DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 20, 2026

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 6:00pm. Commissioners answering present to the roll call in person were Commissioner Erin Doerr, Commissioner Eli Williams, Commissioner Jana Haas, Commissioner Alan Osinski 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 HR & Risk Management, Nicole Dale; Superintendent of Administration, Liz Vinakos; Administrative Assistant, Julie Bohannon.

Guests in attendance were Anthony Miceli of Spear Financial. All other guests in attendance are found on the Board meeting sign in sheet.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Action Item 2 – A: Consideration of approval of Ordinance #26-01 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2026

Board guest, Anthony Miceli of Spear Financial, presented bid amounts for the general obligation limited tax park bonds. Mr. Miceli recommended that Park Board accept the bid from Village Bank of Des Plaines in the amount of $933,305, with an interest rate of 2.95%, payable on November 1, 2026. Asked if there were any questions from the Board. No questions were noted.

Motion by Commissioner Doerr: I move that the Park Board of Commissioners accept Village Bank of Des Plaines as the best bid received in relation to the sale of the District's General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2026.

Second by: Commissioner Haas

Discussion: Director Curtis emphasized that the bond is a short term, 11 months bond, to allow the Park District to stay nimble.

Roll call: Commissioner Doerr, Aye; Haas, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye; Osinski, Aye
Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

Ordinance #26-01, An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of $929,675 general obligation limited tax park bonds, series 2026 of the Des Plaines Park District, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds, was presented.

Motion by Commissioner Williams: " I move that the park board of commissioners approve ordinance no. 26-01, "an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of $929,675 general obligation limited tax park bonds, series 2026 of the Des Plaines Park District, Cook County, Illinois, and for the levy of a direct tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds."

Second by: Commissioner Haas

Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Doerr, Aye; Haas, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye; Osinski, Aye
Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

III. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - NONE

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- James Carl asked the following questions:
  - Why did the dance teachers quit before the Winter Showcase?
  - Did the dance teachers or Cultural Arts Manager sign a non-compete?
  - Are there plans to hire a new Cultural Arts Manager?
  - Mr. Carl also acknowledged Natalie Sanchez for a job well done at the Winter Showcase.
- Katrina Williams Commented on the loss of the dance program, would like to see it return and requested the Commissioners read the dance teachers resignation letters.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Doerr requested Mr. Carl to leave his questions with the Board for review.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – December 16, 2025
B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES – NONE
C. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES –NONE

D. VOUCHER BILLS:

December 05, 2025	$ 476,548.73
December 19, 2025	$ 366,990.42

E. PAYROLL:

December 12, 2025	$ 232,901.33
December 26, 2025	$ 237,317.48

Motion by Commissioner Haas to approve the Consent Agenda for December 16, 2025 as listed.

Second by Commissioner Doerr

Discussion: NONE

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye; Osinski, Aye
Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

VI. M-NASR REPORT: Executive Director Miletic stated that information can be found in the report. Asked if the board had any questions.

VII. MONTHY REPORTS

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

- Gave Kudos to Director Marquez for his work on the PLCC Renovation Project.
- Health Insurance numbers did come in below the high increases we have been told about, so some good news.
- The hiring process for summer has been great, already 1/3 of our lifeguards have been hired.

Discussion: President Grady stated that it was good news to hear about a possible reduction in health insurance costs.

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

- Director Panek reflected on the past year's program and event additions for the Park District. Highlights included additions to the Swim school, new cabana rental at Mystic, moving the soccer program in-house, and addition fitness classes and camp classes. Stated that the Board will receive this report each year.
- Dance Instructors have been hired
- Promotion of Brianna Wabel to Aquatics Manager
- Currently interviewing Aquatics Supervisors

Discussion: Commissioner Haas loves the list of all the new programs.
Commissioner Doerr requested registration numbers be included with the new programs.

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

- Trained two Parks staff as certified trainers. Ryan Panenka for forklift and Zack Brzezniski for aerial lift and forklift. Both passed and can now certify all necessary employees in-house.
- Took part in weekly owner/contractor meetings of the PLCC Renovation Project.
- Promoting ongoing training to keep Parks staff certified, safe and up to date on equipment and procedures.

