



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
 May 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner Sammons

Commissioners Present

Greg Sammons, President
 Jennifer Rogers, Vice-President
 Susan Gould
 Joe Petricca
 Michelle Rushing

Commissioners Absent

Staff Present

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director
 Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance
 Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant
 Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services
 Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance
 Dayell Houzenga, Superintendent of District Services
 Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning

Amy Vito, Superintendent of Parks & Planning
 Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation Facilities
 Katie Waszak, Supt. of Recreation Programming
 Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
 Alex Giannikoulis, Superintendent of Trades
 Gavin Stanke, Finance Intern

Visitors and Citizens Present

Nick Bava, Sikich LLP
 Joey McArthur
 Joe Pietrini

Adam Deegan
 Dave Barnett
 Rich Zilinsky

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of May 26, 2026, was approved. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. Commissioner Petricca moved and Commissioner Rushing 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 May 11, 2026. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried

Visitors and Citizen's Comments

Joey McArthur: Joey McArthur, owner of Lot 20 in the Highland Meadows Subdivision, addressed the Board regarding the Euclid Bike Path, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) easement interests affecting his property, and the authorization of improvements within the easement area. Mr. McArthur stated that documents he believes are relevant to the matter were not included in a recent FOIA response from the Palatine Park District, including a 1979 Final Judgment, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination, and a 1997 Easement Encroachment Agreement. He expressed concerns regarding due process and compensation to the owner of Lot 20 for the Euclid bike path that encroaches on his private property. Mr. McArthur also said he will continue to seek a resolution of these issues and that there is federal jurisdiction underway, with MWRD's oversight, Clawson White and Associates.

Director of Finance Andrea Fisher introduced the new summer Finance intern, Gavin Stanke. The Board welcomed Gavin to the Palatine Park District.

New Business

Director Fisher introduced Nick Bava of Sikich to present the District's 2025 audit. She expressed her appreciation and satisfaction with Sikich's services, highlighting the firm's responsiveness and support throughout the year.

Mr. Nick Bava, audit partner with Sikich LLP, presented the results of the District's audit for the December 31, 2025 fiscal year end. He reported that Sikich issued the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), which includes the auditor's communication to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Bava noted that the District has been part of an elective program through the GFOA since 2015 and has received its ninth Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), recognizing the quality and transparency of its financial reporting. Sikich commends any of their clients and organizations that go through this program, so he likes to recognize his clients who participate in the program.

Mr. Bava also reported that Sikich issued an unmodified (clean) audit opinion, the highest level of assurance available, indicating that the District's financial statements are fairly presented and free of material misstatement.

He concluded his presentation by thanking Director of Finance Fisher and her team for their cooperation throughout the audit process and noted that the audit was completed well in advance of the June filing deadline. He then offered to answer any questions from the Board.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Acceptance of the 2025 Audit. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners accept the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) audit and Management Letter for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, as presented to authorize the District to proceed with statutory filings and disclosure. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Greg Sammons

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Award of Bid for the 2026 Paving Project. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Obsidian Asphalt Paving, West Chicago, IL, in the amount not to exceed \$735,870.00 for the 2026 Paving Project. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval to Decommission Administrative Policy Numbers 2.08, 2.08.1, 2.08.3, 2.08.8, 2.12.22, and approval of updates to the following policies: 2.08.7, 2.08.11, 2.08.15, 2.08.17. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve the decommission of the following policies: 2.08 District Park and Facility Use, 2.08.1 District Philosophy - Park and Facility Use 2.08.3, Park Permits 2.08.8 Not for Profit (NFP) Groups, 2.12.22 Utilization of Volunteers and approval of updates to the following policies: 2.08.7 Volunteer Program, 2.08.11 Public Forums, 2.08.15 Naming of Parks and Facilities, and 2.08.17 Portable Toilets. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Special Use Permit for Oktoberfest. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve the Rotary Club of Palatine's use of Towne Square Park for Oktoberfest commencing on September 18, 2026, and concluding on September 20, 2026. In response to President Sammons, Director Rea confirmed that the layout is the same as last year. People tend to drift into the park, which is why access to the park was considered. This was a requirement from the Village last year with the new layout, so we are continuing the same process this year. The new layout performed is also better from a sound standpoint as the stage is positioned closer to the bars. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the approval of Resolution Number 26-03 in recognition of Bill Jones. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Commissioners approve Resolution 26-03, a Resolution recognizing the dedicated service of Bill Jones, a thirty-nine-year employee of the Palatine Park District. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried

Department Reports

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Finance Report. Director Fisher shared the following highlights: Property tax revenues were strong in April, totaling approximately \$6.7 million, with most of the revenue attributable to the current tax levy. Net revenue increased 4% compared to 2025, making property taxes the primary driver of district-wide revenue growth. Investment income increased 58%

over last year due to continued investment activity and the timing of maturities. Director Fisher explained the interfund transfers between funds and the creation of new funds for tax dollars. She also reported that the investments are now managed through PMA, to simplify administration and ensure compliance with FDIC requirements. The investment manager maintains the district's investment policy and oversees all investments in accordance with that policy.

