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

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Erin Doerr called to order the regular meeting of the Park Board for October 20th, 2026 at 6:00 PM. Commissioners answering present to the roll call in person were Commissioner Grady, Vice President Jana Haas, Treasurer Eli Williams, 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, Nahid Khumawala; Director of Administration & HR, Nicole Dale and Superintendent of Administration, Liz Vinakos.

Guests Present: As listed from sign in sheet

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

3. PRESENTATIONS – None

4. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Sandra Ruther: Stated that she is not happy with the possible construction of new gym space [at Prairie Lakes] because of the houses behind the site. Questions included how much will the project cost? Why do we need basketball courts? Where will the parking be located?

Questions from audience were voiced from seats and names were not captured. Questions included will the gyms be for adult leagues? Is there a demand for it?

James Carl: Questions included how many residents use gyms? Is the Des Plaines Park District building gyms for those who do not live here? Stated he doesn't want multiple gyms. Questioned President Doerr's attendance at events and asked if the Park District is paying for them.

Diane Smith: Stated she wanted to add on that she didn't want it [gyms] looking like a factory.

Commissioner Williams discussed the process for Park Board meetings (per parliamentary procedure) for those who were unaware and stated the Board and Staff would address questions during the appropriate agenda items.

5. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – September 22, 2026
B. EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES – September 22, 2026
C. SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – None

D. VOUCHER BILLS:

September 11, 2026	$ 335,007.80
September 25, 2026	$ 397,439.21

E. PAYROLL:

September 04, 2026	$ 333,277.15
September 18, 2026	$ 299,298.82

Motion by Commissioner Osinski to approve the Consent Agenda for October 20, 2026, as listed.
Seconded by: Commissioner Williams

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

6. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

7. **M-NASR REPORT**
Executive Director Miletic stated that the report from the Executive Director of M-NASR (the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation), Trisha, is included in the packet. Executive Director Miletic explained what M-NASR is for the meeting attendees, as well as how M-NASR partners with the Park District to provide inclusion support. He discussed how the Park District has been working on developing an in-house program to help support those who need inclusion services for the District's programs.

8. **MONTHLY REPORTS**
A. Executive Director:
Executive Director Miletic provided updates regarding the Lakeview Center and emergency repairs that were needed on the roof. Mystic Waters was discussed including resurfacing of the slides. He stated that he had a conversation with Jennifer Poonsapaya regarding financing for the Park District, how we follow GASB (Government Accounting Standards Board) and have strict oversight by the State of Illinois, as well as utilization of bond counselors when issuing debt and refinancing. He stated that we use reserves instead of issuance of bonds when possible. The ALC air conditioning project was mentioned as well as the challenges with Fall Fest (due to weather) and that staff are working on preparing the final numbers. Executive Director Miletic discussed the IAPD Executive Director search and that the Park Board will be overseeing the process. The gym boards were then discussed. It was stated that these are only high-level drawings, there have been no costs incurred yet, only that we are looking for spaces to hold more programming to fulfill the community needs. Stated the gyms will be used for all age groups, for a variety of programs, and that there will have public forum if the project moves forward. He discussed current challenges and lack of useable space. In regards to the question of potential parking after the project, Executive Director Miletic stated that we have to abide by what the City regulates for parking. In response to the question regarding where will the money for the project come from? Executive Director Miletic stated possibly half from reserves, and half from issuance of debt. He stated that the Park District will not do a referendum, the goal is not to increase taxes to residents. Instead, the strategy is to use different sources such as grants and revenue streams.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Osinski stated that many communities issued referendums, we have not done it nor plan on doing it. A public forum will be held for the project. Treasurer Williams discussed that community needs will be evaluated and the Board takes all residents into account when planning.

B. Facilities and Recreation:
Director Panek provided an update regarding the pools and stated next month there will be a summer recap presentation. He continued that we are currently down 16k from last year but last year was a record year due to weather. He continued that we were able to keep pools open later than normal for communities thanks to Bri, Annie and staff. Stated that Basketball registration is ongoing, new theater classes start in January, Tim Sears has been promoted to golf center supervisor, netting repairs are starting, and planning on tentatively closing seasonal facilities at Halloween, but it will be based on weather. Discussed the Shoreline Room, that rentals are up 275% to prior year. Finally, discussed special events, including the tie-dyed pool event being sold out, success of the

Howl-loween dog event, and golf in the dark with the friends of the park. Stated final numbers are not in yet. Reminded everyone that trunk or treat, family spooky swim, and winter wonderland are coming up.

Commissioner Comments:
Treasurer Williams asked about facility closure communications. President Doerr stated that she liked that facilities are open dependent on weather, and will stay open as long as possible. Wanted to make sure communication is out there to the community on these closures. Vice President Haas asked about trunk or treat, how many vendors were confirmed. It was stated that last numbers showed 32 vendors and over 600 registrants.

