



REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF PALATINE PARK DISTRICT
 Village of Palatine, 200 East Wood Street in Palatine
 Second Floor- Village Room B
 February 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Ruff

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

- | | |
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| Benjamin Rea, Executive Director | Chris Cronkhite, Superintendent of Trades |
| Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance | Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities |
| Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant | Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities |
| Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance | Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr. |
| Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services | Billy Sharp, Golf Course Superintendent |
| Jim Holder, Director of Parks | Dan Hotchkin, Head Gold Pro |

Visitors and Citizens Present

- Frank Skorski, Resident
- William Van Giesen, Resident

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 February 24, 2025, was approved. The result of the roll call 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. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented. By a roll call vote, the following items on the consent agenda were approved: Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2025, and Executive Session Minutes of February 10, 2025. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

Visitors and Citizens' Comments

Frank Skorski: President Ruff advised Mr. Skorski that he would have 3 minutes to speak, Mr. Skorski said that he filled out the form allowing him extra time, and questioned President Ruff about where it's documented that the people he is speaking for must be present. Mr. Skorski continued saying: Thanks to Donald Trump I finally figured out why Terry Ruff and Ben decided to close the stables. When I saw President Trump with all the little girls, I realized that you guys, Terry Ruff, the Board, and Ben don't like girls. I believe you are in trouble for doing what you did to the girls in the Village of Palatine. 90-95% of the children who attended the Stables in the past are female. I don't know why you guys don't like females. Jennifer, I would have thought as a female you would have spoken up in defense of our girls, but you didn't. There is an election coming up, and I pray we get similar results like when we elected Donald Trump president. The days of the incompetent rule will come to an end in Illinois. As I said in July, I think Ben should be removed for breach of contract. He provided false and misleading information to the Board, which the Board parroted, dutifully to the Daily Herald and anyone willing to listen. You took away the joy from all the girls who participated in our stables. Now you are painting signs and trying to destroy all evidence of the fact that it wouldn't cost 2,600,000 to comply with the structural engineer's opinion. PDRMA did not tell you at any point in time that there was a public safety problem. President Ruff advised Mr. Skorski again that his time is up; Mr. Skorski replied: Your time is up. What are you going to do? Are you going to have the officer escort me out? To stop my First Amendment Rights. What are you going to do Terry? President Ruff asked Mr. Skorski to take his seat. Mr. Skorski said that he didn't want to take a seat and continued to speak. President Ruff asked Mr. Skorski again to take a seat and Mr. Skorski again said that he didn't want to take a seat and continued to argue the rules that allow him to speak and said you can't tell anyone to leave. It is still America. In fact, it will be a better America for the next 47 months. Mr. Skorski continued to speak, sharing that he has collected thousands and thousands of dollars for children for the hospital for kids with special needs. He blamed the Board for kicking the special needs kids out and getting rid of NWSRA. President Ruff told Mr. Skorski that NWSRA has a new home in Barrington. Mr. Skorski said it takes more time for parents to drive their child there. Time is the most valuable asset when you have a special needs child and then you have to waste it because some arrogant Board decided to close the stables, which didn't need closing. Mr. Skorski continued, saying that Ben thinks he is doing a good job. I don't know why you weren't fired when your review came up. I guess they believe lying to me, to the public, and the Board is not grounds for dismissal. I don't know if you have pictures of the Board, how you got the job, or why you got it other than the fact that Jennifer referred you. President Ruff advised Mr. Skorski that he had nine minutes to speak and that it was time to sit down, and asked if anyone else would like to speak.

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of bid for the Birchwood Pool Filter Media & lateral replacement. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion That the Board of Park Commissioners approve, the lowest responsible bidder, Spear Corporation, Roachdale, Indiana in an amount not to exceed \$45,545.00 for the Birchwood Pool Filter Media & Lateral Replacement. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of bid for the PHGC Driving Range Net Extension. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion That the Board of Park Commissioners approve, the lowest responsible bidder, National Sports Nets LLC., Lemont, Illinois in the amount not to exceed \$143,230.00 for the installation of protective