Discussion: Commissioner Grady asked if a retirement party has been planned for Ken Rochau.
Commissioner Doerr asked how snow and cold weather operations have been going.
Director Marquez stated that we had a water issue at West Park that was quickly repaired.
Commissioner Haas inquired about the status of the ice rinks. Director Marquez replied that rinks are currently open.

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

- In late December cook county began distributing property tax receipts and provided a distribution schedule. They noted that the schedule is subject to change, and the county continues to troubleshoot issues with the new distribution system. Director Curtis stated that the Park District does not have to rely upon the tax distributions in order to keep operating.
- The department focus has now shifted to budgets. FY 2027 Budget meetings have begun. Meetings will proceed through February, working towards a board presentation at the April 21st meeting.
- The History Center is hosting a meet and greet on Thursday, January 29 – 4:30-6:30pm to meet the new staff. Dennis Murray Executive Director, Eli Levsky Administration and Outreach, Olivia Cimino Education and Exhibits. Dennis is drafting the FY 2026 budget, and the finance committee will be reviewing prior to the February board meeting. Stated that Executive Directory Murray is a great Executive Director with a good understanding of controls.

Discussion: Commissioner Osinski asked what percent of property taxes are received. Director Curtis said we are at 60%.

D.2 FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Commissioner Haas moved to approve the Financial Reports for December 16 2025, and place a copy on file.

Seconded by: Commissioner Osinski
Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Osinski, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye.
Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Algonquin Road Bridge – Discussion Only
Discussion: NONE

IX: PRESENTATIONS: None

X. CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Thank you from Frisbie Senior Center
B. Thank you from The Chicago Chapter of the Photographic Society of America

Discussion: President Grady asked in the Frisbie Senior Center will advertise that their name changed to the Gen Center. Executive Director Miletic stated that they have been painting and sprucing up the center including a new logo.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Osinski: Stated that he attended the NYE balloon drop and that his daughter really enjoyed it. He also appreciated the quiet room option, and it would be nice to keep going forward. Stated that he follows social media closely and liked the feedback from Water Wonderland and NYE. Was happy to receive a great audit from StarGuard Elite and stated that it is fantastic and shows great staff performance. Noted that he is a big fan of Sunrise Grill and "hats off" to staff for adding them to the catering list for the Shoreline Room.

Commissioner Williams: Stated that comments from the community are always listened to. Stated he did read a couple of the resignation letters and planned to read them all. Stated that public comment is not a Q&A session, but he does take the comments seriously. Noted that on 01/22/26 10% of all proceeds at Charcoal Delights will be donated to the Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce all day long and that Gus is appreciated in the community. Stated hopefully next meeting they will be celebrating Prairie Lakes.

Commissioner Haas: Appreciates comments from the community and gave a shout out to all the staff working in the cold. Commissioner Haas hopes everyone had a good holiday. Stated that comments are not ignored, there are just certain times that the Board cannot respond and personnel discussions are not for a public place. Feels that we are moving into the right place with the new direction.

Commissioner Doerr: Wants to be sure everyone knows that with this cold weather, the Park District buildings are warm and welcoming to everyone and should be open for the public to see how beautiful the rooms and facilities are. Stated that she attended the NYE ball drop and the Chili Open. Commissioner Doerr is looking forward to PLCC completion and thanked staff for all their hard work and is still hoping for a teen center. Commissioner Doer noted that the Junior Warriors cheerleaders are in need of a coach.

President Grady: Is grateful for community members showing up and putting forth their feelings and comments. As Jana discussed, they don't discuss personnel issues in public. Stated that moving forward, within 6 months to 1 year there will be a fabulous dance program, personnel have already been hired. Thanked staff for all their hard work within the last 60-90 days for PLCC renovations and the Teeup project.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

XIII. CLOSE AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: N/A

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Doerr made a motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 6:37pm

Seconded by Commissioner Haas
All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent:0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

APPROVED

President

Secretary