C. Director of Parks and Planning:
Director Marquez discussed finishing up of the winterization of aquatic facilities. He stated that he is completing gel coating of Mystic Waters big slides and deep plunge pool. He is coordinating repairs and reinstallation of Prairie Lakes fountains. The team is currently working on taking care of the abundance of cattails overtaking Prairie Lakes. Stated that is being completed in house. He stated that Blackhawk Dog Park's entrance lock has been changed out to be at ADA accessible height. Closed with the completion of Fall Fest set up, take down, and operations, and that cleanup was quicker due to all departments working together.

Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Grady asked if Craig Manor was completed. Director Marquez stated that Nov 10th they are looking to install two bench pads, and one garbage pad in order to complete. Executive Director Miletic continued that the project was a partnership with the City to prevent flooding through the installation of an underground vault. There has been no flooding so far since it was installed. President Doerr asked about winterizing of the dog park. It was stated that once temperatures reach 35 degrees, they will winterize the water spouts.

D. Business: **Director of Business:**
Director Khumawala discussed the BS&A cloud conversion, that Nov 5th a meeting is set for role configuration. She stated that data extraction has been completed and we will be ready to go live on November 30th after data review and training will be provided on Nov 25th to staff. She stated she is working on the Tax levy, to be ready by November. She updated that the TeeUp software is continuing to go well and Adam has moved to the Golf Center, which works well logistically. Closed that day-to-day financial operations are being handled well by staff and the District has a healthy financial state.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Osinski asked what the value of moving to the cloud is. Director Khumawala summarized that it opens up the door with platforms to be able to interface, provide automatic updates, and develop a full ERP system.

D.1 Financial Reports

Motion made by Commissioner Williams to approve the financial report for October 20, 2026, and place a copy on file subject to audit.

Second by: Commissioner Grady

Commissioner Comments: 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

E. Director of Administration & HR:
Director Dale discussed recruitment and hiring for the district, including that Tim Sears had moved up to Golf Supervisor, and that they are currently recruiting for facility maintenance I. The position is second shift which may be harder to fill. She stated she is reviewing Superintendent Vinakos's job description as she is leaving the

District for another opportunity. She discussed Paycom, and the utilization of new modules for training and the setup for developing a training plan for all positions. Lester (HR Coordinator) has been working on videos, and working on entirety of the plan, including hands on and virtual training. She attended an HR roundtable through the Chamber of Commerce. She stated that topics included neurodiversity in the workplace and that our Culture of Belonging Committee has been looking at more diversity training for staff. Finally, she stated Tom Grey will be coming out Monday for confined entry mapping, and that evacuation maps are being updated.

Superintendent Vinakos thanked Director Dale, Executive Director Miletic, and the Park Board, stating how much she will greatly miss working at the Des Plaines Park District with such a wonderful staff and Park Board.

Commissioner Comments: None

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Algonquin Road Bridge – Executive Director Miletic stated that the project is looking to include a 30-foot bridge at Algonquin Road and this is not desirable due to 13 foot exit ramp causing safety concerns, and that options for an underpass or use of Oakton should be considered.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Thank you from the Izaak Walton League

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

President Doerr:
President Doerr stated that she likes to make efforts to thank staff for all the work that goes on behind the scenes, making greenspace look beautiful and safe. She stated she likes hearing about the variety of programming we are working on and wants to challenge recreation staff to continue to lean into more diverse programming, whether art, food, or similar, she wants everyone to feel welcomed. She stated she will be at trunk or treat and enjoys engaging with community.

Vice President Haas:
Vice President Haas stated Commissioner Grady and herself went to visit former commissioner Rosedale and encouraged others to do the same. If you feel can go visit, you should. She stated she has been on the Park Board for over 20 years and it takes time to determine what is best for the community and there may be considerable time takeng to get projects off the ground. She stated we run very lean and she likes to give kudos to staff whenever possible for their hard work.

Treasurer Williams:
Treasurer Williams discussed the thousands of people signing up for programming at Prairie Lakes that we continue to see a need for space. Reiterated that the gym project is at a high level. Finally stated that the Board does not have any p-cards, in answer to a public comment.

Commissioner Osinski:
Commissioner Osinski stated that he appreciated everyone who showed up to the meeting. He stated that Dylan (Revenue Facilities Manager) is putting a lot of work in at the shoreline room and deserves a shout out for his efforts. He stated he appreciates Aurelio's (Director of Parks & Planning) efforts for the remodel of Woodlawn Park and stated he has received positive comments on the reduction of the full court to half court in addition to the shelter that is coming. Gave thanks to the Des Plaines police for acting on Lake Park incident, appreciates their efforts.

Commissioner Grady:
Commissioner Grady stated he was glad to see people show up and express concerns at the board meeting. He stated that they (the Park Board) listen and are concerned. He continued that Fall Fest did not go well due to

weather, but it was a great time for those who showed up. He closed with being glad we are moving into fall season with indoor activities.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

13. **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** – Not applicable

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by: Vice President Haas at 7:15 pm to adjourn

Second by: Commissioner Grady

All in Favor, Opposed
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
Motion carried: 5-0-0

MINUTES APPROVED
November 17th, 2026

President

Secretary