08_Truth in Taxation

Commissioner Haas motioned to approve Resolution #25-08 Truth in Taxation.
Motion seconded by: Commissioner Doerr

Discussion: Director Curtis presented: Overview of 2019-2024 receipt of Grants and Public Private Partnerships, to summarize over 5 years the District secured funding of $22.5M for nine large capital projects without seeking voter referendum to raise property taxes.
The District works under the Property Tax Extension Lamination Law or PTELL. The CPI for Tax Levy year 2025 is 2.9% the District is utilizing a factor of 1.00%. The 2025 Levy request totals $11,406,541 an increase of $151,428 or 1% over the 2024 Extension.
By State Code if the Levy request is greater than 105% of the previous year's final extension, public notice must be made in a newspaper, and a Public Hearing must be held. The District is not requesting greater than 5% so a Public Hearing is not required, the Board will simply pass the Truth in Taxation Resolution. A copy was provided in the Board Packet.

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye;
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

C. Action Item 2 – C: Approval of Ordinance #25-09_2025 Tax Levy Abatement

Business Director Annette Curtis discussed that GO Bond Series 2018C was issued in part for the ADA portion of the PLAC indoor pool complex. At issuance the District designated a portion of its Special Recreation Fund as its alternative revenue source for debt repayment. Yearly, the District passes the Tax Levy Abatement Ordinance to direct the County to not levy within the Debt Service Fund for GO Bond Series 2018C.
For Levy year 2025, collection year 2026 the total Levy Abatement = $168,345

Commissioner Doerr motioned to approve Ordinance #25-09_2025 Tax Levy Abatement"

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Williams

Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye;
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

III. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- Delanie Wieczolek voiced concern over the dance leader's removal and inquired as to why.
- Katrina Williams is concerned about transparency and process. Upset that minor's email addresses were used. Upset that Cultural Arts Manager was let go.
- Katie Tran requested a review of HR procedures and ethical communication. Expressed concern that current dance teachers may be overburdened by the changes.
- Strab Psyhogios stated he has leadership, communication and billing concerns.
- Shelli Mata asked the board to stop unfair treatment of dance programs and restore public confidence. Requested a detailed written refund plan. Requested written plan for AiM & DPD Dance. Requested an investigation into leadership.
- Sharron Carl feels the DPPD failed to address the ALC dance room A/C issue. Asked why a discount was not given to dancers who had summer employment with the District.
- Mr. Carl is upset that high school seniors lost their dance instructor and requested the girls run the program on their own.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2025
B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES – October 21, 2025
C. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES –none

D. VOUCHER BILLS:

October 10, 2025	$ 510,505.71
October 24, 2025	$ 1,313,026.39

E. PAYROLL:

October 03, 2025	$ 269,253.23
October 17, 2025	$ 265,614.03
October 31, 2025	$ 263,952.89

Commissioner Haas motioned to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Doerr

Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye;
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

V. MONTHY REPORTS

A. Executive Director: Executive Director Don Miletic reviewed items in his written report:

- Working on TeeUp.
- Investigating solar grants with the potential to save 3.4 million in energy costs over time.
- PLCC renovations are ongoing.
- The District celebrated Veterans Day at the Lake Park Veterans memorial and made a donation to the American Legion in support of our local veterans.
- The District's 2025 tax levy request is an increase of 1.0% from the prior year.
- The City's Craig Manor drainage project is complete, but Director Miletic feels the City needs to redo the turf in the Spring.
- A collaborative effort between the District and Friends of the Parks resulted in scholarships for children in our community totaling $46,000.00.
- Our Superintendent of Administration Liz Vinakos has been working hard to complete the Distinguished Agency process.

Discussion: Commissioner Haas inquired where the solar panels would be placed. Executive Director Miletic stated they would be installed in PLCC parking lot.

