



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF PALATINE PARK DISTRICT
 Village of Palatine, 200 East Wood Street in Palatine
 Second Floor – Village Council Chambers
 July 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.



These minutes are not a verbatim record of what was said during the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by President Ruff

Commissioners Present

Terry Ruff, President
 Jennifer Rogers, Vice President
 Susan Gould
 Greg Sammons
 Joe Petricca

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director	Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities
Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance	Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.
Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services	Marianna Uriostegui, Community Outreach
Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning	Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant

Visitors and Citizens Present

Andrew Paine, Tressler LLP/Park District Attorney
 See attached list

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of July 8, 2024, was approved as presented. The result of the voice vote follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff
 NAY: None
 ABSENT: None
 Motion carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. President Ruff stated that item 3B would be pulled from the agenda as the minutes were not ready. Commissioner Sammons moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the consent agenda be approved as amended. By a roll call vote, the following items on the consent agenda were approved: Regular Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2024, Warrant #11 and Ordinance #24-05; Surplus of Property. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff
 NAY: None
 ABSENT: None
 Motion carried.

Visitors and Citizens' Comments

President Ruff reminded everyone that we would follow the same format as the last few meetings, he then called the first speaker.

Elle Haferkamp: I stand before you as a concerned community member deeply troubled by all the events that led to this hasty decision regarding our beloved stables. The decision to close the stables was made with minimal citizen and employee input. The community has consistently shown up, we have completely filled your last 3 meetings, spoken out and we've demonstrated the want to preserve the stables. The current approach risks alienating community members and eroding trust in the Board's ability to represent our interest effectively. This could have long-term consequences for community engagement and participation in park district activities. Therefore, we respectfully request that you reconsider and allow for public input, allow for fundraising opportunities, or at the very least keep the barn operational until February 1, 2025. This extension will allow us time to explore all viable options for sustaining this valuable community asset. We would like to know if the Board will work with us in creating a proper timeline? In conclusion, I urge you to prioritize transparency, community involvement, and thoughtful decision-making. We need you to do what is the most important aspect of your job which is representing the community and the community here having a voice. You are supposed to be the voice of them.

Tom Gersic: I'd like to start by saying that you only let about half the group in here. When you call a vote I think it's important you see the community that your voting will affect. Commissioner Ruff, you mentioned that you're concerned many of the borders live outside of Palatine, but boarding fees aren't even the top revenue line item, group riding lessons are. They brought in \$245,000 last year. You know that most of the people who take part in group riding lessons on stable horses aren't borders'? Plus, the \$218,000 for those boarding fees, \$90,000 for the horse shows, \$41,000 for private lessons, \$39,000 for camps, \$22,000 for pony rides. All that's revenue that you're canceling. You are elected representatives, granted all of you are here today, sorry Sue, because of recent uncontested elections that I bet will be contested after a year where you managed to break criminal law, get referred to the attorney general, and get yourself sued. Why are you voting against the will of people that elected you into office? I'm here today to ask you to vote to cancel your decision to shut down the stables. It's what the people want, go on Facebook, every post about the stables, 99.9% of comments, say you guys suck. You don't have any support for what you're doing. Cancel your decision, vote to keep it going, work with the community to keep things going, to keep it open. We're actually all eager to work with you. If you'd respond.

Sabine Zielinski: I started at Palatine Stables in 1989, I'm a boarder and a mother, I ride and my children ride. We take lessons and participate in horse shows, etc. I was hoping that we'd have a dialogue today, asking questions and getting answers from the Commissioners. It is incredibly disappointing that again we are making a public comment as opposed to the opportunity to have a dialogue so I rolled my questions into a speech ensuring that they will go on record. What is the real reason that you are closing the barn? Why the urgency? I submitted a FOIA for the park district communications with PDRMA, the risk management agency, regarding the stables. Denied behind legal language. What was the PDRMA recommended exit strategy and when was it conveyed to the park district? What are you hiding? Is it different than the structural engineer's assessment? The park district is not a private corporation, not a monarchy, and not a dictatorship. The elected board represents the people, and we have over 5,600 signatures in favor of the stables staying open. Look around, this is the 3rd time that we've packed this room, the overflow room, the hallway and the atrium. The people have spoken. Why won't you listen? I am asking for the building to be repaired according to the structural engineer's original assessment. Let's form a committee and get it done.

