DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 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 Business, Annette Curtis; Superintendent of Administration, Liz Vinakos.

Guests in attendance are included on the sign in sheet.

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - NONE

III. PRESENTATIONS - NONE

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

- James Carl: Mr. Carl discussed previously purchased costumes for dance and inquired as to who bought the costumes, as he presented answers from the 2022 community survey to the Board of Commissioners. He asked if the Park District has used forensic accounting for looking into the dance program, as well as recommending the creation of a flow chart regarding purchasing procedures. He also asked for extended speaking time.
- Ryan Panenka: Stated that he came to the meeting tonight with care and compassion for the community. Asked how we can support more businesses in Des Plaines. Discussed local business owners and how much pride there is in the community. Asked how can we use local businesses more for Fallfest and other events? Offered suggestion of a tiered sponsorship opportunity as well as promotions between acts at FallFest. Board was provided statement with his ideas.
- Susan Chavez: Stated that she wanted to talk about responsibilities. Stated that residents feel a disconnect with emails being unanswered. Stated that things are being reduced, and there is a strain. Stated that decisions should put residents first and more strength in leadership is needed. Moving forward hopes the Park District will respond and engage with the community, resident feel unheard and have been going to her.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – January 20, 2026
B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES – December 16, 2025
C. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – None
D. VOUCHER BILLS:

January 02, 2026	$ 313,429.43
January 16, 2026	$ 781,016.09
January 28, 2026	$ 534,330.91

E. PAYROLL:

January 09, 2026	$ 252,447.14
January 23, 2026	$ 254,255.67

Motion by Commissioner Osinski to approve the Consent Agenda for February 17, 2026 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 the report from M-NASR Executive Director, Trisha Breitlow is included in the Board packet. Reminded everyone that the Liponi Spring Gala will be held on March 7th, 2026.

VII. MONTHY REPORTS

A. Executive Director: Executive Director Don Miletic stated that the monthly report is in the Board packet. He stated that next month's Board meeting will need to be moved from March 17th to another day that week due to conflict with the elections taking place on March 17th. Executive Director Miletic also discussed that there will be a grand opening for Prairie Lakes Fitness on March 14th at 10:00am.

Discussion: President Grady stated that the state of Illinois has an ordinance that prohibits government Board meetings from being held on the same day as an election. Commissioner Doerr stated that she has received good feedback regarding the fitness center. Executive Director Miletic replied that everything is working, looks great, and that locker rooms will hopefully be open next week.

B. Facilities and Recreation: Director Panek stated that his department report is provided to the Board and opened the discussion up to questions.

Discussion: Commissioner Williams commented that Director Panek had handed over the reigns to overseeing the bands for special events. Director Panek replied that yes, staff member Lizzie Karras (Recreation Supervisor) will be overseeing Live at the Lake, and is very excited about the opportunity. Director Panek will still be handling Fall Fest. Commissioner Haas asked if [Live at the Lake] is still going to be at two locations. Director Panek replied yes. President Grady stated that he heard the Golf Center was slammed. Director Panek replied that the Golf Center has been doing really well, with approximately $14,000 in revenue from the yesterday. He also stated that there has been standing water on the green due to rains and some flooding. Director Panek also stated that he will be working out of Prairie Lakes to train. Commissioner Williams asked how Bingo and Bonding went. Director Panek stated it is a first time event and will hopefully be offered one to two times a year for grandparents to spend time with their grandkids. Commissioner Haas stated that it might be a good idea to partner with the Gen Center.

C. Director of Parks and Planning: Director Aurelio Marquez was not in attendance.

Discussion: President Grady asked staff if there was anything from Aurelio's area. Executive Director Miletic stated that staff has been working hard on shifting and being ready for budgets, as well as getting landscaping ready. Pertaining to the Parks and Planning report, Commissioner Williams referenced ComEd voltage dips. Executive Director Miletic stated that the Park District had equipment set up to monitor during the summer when outages were seen at the pool. It was discovered that ComEd needed to replace a transformer. Commissioner Doerr asked if this had to do with wifi outages, Executive Director Miletic stated no.
Commissioner Haas asked if the awards from conference will be part of a marketing plan from the Park District. Executive Director Miletic stated that yes, they have already sent it to the Daily Herald and they are getting ready to post. Commissioner Doerr made mention of the vandalism report. She asked if there is a threshold for filing a police report. Executive Director Miletic stated that if the vandalism is graffiti, then staff will notify the police to investigate. If we are able to catch the vandal, then the Park District will take the accused to court in some situations.

D. Business Department: Director Curtis asked the Board if they had any questions on her report.

Discussion: President Grady asked the Board if there were any questions on the financials. None were voiced.

D.2 FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Commissioner Haas moved to approve the Financial Reports for February 17, 2026, and place a copy on file for audit.

Seconded by: Commissioner Williams
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. NEW BUSINESS

A. Action Item 9 – A: Approval of the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Des Plaines, the Des Plaines Park District, and the Des Plaines Community Senior Center for the Provision and Funding of services.

Commissioner Doerr moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Des Plaines, the Des Plaines Park District, and the Des Plaines Community Senior Center (GenCenter) for the provision and funding of services.

