DES PLAINES PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 21 2026

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
President Erin Doerr called to order the regular meeting of the Park Board for July 21st, 2026 at 6:01 PM. Commissioners answering present to the roll call in person were Commissioner Eli Williams, Commissioner Jana Haas, Commissioner Alan Osinski and President Erin Doerr.

Staff present were Executive Director, Donald Miletic; Director of Revenue Facilities and Recreation, Brian Panek; Director of Parks & Planning, Aurelio Marquez; Director of Business, Annette Curtis; Director of Administration & HR, Nicole Dale and Superintendent of Administration, Liz Vinakos.

Guests Present: Attorney Andrew Paine. Additional guests from sign-in sheet.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA –** None

3. **PRESENTATIONS** - None

4. **COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

- Jennifer Poonsapaya commented on the West Park project and matching level of community involvement with the project.
- Jeanette Weller discussed the executive director search and community advisory boards.
- Susan Chavez asked about the Park District's policy on alcohol use.
- James Carl complimented the Mystic Waters 5k event and asked about Foxtail contributions and Board voting procedures.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

A. REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – June 16, 2026
B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – June 16, 2026
C. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – July 10, 2026

D. VOUCHER BILLS:
June 05, 2026 $ 224,361,57
June 19, 2026 $ 450,694.71

E. PAYROLL:
June 12, 2026 $ 453,605.41
June 26, 2026 $ 550,222.44

Motion by Commissioner Osinski to approve the Consent Agenda for July 21, 2026, as listed.
Seconded by: Commissioner Williams

Discussion: None

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, NP; Williams, Aye; Osinski, Aye
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 1
Motion Carried: 4-0-1

6. **M-NASR Report**: (None)

7. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

A. Executive Director:

Director Miletic gave kudos to staff for managing challenges due to rain, air quality, and heat, highlighting the accomplishments of the landscaping team as well. Discussed staff working hard on Tee Up. Stated that during retirement he is looking forward to the future and applauded those who stood behind Park District with everything that was accomplished. Discussed the attachment to the board packet of the summary of FOIA requests as well as PAC responses, as was requested of him. Stated it is critical to transparency due to incorrect information being shared.

Commissioner Comments:

Vice President Haas discussed the history of Executive Director Miletic's career at the Park District. Stated that when Don was hired, he wanted to make the Park District the best it could possibly be. He maintained fantastic staffing levels, the envy of park districts in state. Wanted to say she supports Don completely. Mentioned that community meetings have often been held for projects, but usually no one shows up. President Doerr read a message from the Board regarding Executive Miletic's retirement. Stated that she hopes he will get to spend time with family, friends, and his love for animals. Reflected on Executive Director Miletic's career and how commendable it has been. Stated that he has been behind many projects, reading off the list of projects, and earned over 13 million in grants towards Park District development.

B. Facilities and Recreation:

Director Brian Panek provided an update regarding District pools stating that we received an updated 5-star audit rating from Starguard. Stated that June for pools was rough, the weather average was cooler and rain measurements were higher. By end of this month, though, revenues were above last year's. Discussed a television commercial that was shot for Mystic Waters on Comcast. Mentioned that Tee Up, went live July 13th on two floors, and the App went live yesterday. Praised Peter (IT Manager) for all his work on the Tee Up system. Mentioned Live at the Lake, the 5k at Mystic receiving great comments and Leashes and Lattes had over 100 dogs in attendance. A Halloween event is expected for the dog park this fall. Finally stated that the Jr Open was canceled and rescheduled for July 31st due to air quality.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Osinski asked when the fall spectrum being sent to printer and asked when it will be available publicly. Director Panek said the print spectrum will be available the first week of August, online by end of July. President Doerr stated that she appreciated staff pivoting with air quality and discussed how communications are managed regarding changes to programs.

C. Director of Parks and Planning:

Director Marquez discussed the coordination within multiple departments of the TeeUp project. Stated that Marcin and the building services team was doing great job on the hardware side including upgrading all wiring. Stated pools have been in high use, water quality has improved due to daily efforts by the team. Discussed the air quality and that staff with landscaping fall back and work on other indoor tasks and training during these times. Discussed working on sewer backups, AC failures and fixing of Rand Park.