Cadence Gehrke: I second Sabine as I was really hoping we'd actually be able to have a conversation and not just me up here talking to you. I have a list of questions around horse welfare because that's what I care about. You're not going to answer but at least think about it because all of these things should have been thought about before you made your original vote, and they need to be thought about before you

revote. Mostly lack of communication regarding the plans to financially support school horses. I don't think you can vote to close the stables until there is a detailed plan to rehoming them and financially helping their transitions. Do you have any specific financial plans for them? There are 3 horses that I know very well, Charlie, Yelle,r and Windy, they are 32, that's 112 in people years. I'm sure you guys are saving for your retirements. I'm sure you guys have a healthy pension saved up. What about theirs? They're 112. Realistically you need a plan, if you were to close down before you vote. You'd have to talk with equine experts, you'd have to understand how hard it is to re-home some of these horses and you should pay for it. It is ignorant that you guys voted for the closing in the first place without even understanding that. Do some research, talk with people, and open the lines of communication at the minimum. I don't want to be up here talking at you, I want to be talking with you to find a solution.

Amira Zaben: My name is Amira Zaben and I am a member of the Zaben family which has resided in Palatine for over 53 years. I'm talking about a motion that was voted during at a board meeting that took place at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 13th. A motion that calls for input from PDRMA, Director Rea's exit plan to be created, and a tentative November 30th closing date. So how did this park district the very next day, notify boarders of this closure? And the very next day after that post the closure notice on the PPD website. Does PDRMA work overnight? Did they give you input that quickly? Director Rea, did you stay up all night drawing up an exit plan? Doesn't add up. The other thing that bothers me is that all of this seems eerily reminiscent of this park districts abrupt closure of Willow Wood Pool back in 2011. In fact, some of the same members of this board sat on the 2011 Park District Board and rammed through that closure. Look at all the residents who are here meeting after meeting, and rescind your closure vote or table it until at least you have completed the engineering report, gotten competitive bids for needed repairs, and be transparent with the public that you supposedly serve. If none of this occurs, I certainly hope that the Daily Herald, ABC7, NBC5, Channel 2, whoever does some investigative reporting and shares the highly questionable board actions with the public almost none of this is on the up and up.

Jason Stutzman: My name is Jason Stutzman, you've met my wife Amira, you've also met my children Ruby and Jasper, both of them ride at the stables. When I look at these numbers as a businessperson it perplexes me that you choose to take a profitable facility and close it without any thought or consideration. Reviewing the district budget from 2023 the stables generated \$693,000 in revenue, \$458,000 in expenses for a profit of around \$235,000. In 2022 the stables generated \$743,000 in revenue, \$633,00 in expenses resulting around \$110,000. As leaders responsible for over 35 parks, pools, and athletic fields how can you justify closing a facility that generates profit that supports all these other locations? From a financial perspective, this decision seems negligent. How can you decide to destroy a cultural inheritance site in your own town? That's my question to you, for what? No one has provided a clear plan. No one has provided what is going to be done to those grounds and to me that leads to a lot of questions and as my wife mentioned a lot of red flags. You either have an agenda that you have not promoted, or you have no plan to the detriment of all of these children here. I would ask all the children that ride to stand up and I want them to look at you and I want you to look at them. As you vote tonight think of them.

Ruby Stutzman: Hello. My name is Ruby and I am here to tell you what I did at riding class yesterday. It was a normal riding class. Our horses were at a trot. The horse I was riding tried to put down its head, tripped and started galloping, but I wasn't expecting him to gallop at all, but my instincts kicked in and I didn't fall off. You see I was sitting down, usually you stand up during a gallop. The stables and Miss Katie helped me so that I could stay on that horse. I want to have a round of applause for the stables and Miss Katie. Why are you taking this wonderful opportunity away from other kids like me? Save the stables!

Jenny Yocum: My name is Jenny Yocum, you probably recognize me from the court document. I'm a resident of Palatine and a boarder at Palatine Stables. I've been there for about 25 years. I appreciate that the closing of Palatine Stables is on the agenda today. However, I am dismayed to see that it is a revote and not a cooperative effort that would yield options for keeping the stables fully operational, either under the park district or via a public group. You won't meet with us with an attorney or without an attorney so

because our continued request to meet with the Board and park district staff have been ignored, I ask you to answer the following questions: My first question is why are you voting again without the results of the 2nd inspection? How is the decision to close the barn made with inaccurate information? The estimate used in your May 13th voting decision was based on information that contained inflated costs to repair the identified footings. How is that information different than what you have today? Why is the Board pushing through with this so fast and not even speaking to or listening to the public? Why weren't multiple contractors asked to provide feedback on repair costs? You say that after the barn is closed then you'll talk to the community about what they want. Look at us! We are telling you what we want. Work with us, we will work with you. We are happy to.