Seconded by: Commissioner Osinski

Discussion: Director Miletic stated that the annual agreement with what is now the Gen Center, is to budget funds to pay the center $42,000 a year to maintain services. Stated this agreement has been going on since 2006 when the Senior Center was going to close because there were no funds to operate. He met with the city to put a plan together to fund the Gen Center. Commissioner Doerr asked if the contribution goes up? Executive Director Miletic stated that usually it increases each year by CPI.

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

X. COORESPONDENCE

A. Nicor-Notice regarding the Nicor efficiency rebate provided to the Park District
B. School District 62 – Thank you for the scholarship assistance program partnership
C. Jim Fitz Memorial – Annual Golf Outing thank you.

Discussion: Executive Director Miletic stated that Nicor rebate was received by the Park District as part of an energy efficiency partnership. The Park District insulated old pipes and was provided cash back from Nicor. Director Curtis stated the amount received was $6,700.
President Grady asked about the garden plots. Director Curtis stated that right now there are 80 plots reserviced and we will most likely sell out. The reservations opened on February 1st. Commissioner Doerr asked if it is the same people who reserve each year. Director Curtis stated that staff ask those who already have a plot if they would like to continue, then they open it to others. Commissioner Haas stated that [garden plots] is a nice

enhancement to those who need help. Asked if there is a limit? Director Curtis stated usually one plot per family. Commissioner Osinski asked that regarding the District 62 letter, what programs was it for? Superintendent Vinakos stated that the Park District works with the staff at District 62 to help families who need financial assistance receive scholarships. The school comes to the Park District for a day, and helps register each family, mostly for summer camp.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

President Grady opened Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Doerr: Commissioner Doerr stated that conference was amazing. They learned about legal, FOIA updates, it is a good refresher and experience for staff and those who need educational credits. Applauded those who take the time to attend, thanked staff. Stated that she ran into Alderman Moylan who was glowing about the Park District and wants to do more. Kiwanis 5k, it is great to see groups utilize the Park District. In addition, Commissioner Doerr stated that when people say we [the commissioners] aren't reachable, we are part of the community and can be found at many activities.

Commissioner Haas: Commissioner Haas stated that she visited the new GenCenter, and it is bright and cheery and stated that grand opening may be in a couple weeks? Told the community to go visit, they are a good partner. Stated FYI, Thursday American Legion had a fundraiser for food. Stated on Thursday the 7th, the self-help closet was award money at the Des Plaines Elk's Club. Is grateful for the support.

Commissioner Williams: Commissioner Williams stated the IPRA was great, it was a good refresh. Looking forward to the Prairie Lakes Fitness grand opening. Stated to the community regarding Mr. Carl's comments, staff can easily give answer regarding billing questions. For Mr. Panenka, asked to email the Board his ideas. Stated that the goal of Park Districts is to enhance lives through parks and recreation, not necessarily through businesses. But maybe there can be more done through sponsorships and mixing with programming. Usually the Chamber is a place for focus on businesses, but asked for the ideas to be given to the Board. Commissioner Williams stated that in regards to comments by Susan Chavez, he thinks there is a disconnect, speaking for himself. Stated he has never ignored an email. He also stated that she should not bear any burden from community members as she stated. Said he is happy to always give a best of ability reply to emails, or will state that he cannot reply because it is a personnel issue.

Commissioner Osinski: Commissioner Osinski gave a shout out to Aurelio, the team did a great job [on Prairie Lakes]. Stated it is never convenient to do construction any time of year. There is always challenges when opening up walls. Must be done safely and protect the people. Gave a shout out to Joe Wber on social media. Likes to see marketing integrating staff. Was at Lake Park on Sunday, it was clean and packed. It was great to see everyone.

President Grady: President Grady stated that he goes to the new fitness center a couple times a week. Trainers can show you how to use the equipment. Stated that he did respond to Mr. Carl's prior questions in writing, stated communication is important, and there are certain times when they are unable to talk. Wished everyone a safe and happy spring time.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Commissioner Haas at 6:43 pm to go into executive session to consider matters related to Real Estate, Personnel, Litigation, Review of Closed Session Minutes, or setting of a price for lease of property owned by the Des Plaines Park District.

Seconded by: Commissioner Doerr

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Osinski, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, Aye; Williams, Aye.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0, Absent: 0
Motion Carried: 5-0-0

XIII. CLOSE AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

Commissioner Haas made a motion to close the Executive Session and return to open session at 8:19 pm.

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

Commissioner Haas moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners to approve the Position Titles & Grades & Salary Structure for 2026/27.

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

Commissioner Doerr moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Full-Time Salary Administration 2026/27.

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

Commissioner Osinski moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Health, Dental, Vision & Life Insurance for 2026/27.

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

Commissioner Williams moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners approve the First Amendment to Executive Director Agreement.

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

Commissioner Williams moved to have the Park District Board of Commissioners approve Resolution #26-02 Approving the First Amendment to the Executive Director Employment Agreement.

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Doerr made a motion to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 8:19 pm

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

APPROVED

President

Secretary