B. Facilities and Recreation: Director Brian Panek reviewed items in his written report:

- Special Event Updates
    - Trunk or Treat
    - Halloween Parades
    - Community Band 12/14/25 at Prairie Lakes Theater. Tickets are $12.00

- Winter Wonderland 12/6/25 4pm – 11pm
- Water Wonderland 12/20/25 1pm – 4pm

- Golf closures for season
- Winter Spectrum out 11/11 – 11/21

Discussion: Commissioner Williams requested childcare at Prairie Lakes to allow parents to exercise or take a class. Commissioner Haas inquired whether the final numbers have come in from Golf in the Dark. Director Panek stated that the numbers are not finalized at this time.

C. **Director of Parks and Planning**: Director Aurelio Marquez reviewed items contained in his written report C:

- Finalized the ALC water line insulation project and coordinated with NICOR an energy efficient rebate for the Park District.
- Organized the repair of the deep plunge pool drain at Mystic Waters with the help of Mechanical Maintenance.
- Coordinated the demolition and rebuilding of our pump house roof at Mystic Waters.

Discussion: Commissioner Haas asked if these items take care of all necessary repairs at Mystic Waters. Executive Director Miletic advised that Mystic Waters has aging infrastructure and could require a referendum in excess of 20 to 30 million dollars to repair and renovate. Director Miletic stated that in the future about 10 years, a decision would have to be made to either go ahead with repairs and renovations or explore the option to build a sports complex in its place that would be used year-round versus seasonally as Mystic Waters is now. Commissioner Williams asked when our last community assessment took place. Executive Director Miletic replied 2022. Commissioner Haas inquired about repairs at Blackhawk dog park. Director Marquez stated that it was routine maintenance.

D. **Business Department**: Director of Business Annette Curtis reviewed items contained in her written report D:

- Working on the Levy and projected fund balances. In anticipation of the FY 2027 Budget year. That project has started.
- Ensuring the December 1- bond payments are paid timely. Due to the fund balances, delay in property tax receipts is not impacting operations, payroll etc. We will dip into those balances to make the bond payments and then when the cash is received, replenish.
- Attended IAPD's legal symposium with Nicki and Liz, which is very educational, keeping up with the ever-changing park district landscape.
- Met with the Business office staff for a 6 month check in on performance goals. With the summer season ending, these meetings kick started those projects.
- Dennis Murray is settling in at the history center- we will continue to work on internal controls, and FY 2026 budget.

Discussion: None

D.2 Financial Reports:

Commissioner Haas motioned to approve the Financial Reports for November 18, 2025, and place a copy on file.

Motion **seconded by:** Commissioner Williams
Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye.
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Algonquin Road Bridge – Discussion Only

Discussion: Executive Director Miletic stated that the Algonquin Road bridge is not a good option for the District due to traffic concerns entering and exiting Prairie Lakes from Algonquin Rd. Director Miletic also stated that the District has been advised by our legal counsel it has three options, to remain silent, or pass a resolution either for or against construction of the bridge.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: None

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

President Grady: Thanked the community for coming out and voicing their concerns. Wished everyone a healthy and fun Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Doerr: Appreciates the full room and all the feedback. Shared everyone's email correspondence with the rest of the board members. Shared that she won best trunk for Trunk or Treat along with the Des Plaines Youth Commission.

Commissioner Haas: Shared a resident's concern about the climbing wall at Centennial Park. Thanked everyone for a great season and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Williams: Thanked the community for voicing their concerns and wants everyone to know that the board takes their concerns seriously. Felt Trunk or Treat went great and is looking forward to the holidays.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Williams motioned to go into executive session to consider matters related to Real Estate, Personnel, Litigation, Review of Closed Session Minutes or the setting of a price for lease of property owned by the Des Plaines Park District at 7:06 pm.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Doerr
All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent:0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

XIV. CLOSE AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Commissioner Doerr motioned to close the Executive Session and return to open session at: 7:42.

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Haas
All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams motioned to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:42

Motion seconded by: Commissioner Doerr
All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent:0
Motion Carried: 4-0-0

APPROVED

Park Board President — Date 12/16/25

Park Board Secretary — Date 12/16/25