Marlo Knapp-Fadani: I am a corporate executive specialist and event producer, familiar with operating budgets anywhere from 5 million to over 100 million and familiar with building in a conservative buffer for costs. If I presented a budget to my boss that was inflated by over \$2,000,000 there would be questions and repercussions. This is not relevant to anything I've prepared, but something for you to think about when considering who you answer to and management of your funds and your team. The stables are a unique feature that draws in hundreds from both inside and outside of Palatine. Has failure to properly promote the stables been the results of just slipping somebody's mind or has it simply been a job poorly done? How have you as a Board allowed yourself and your employees to be negligent in the duties of spreading information and ensuring maximum impact of your facilities? How can you explain why our stables have not received fair representation in your promotion efforts? I've presented a multitude of questions to you, each of which it is your duty as members of this Board to have a robust and database answer for. I will leave you with one final question. Point blank, if these concerns are justification for closure of the stables and the stables alone. Why are these criteria different for our facility than for your others? Is this point of discrimination towards the users of this facility or have you simply not put in the care and attention that this decision merit?

Jamie Lindsey: I'd like to start off with saying that I think a common theme throughout everyone speaking at you tonight versus with you is that there is a right and a wrong way to do things. I think thus far the way you've gone about this process has been on the wrong side of it, so you have an opportunity to fix it when you revote tonight. I'd like to bring up some of the clear lack of due diligence and how horribly this process has been handled by this Board. The decisions made thus far are based on incomplete and sometimes completely made-up information as we've covered. How can you in good conscience move forward with this decision without vetting the other options that have been presented to you? The only voices we have heard at these meetings are pushing to keep the facility open. So how are you making your decisions based off the constituents that you represent if there's only one side that is pushing you toward a certain outcome? What else do you have going on in the background? You owe it to the community to be honest about this process and have not been willing to have this open dialogue. If you don't change your decision, and at least entertain other ways of keeping this facility within the community. You all should truly be ashamed of yourselves.

Mike Hoffman: You guys haven't responded to anything so I'm kind of tired of talking to myself. I do appreciate talking to you today, Ben. It was nice to have a few minutes of conversation. I was hoping tonight that we could ask some questions, get some feedback, and go forward, but that's not happening. You know I'm a construction guy, so I was looking at the estimate from Lamp and something didn't make sense to me. There was a \$943,000 price to repair or replace 150 posts. They were calculating 450 yards of concrete for those 150 post replacements. That's 3 yards of concrete per footing and that's a lot of concrete. I'm assuming had you guys spent a little time looking into the estimate you would have seen that 450 yards of concrete is a lot of concrete. Doing the math on that you can do a continuous foundation 10 inches by 42 inches deep for a 1,000,000 square foot facility with that amount of concrete. I think the big barn is 35,000 square feet so that's a big difference. Like I said we have emailed you, I'm assuming they have for the most part been cordial, nice and appropriate. There might have been a couple of bad ones here and there maybe. We just want you to listen to us, we want you to work with us. It's a great place. That's pretty much all I have to say.

Elaine Ramesh: Last time that I was here I spoke to you about something that I thought you may have neglected in making your decision and that was the human resource; that's the people sitting here behind you. Today I am here to point something else out which I think you really may not have considered, and that is what your own comprehensive plan says about the stables. On page 101 the comprehensive plan says currently the stables are not well known as a park district facility, but for those who are aware of the facility they agree that it's an asset to the community. Then we also see on page 104 it is stated that we recognize that the stables are a unique asset in the community and that you are considering eliminating the existing facility and reconstructing a new stable facility on the Meadowlark property. I think any such decision that's going to be made should include this as an item that you consider. What if we build a new facility on Meadowlark? How much would that cost? Page 149 says under facilities demolish the existing arena and replace it with a new heated pre-engineered metal building. So where is the discussion of these options? Are you thinking about them? Have you thought of them? Will you think of them? At this point, I believe you should think long and hard before eliminating what you, yourselves called a unique asset to the community and I think you should try your best to avoid breaking so many young hearts.