driving range netting at Palatine Hills Golf Course. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Award of bid for the 2025 Contractual Fertilizer. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the 2025 Contractual Fertilizer through Harrell's LLC, Omnia Cooperative Purchasing Contract RH-23-037. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Award of bid for Outfitting a Dump Truck Through Sourcewell Cooperative. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the award of the bid of outfitting the Dump Truck through Sourcewell cooperative. In response to Commissioner Sammons, Director Holder explained that we can't take the truck until it's a full unit; they will outfit it and certify that it's road legal according to the federal mandates they follow. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Award of Bid- Perry Weather Lightning Detection System. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion that the Board of Commissioners approve the lowest qualified bidder, Perry Weather, of Dallas, Texas in the amount not to exceed \$285,350 for the purchase, installation, and annual software subscription through the TIPS USA Cooperative. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Comprehensive Masterplan DRAFT Survey. The DRAFT Comprehensive Masterplan Survey is being presented for Board review and discussion. No motion is required. Director Rea stated that the proposed survey has been shared with the Commissioners and offered to answer questions at this time. We are hoping to get this out in the next few weeks. It will take a couple weeks to be printed then mailed out. There will be approximately 3000 surveys sent out to the community. This is a random sample survey. In response to Commissioner

questions: Director Rea said that the survey is kept open until they receive the minimum amount of 300 surveys to ensure a statically valid random sample which is a 95% confidence level. There will also be a version available on the website and it will differ from the one being mailed.

Department Reports

The Board reviewed the previously distributed written Finance Report. Director Fisher reported on the following highlights: District-wide we are showing a \$12,000 net profit, when we compare it to 2024, we are looking at a \$104,000 loss. Our expenses, salary wage area, and benefit wages are down about 10% when we compare it to the prior year. This is due to the first payroll in January when we accrued a portion of that from the prior year; in 2025 we accrued 70% of that expense back to 2024 and last year was only 50% so that is why we are seeing a difference there. The corporate fund is showing a \$176,000 loss compared to \$256,000 loss in 2023. Interest was higher this year, which is reducing that loss. We are also waiting for property tax receipts; once that money comes in we will start seeing those positive fund balances and profits. We are showing there is a significant decrease in purchased services due to the timing of Accounts payable. Before I got here, we were only paying accounts payable every two weeks, and now we are doing a weekly run so that is the difference in that area. The Recreation fund is up \$8,500 over 2024 because of the credit card fees. We moved them out of the corporate area into recreation where those fees are being incurred. In response to Commissioner Sammon's question about property tax receipts payments, Director Fisher replied, that appears to be true of Cook County. It was more stable in DuPage County where she previously worked, but it looks like March will be our big first property tax payment.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed written District Services Report. Director Eckelberry started by sharing that three of the staff from District Services attended the IPRA Conference for the first time this year. They came back energized and full of great ideas which included the recruitment video on Facebook. We had 253 new candidates in January and hired 2 full-time staff: a Marketing Coordinator and a Superintendent of Trades. We have hired 15 part-time staff as well; it's starting to ramp up for our summer season so you will see more coming on board in the next several months. January was also planning for VRL (Volunteer Recognition Luncheon) which was very successful and added that next year will be the 25th year of VRL so we will have a nice big event for that anniversary. IT completed copier replacements and Avaya cloud office renewal. They have some cell phone upgrades in progress and are working to move our financial software into the cloud. We are also looking to have the Falcon Park sign go up in March. Risk Management completed the special PowerAutomate for COI's and began the process of rewriting and developing a new Safety Manual with PDRMA'S help. We had 41 incidents which were primarily patron related and two employee incidents. We also held our annual safety recognition luncheon with 82 staff in attendance. Director Eckelberry also reported our 2024 camp guide was recognized in IPRA Agency Showcase competition and that our website usage doubled over 2023 with 994,000 views in 2024. Our most Engaging Social Media Posts was the ice rink opening, Puzzle Palooza and our new employee welcomes also get a lot of views. In response to Commissioner Sammons, Director Eckelberry replied that the new website was launched in February of 2024.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed written Parks and Planning Report. Director Holder reported that we had an ice rink season this year which had 41 open days and was heavily used. The engineers have completed the TOPO's and the coring sampling at the Falcon parking lot. We'll be meeting with the engineer this week for preliminary scheduling. Since we have two big events in August the plan is to start this project after that; it will be a three-year phased project so we don't have both drives closed at the same time. We are still on target for getting it out at the end of March and hoping for some good bids. The playground projects preliminary designs for each site have been completed. The public input survey will go live tomorrow. Director Holder advised the Board members that they were sent a link to the website which we are using to host the surveys. He also reported on Surplus items from last year which resulted in a total of \$139,335 on the sale of our used equipment. In closing Director Holder shared