Commissioner Comments: None

D. Business: Director of Business:
Director Curtis' discussion included the audit field work being completed after auditors spent 2 days onsite. Stated that we are expecting the first draft of report the first week of August, with a presentation in September at the Board meeting. Stated during the month that a lot of paperwork was coming through the business office and gave kudos to staff for keeping up with all data and staying on top of it. Mentioned that cash handlers are being trained well and there have been very few errors across sites. Stated that work has also been done on Tee Up, and that we would not have tee up without the work of Peter and Adam. Stated that Tee Up includes building a POS system and app. Stated that Peter has been able to figure out what needs to be fixed during testing, and fixes it immediately. Discussed how Joe and Max also did a great job training the front desk staff on the system. Stated Adam has been working with Marcin and team for kiosk buildout and has also kept rest of park district moving along. Finally, mentioned that property tax bills will be late again.

Commissioner Comments:

President Doerr thanked Annette for making financials easy for her.

D.1 Financial Reports

Motion made by Commissioner Williams to approve the financial report for July 21, 2026, and place a copy on file subject to audit.

Second by: Vice President Haas

Roll call: Commissioner Haas, Aye; Doerr, Aye; Grady, NP; Williams, Aye; Osinski, Aye
Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Absent: 1
Motion Carried: 4-0-1

Commissioner Comments: None

E. Director of Administration & HR:
Director Dale discussed the 4th of July parade stating that staff put in a lot of work with the float and preparations, making it a positive event. Mentioned that with Jen's retirement, there has been a shifting of positions. This includes the promotion of Candice to Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Haley promoted to the full-time Recreation Supervisor role and Tess promoted to the part time Recreation Assistant. Stated there has been a lot of backend work that went into the changes. Finally, discussed that interviews are taking place for Director of Business, currently in the second round.

Commissioner Comments: None

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
A. Algonquin Road Bridge – No comments

9. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A. GenCenter
B. Kiwanis
C. Lemons of Love
D. Women in Leisure Services

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Doerr: Stated that she met with Representative Cochran regarding the setting up of a townhall. They discussed how many times no one shows up to these public meetings regarding projects. Stated, however, we have true professionals in the room and JSD has been successful working with us in the past on projects. Also, we appreciate M-NASR and Trisha taking time to come to the meeting. Mentioned that maybe we can participate in the M-NASR mini golf fundraiser in August. Stated that going back to the playground for all (West Park), the design boards were great. Happy summer, good work everyone.

Vice President Haas: Stated that while reading the operations reports, noticed that there are so many people jumping around and park district trucks are seen going to one place or another. Stated it is unbelievable how everything is kept straight. Wanted to provide a comment to Jennifer Poonsapaya, while citizen engagement is wonderful idea, Illinois is the only state with own bodies for parks and recreation (Park Districts). Stated that a project in Atlanta took 10 years for a playground to be built because they don't have the expertise. But we have the expertise here. Mentioned that the public could come every month and provide input if they would've liked. Stated we are lucky to be in this state and it is a privilege.

Treasurer Williams: Stated this it is disappointing that the meeting guests left before commissioner comments. Stated that Jennifer provided good feedback and provided it in a way that feedback should be presented. Discussed that we are currently in the conceptual stage and is confused as to what level they would like to be brought in, per the feedback. Commissioner Williams stated that we need to trust staff to know who to partner with for these projects. Stated that we are still open and receiving feedback for the design. In addressing Ms. Weller, yes, the Park District is hiring for the executive director position with search firms and that they would be reaching out to local school districts and stakeholders. Commented on Don's great tenure and it has been great working with him. Stated that to Don, retirement is a big decision and he is sad to see him go. Finally, that people know the foundation has been laid and the new executive director will have a tough job to keep momentum going.

Commissioner Osinski: Stated that this was his first 4th of July with the District and it was a lot of fun. The vast majority of the public seen were thankful and it was fun to be a part of it. Stated that the West park meeting was great, and liked that JSD has an office in Des Plaines. Understands there are certain thresholds and requirements that must be included in the design for the grant. Stated that JSD did a great job providing suggestions and explaining the conceptual stage. Executive Director Miletic stated that the concept boards are up at Prairie Lakes for viewing with feedback cards, and the community is involved. Commissioner Osinski stated that he has only been here since the winter, and has consistently seen that the District is front and center and Don's decisions are always in the best interest of the District. Stated that the search firms were asked what the selling points are for the Park District to a new executive director. Stated they responded it was the financials, diversity of programs, distinguished agency status, and extensive and upgraded facilities. Closed with thanking staff, especially Don, for the weekends, late nights, and emergency responses.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Vice President Haas at 7:01 pm to adjourn
Second by: Commissioner Williams
All in Favor, Opposed

Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
Motion carried: 4-0-1

APPROVED

President

Secretary