Mary Cox: I am here on behalf of my daughter Cailan. She has been riding at Palatine Stables almost 20 years now. She is autistic and horses are one of the most important things in her life and have been ever since she started at Palatine Stables which was her first exposure. She started originally through the special recreation district, but she progressed so quickly through that, and she could do more so I asked her instructor if she could consider private lessons for her. In therapeutic riding, they do similar types of activities, but she could do more on her own to progress. I can't even put into words what it means to her, and to our family to have Palatine Stables as part of our life. She is 27 years old now. She rides Juliet, before Juliet, she rode Juliet's mother Windy, and she has ridden several horses over the years at Palatine Stables. They have all been wonderful, wonderful horses. There's not much more I can say other than to let you know that she doesn't really have a lot of good things. If you know about autism, you know that it's hard to connect with people. She really connects with her horse and it's so meaningful to her. It's changed her over the years and on behalf of her and on behalf of all the other people who know and love and use Palatine Stables I ask that you please reconsider your decision.

President Ruff stated that would conclude Public Comments for this evening. Mr. David Hammer asked if he may speak, then Mr. Frank Skorski stood up saying he dropped something off at the office today and got a stamped receipt with today's date. He offered to show the Board a copy. Commissioner Gould told President Ruff that he was on the list of speakers. Mr. Skorski showed President Ruff a spokesperson form dated today to which President Ruff replied, I didn't tell you couldn't speak. Mr. Skorski thanked President Ruff and commented that he didn't want to be closed down like the stables.

Frank Skorski: Alright, this is the third time here, and like Mike and so many of my dear friends, most of them are new friends. What the hell are we doing? Are we wasting our time? I know we're wasting your time. I can see it in your faces whenever any of you look up to see who's talking to you. Very disappointing. This is an organization, it's not an organization, it's a group of people it's what they call in DC bipartisan. There's Democrats, Republicans, Independents all working together for one common cause and MAGA, I guess MAGA too. I'm MAGA, I'm no longer Republican. So, we've got everybody here and we all can agree; we all know why you're not listening. Now in defense of the Board of Governors or the Board of Directors, I feel you guys need to take a hard look, at Ben Rea's contract and consider getting rid of him.

President Ruff told Mr. Skorski that this is not a discussion at this time. We will not be talking about our staff and told him to stop or that he'd be asked to sit down.

Frank's Skorski: All right I won't use names. How does that work? Does that work for you? Should I use pronouns? Which pronoun would you want me to use?

Visitors and Citizens we're telling Mr. Skorski to stop.

Frank's Skorski: OK here's the thing. This board was misled by Ben Rea.

President Ruff asked Mr. Skorski to sit down.

Various visitors and citizens comments were made in response to Mrs. Skorski's comments: No, stop now. We don't need this. Just like that attorney that came up there we don't need you saying that kind of stuff to these people. We've all been coming up there and trying to speak from the heart and being polite and being cordial and saying that you need to fire people and all that kind of stuff, just stop.

Frank Skorski: OK I will finish then without mentioning Ben again.

President Ruff told Mr. Skorski that Ben Rea has done more for this park district in his first 6 months than has been done in the last 3 years.

Frank Skorski: I saw that he is waiting for a risk management report which I believe he received. What was the result of the risk management report? I'd like to know.

President Ruff asked the Police Officer to remove Mr. Skorski from the room. Mr. Skorski continued to claim that Ben Rea has been lying to this Board and misrepresenting the truth as he was escorted out of the room.

Mr. David Hammer asked if he could speak briefly and President Ruff agreed.

Dave Hammer: My name is David Hammer and I'm a historian, a local historian. Two days ago, in the parade I played Abraham Lincoln. Abe Lincoln knew a few things about horses and stables. The Palatine Stables here does not just provide services to these wonderful people. The Palatine Stables is a link with the past, horses have been a part of this area's history for hundreds of years. That history will not be destroyed. I ask you, please look for ways to keep it open, be creative.

President Ruff stated that we have 6 minutes left and asked if anyone else wanted to speak.