highlights from the previously distributed 2024 Annual Golf Report. This year was outstanding due to the success of the staff working there. We have Dan and Eric running the golf operations and have outstanding customer service. Billy, Mike, and Brian run the golf course maintenance. Director Holder has received a lot of good feedback from family and friends who play there and have commented on the top-notch playing conditions. Actual revenues were \$226,565 over the budgeted revenue. Everything was up from 2023 except for a couple of segments in the golf lessons; the PGA Junior was down which is most likely due to the demographics. We hosted the US Senior Women's Golf Open on June 26th. Thanks to the playing conditions on the course, and the front-line staff, we will also be hosting the 2025 Women's Amateur Qualifier this season. In my mind, it is an honor to host these types of events, especially three years in a row. Besides that, we hosted numerous events and outings throughout the year. Billy and Dan are here to answer any questions you may have.

The Superintendent of Golf Course, Billy Sharp stated that we had a great year. The part-timers go above and beyond, they are friendly and keep the patrons engaged. We also have a great relationship with the Chicago District Golf Association, which holds events up to 90 people. The association brings friends and exposes them to our golf course.

Golf Operations Manager/Head Professional, Dan Hotchkin, shared that we had challenges last year and overcame a lot. We had another good Women's qualifier despite the weather and the support from the staff has been great. In response to President Ruff's question, Dan responded we were down from flooding more this year than the last three years combined. It was more toward the end of the year. Dan went on to say they have noticed some diseases and some agronomic issues they are working through; other courses have had the same issues. We are switching to a new fertilizer, so hopefully that will help. In response to Commissioner Gould's question, Dan responded that it has not been that bad with the migratory geese. In response to Commissioner Sammon's question about when the course will be open, Dan responded they will get the covers off and it takes about 10-20 days to get the course ready. We'll re-evaluate at the end of the week. Last year we had more temps above average. They hope to have the covers off in the middle of March. It looks like we have a majority of our staff coming back so that is a huge plus. We have a few part-time positions open, and we do have applicants coming in. President Ruff thanked them for another great year.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Recreation and Facilities report. Director Palmer shared the following highlights from her report: last month saw the start of our Winter/Spring programs. This year we had over 5,300 participants enrolled in programs and events compared to last year which was just a little over 5,000 participants. We had two special events in January, Puzzle Palooza and Sammy's Beach Blanket Bingo Bash, both were held at Birchwood and well attended. I want to note an exciting highlight from our Athletics area, a young woman from Fremd High School named McKenzie, who was honored by the Chicago Bears as the flag football player of the week. She was honored in Week 9 and in recognition, they granted her a \$500 grant to donate to an organization of her choice. She chose the Palatine Park District girls' flag football program of which she is an alumna. It is nice to see her recognized and that she remembered us. Last month we implemented new drop-in rates at all facilities beginning January 1. Despite the increase, which is the first in over 15 years, our attendance rates continued to be high, with over 3,000 check-ins in January. Rentals and birthday parties continue to soar in that area as well. Finally, staff attended the state conference at the end of January and expressed appreciation for the Board's continued support of their continuing education.

Executive Director Reports

Director Rea reported that the SLSF Gold Medal fashion show was very well attended, and it was a great event. They had three runs of participants in the fashion show, so it was great to see. I heard back from the National Resource Conservation Service about the sidewalk extension project at Plum Grove. They are reviewing the plans, and that was one of the requirements from MWRD before we can move forward

with the project. This week I will be meeting with MWRD about our lease extension on the three properties that are coming due in the next couple of years so we will start the process and get those agreements back before the Board.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

President Ruff said that he attended the IPRA conference in January with most of the staff. He also attended the SLSF Gold Medal fashion show for the first time, and he had a good 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 which was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Terry Ruff

NAY: None


ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

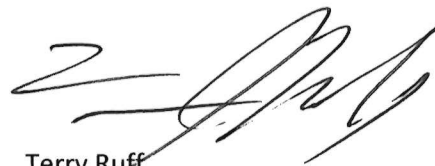
Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Terry Ruff
President

<u>2025 Park Board Meetings</u>	
March 10, 2025	April 28, 2025
March 24, 2025	May 12, 2025
April 14, 2025	May 27, 2025