Phoenix Kazanecki: My name is Phoenix Kazanecki and I have been riding at the Palatine Stables for the past 11 ½ years. This is not about me, but I do want you to hear a story from someone who has been here for so long and has been such an integral part of the community. I first started riding here shortly after my 5th birthday as a pony party participant and then shortly following my 6th birthday I started in the group lesson program. Since then, I have met so many of these incredible horses and quite frankly I would not be alive if not for this barn. I have gone through my own fair share of struggles, and I have gone through a lot of very tough things and this barn has gotten me through every single one of them without fail. As I stand before you today, I am on the verge of tears at the idea of this barn being shut down. This barn is my second home, this barn is my home when my home is not my home. These horses have done more for me than any person in my life. These horses are so incredible, gentle, loving and they love their people. They love every single person who comes through those doors. They have been an integral part of my life for the past 11 ½ years, and to lose this barn would be losing a cornerstone of the community. I urge you to reconsider. Please, this barn is more than just a facility this barn is many people's homes. It's an incredible facility beyond what I can even say. I would not be able to stand here before you if not for my love of these horses.

President Ruff asked if anyone else would like to speak and stated that this concluded our public comments. Cadence Gehrke stepped forward.

Cadence Gehrke: I know I already talked, but as a reminder please remember the people that spoke from their hearts here and not the people who didn't. We all really care, please listen to that and please do not listen to the people who have angered you because we care. We are talking from our hearts and it means a lot to us.

President Ruff stated that we are moving on to old business. Commissioner Gould moved to rescind the motion that was made on May 13th to close the stables. President Ruff asked for a second. Commissioner Sammons asked for clarification. Commissioner Gould explained that the motion to close the stables would no longer stand, it would be rescinded. It would still be part of the record that it had happened, but the motion would then be rescinded. Commissioner Sammons mentioned agenda item 5A. Commissioner Gould said that we could decide whether we want to revote and asked Attorney Paine if that was correct. Attorney Paine stated that if Commissioner Gould's motion gets a second there would then be discussion and a vote. If a majority of the commissioners vote to rescind, it would be as if the vote on May 13th didn't happen, it would be undone. Then the agenda would move item 5A which is again closure of the stables at which point you can take that motion up and if there's a second potentially vote on it again. Commissioner Gould again requires a second and a majority vote. If that were to happen than the decision on May 13th would be rescinded. Commissioner Sammons said that he would second the motion.

President Ruff asked for discussion and Commissioner Gould stated that she would like to point out she thinks the motion on May 13th was made in haste and that we need to have a special meeting or workshop to discuss what the future of the stables is. How we can move forward, what repairs need to be made, what the actual costs would be and whether or not we want to continue doing this fantastic service to the people who are also serving us. She said that it's a unique facility, as many people have pointed out and shared a story of how she used to work out there as a teenager. She was the head instructor, taught lessons and took care of the horses. She had grown up with horses and was a Cook County Grand Champion Equestrian when in high school. She quit riding when she had children, but as soon as her daughter was 7 she began riding and her son four years later. They both rode on the A-Circuit and competed against Kent Farrington, who is going to be a US equestrian at the Olympics in Paris. Commissioner Gould sent Kent an e-mail asking him if he could respond about the significance of horses in children's lives. She has known Kent since he was a high school kid so she hopes everyone will cheer for him. Commissioner Gould also stated that she really thinks the Board needs to listen to our citizens as we normally do with any other program or facility.

Commissioner Summons said that he's confident in the reports that we got on May 13th. They are accurate but doing due diligence and getting a more thorough engineering investigation would go a long way towards communication and transparency.

Commissioner Petricca said that for those who don't know him, this is as good as his voice gets. He had cancer when he was 35 years old and doesn't have a larynx. He continued to explain that this year the board hired Ben Rea and thought they had the best guy possible. After watching him perform he truly believes that. Director Rea came to the Board after studying the stables and suggested that we close it and the Board agreed. Since then, there's be many emails, heartfelt emails, a great majority very respectful. There have been testimonials that almost brought him to tears at times. There have people that have voiced their opinion, again very respectfully, most of them. Commissioner Petricca also shared that this is a very difficult decision, heart wrenching, but Executive Director Rea and the Board have listened. They understand what's going on, but the bottom line is the Board has to have the Executive Director's back. That's the bottom line.

Visitors and Citizens became upset and stared yelling at Commissioner Petricca.

Commissioner Gould moved to rescind the motion that was made on May 13th to close the stables and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners rescind the motion that was made on May 13th to close the stables. The motion failed by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Susan Gould
NAY: Joe Petricca, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff
ABSENT: None
Motion failed 2-3

Old Business

Commissioner Rogers moved to ratify and approve the decision to close the Palatine Stables and cease all operations in connection thereto effective as of November 30, 2024 including the board's prior decisions and directions as discussed at the meeting on May 13, 2024 and all subsequent staff action taken since that time and further authorize and direct staff to take all additional actions necessary to implement and carry out the board's decision to cease operations and close the Palatine Stables. Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion. President Ruff asked for discussion. Commissioner Gould said she thinks that we are moving way to fast on this, we do not have all the facts and figures that we need. We have estimates or guesstimates, as she would call them without knowing the full extent of the problem out there. They're not going to even complete the review until sometime next week. Why are we voting on an issue that we don't have all we have all the information on? Commissioner Gould stated that in all her 31 years on this Board we have never closed a building or facility or canceled a program without extensive research, pros and cons, costs and effect. To do this to an institution that's been around since 1988 with no discussion, no bids, is ridiculous. She can't understand why we would decide to close the stables with inadequate information. We've never done that, and she doesn't know any reason to start now.

Visitors and citizens shared their comments: We're not asking you to abandon or not back up your Executive Director. We're asking for time to converse with you and get more information. Everybody in this room including very vocal members were staunchly against any suggestion of the opposite. We support this Board, we support the staff. We are asking for partnership and we're asking for collaboration. If after that the result is the same. You worked with us, we've done everything we can we understand that. The fact is we're not asking you to betray your own, we're asking you to work with us and your own. You represent us as elected officials on the park district board, you represent us by working together with us in the community. Uphold your values: transparency, communication, integrity. Where is all that? How do you make a decision when you don't even have all of the information? I think many of us sitting in this audience who have been here week, after week, after week, have done more research on this topic than some of you sitting up there. It's shameful. You should take a revote.

President Ruff said that this action is necessary to clarify prior Board and staff action and to allow the Board and the district to focus their attention on working with residents and other stakeholders to address the plan closure of the stables in an efficient, transparent and collaborative manner. I would also emphasize that the Board remains committed to obtaining and reviewing the results of the additional structural analysis of the facility which is currently underway and plans to make the report available for public inspection on the district website when is it finished as previously discussed.

Various and citizen shared more comments and asked questions; President Ruff replied that this is not for discussion.

President Ruff asked if the Board had any other discussions; no further discussion took place.

President Ruff restated the motion to ratify and approve the decision to close the Palatine Stables and cease all operations in connection thereto effective as of November 30, 2024, including the board's prior decisions and directions as discussed at the meeting on May 13, 2024 and all subsequent staff action taken since that time and further authorize and direct staff to take all additional actions necessary to implement and carry out the board's decision to cease operations and close the Palatine Stables. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff
NAY: Greg Sammons, Susan Gould
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Change Order #1, 2024 Paving Project. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Change Order #1 in the amount of \$64,398.45 to add additional pavement and pathway work to Chicagoland’s existing contract. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

Visitors and citizens yelled at the Board as they exited the meeting.

Executive Director Reports

Executive Director Rea had no report or new updates for the board.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

No reports or comments were given.

Commissioner Gould requested a 5-minute recess; President Ruff announced the Board would recess for 5 minutes.

Mr. Mike Hoffman returned to apologize for what was said afterward and he appreciates that the Board and Ben listened to them. He said he understands where they are coming from and that the stable is still there, even though it’s closing as of November 30th. The only thing that he wanted to ask was to really have the construction aspect of things looked at; the contractor that was hired to do the pole barn and to get some more numbers. He acknowledged that quite a few posts need to be replaced or repaired in the lower barn, but maybe the number won’t be \$2.5 MIL and then maybe the Board can revisit this. Mr. Hoffman stated that he’s just one person, but he wanted to apologize. The Board thanked Mr. Hoffman for his input and appreciated his apology.

Executive Session

President Ruff requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and convene in executive session. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners go into closed session for the discussion of Executive Session; Section 2(c)(11) Open Meetings Act discussion of pending, or probable and imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the District. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Susan Gould, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:54 p.m.

Return to Open Session

Commissioner Ruff entertained a motion to come out of closed session and resume to the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners; Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 7:14 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Considering items of Closed Session regarding Section 2(c)(11) Open Meetings Act for discussion of pending, or probable and imminent litigation against, affecting, or on behalf of the District, President Ruff said that there is no action at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Park Board on this date Commissioner Rogers moved that the regular meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:

Approved:

Lisa Allie
Secretary

Terry Ruff
President

<u>2024 Park Board Meetings</u>		
July 22, 2024	September 9, 2024	November 11, 2024
August 12, 2024	September 23, 2024	November 25, 2024
August 26, 2024	October 28, 2024	December 9, 2024