The Park Board reviewed the previously distributed District Services Report. Director Eckelberry reported recruitment efforts for two full-time positions and noted that 346 applications were received in April. Seven employees were hired - two full-time and five part-time staff members. Staff also attended three job fairs and met with the benefits consultant to review cost-saving measures for the 2027 benefits, as our renewals are trending slightly higher than we want. She also shared that the district had 29 volunteer hours for the month and partnered with community groups on several park cleanup events. Information Technology continued work on PayTrac, and they are working with the Recreation Department on a new communications application. Risk Management met with the new Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) consultant to tour the District's Recreation Facilities. We had 33 incident reports, a slight decrease from last year, and completed spring safety for full-time staff, a CPR class, and epinephrine administration training. Director Eckelberry shared the April highlights from Communications and Marketing, which included delays in the delivery of the summer program guides due to postal service issues. Staff have spoken with the Postmaster and the printing company to come up with a solution. Unfortunately, we are at the mercy of the mailman, and when he decides to deliver them. The Big Trucks event attracted more than 3,000 families and included numerous sponsors and giveaways. A reminder of the Lucky Duck Derby held on June 20 was also shared.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Parks and Planning Report. Director Holder reported that contract documents for the Administration Center project are being distributed to contractors for execution and collection of required bonds. He's been working with our engineering firm on permits for the 400 South Hicks property and explained the need for a small detention swale for IDOT and MWRD requirements. Planning also continues for the 18th Green Renovation Project, with final engineering drawings and bidding documents in development for construction next year. The demolition project is nearing completion, with final grading, seeding, and permit closeout anticipated shortly. Director Holder continued his report with an update on the operations, which included the following: Parks staff have continued preparing athletic fields for the spring season, installed a concrete pad for the portable toilet, and completed some concrete repairs at Meadowlark Park. The Horticulture Division completed most seasonal plantings and installed a new planter along Northwest Highway. Crews are now focused on mowing and watering operations. The Fleet Division continued annual equipment maintenance, and Fleet Mechanic Kane worked with Superintendent Vito to hold several training courses. Trades staff remained focused on preparing aquatic facilities for the season, and all pools opened as scheduled.

Commissioner Rushing referenced a social media comment regarding the need for more chairs at the aquatic center. Superintendent Ludolph and Director Holder responded that additional chairs and tables have been added this year, while noting that space limitations restrict the total amount of seating that can be provided.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Recreation and Facilities Report. Director Palmer shared the following highlights from the month of April: we welcomed two new full-time staff members, Marty and Natalie, who you all met at the last meeting. They have hit the ground running, and we are happy to have them on board. April continued with several successful cultural art performances. Our youth theater productions, Annie Kids and Annie Jr. drew more than 900 attendees across three performances. Allegro Community Chorus and Palatine Concert Band each had performances with about 175 in attendance. Our girls' gymnastics team competed in state and regional competitions, with several athletes earning placements across multiple events. Three gymnasts advanced to regionals in Kentucky, where they secured top 10 finishes. This was especially exciting for the team as they continue their rebuilding efforts.

I-Compete hosted three successful events in April, including Family Night, which showcased and gave access to the recreational amenities at Falcon. They had the annual Late-Night Lock-In with 60 participants and an Earth Day event at Marion Jordan School with 40 participants. Director Palmer also reported on general interest programs that don't receive much attention. They're small but mighty, and in April, we had the sourdough and gardening classes, which continue to be popular with adults, a group that is often hard to program for. As well as teen and tween offerings like gaming, babysitting, and glam nights. The facility staff were busy transitioning from indoor to outdoor season by preparing concessions, outdoor restrooms, and also helped to prepare for Big Trucks and Mari-Rae Sopper. Drop-in services remained popular across all three centers, with Falcon leading the way with approximately 2,500 visits. The Community Center hosted the highest number of activities, including rentals, Park District programs, birthday parties, and other activities. Summer registration opened on April 28th, traditionally the smallest registration day of the year, but we saw an impressive 1,800 registrations between online and in-person. Aside from that, everyone continued to prepare and ramp up for the summer.

Executive Director Report

Director Rea thanked Palatine Community Baseball and Softball (PCBS) for hosting their first fundraising tournament at Community Park this past weekend. He shared that the Park District's team, the Parks and Wreckers, participated and that it was a great experience and a successful first-time event. He also reminded the Board that he will be out of town starting next Sunday. During his absence, Director Holder will be in charge and available should any questions arise.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Rushing referenced the affiliate amendments approved at the last board meeting and requested that the Board revisit the amendments at a future meeting. She said it was her understanding that the affiliate organizations had reviewed the proposed changes and had an opportunity to provide feedback prior to the board action. She has since learned that the amendments were not shared with affiliates in advance and expressed concern about the potential impact. She shared one specific concern about the 8:30 pm sound ordinance and added that had she fully understood the circumstances, she would not have supported the amendments. She would like the affiliates to have an opportunity to review the changes and provide their input before being asked to sign the agreements.

Director Rea clarified that some of the items included in the agreement amendments had been discussed verbally with affiliate organizations in 2025 and were later formalized in writing. However, the written amendments were not shared with affiliates prior to Board approval. He asked whether the Board would be comfortable allowing affiliates an opportunity to review the amendments and present any concerns to the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Gould expressed concerns regarding noise from amplified sound at Hamilton Park, stating that when you are 200 yards away from the outside edge of the park, and you can still hear all of the announcements and all of the words to the music, then they are violating the code that we had when Hamilton was developed. She also noted that Community Park existed before many nearby homes were built, while the homes surrounding Hamilton Park predated the park's development. Residents did not expect this level of disruption, which is why so many meetings were held. She recalled the meetings

involving nearby residents, the affiliate groups, and the Park District. Commissioner Gould added that the affiliate groups agreed to the rules at that time, and now they want to change them. She also said that Celtic's letter regarding the Celtic Cup addressed several concerns and was generally consistent with prior discussions. However, parking remains unresolved - a no-parking restriction on neighboring streets during the tournament may prevent visitor parking, but it also restricts residents' ability to host guests over the holiday weekend.

Commissioner discussion ensued regarding the need for consistency across the district, affiliates addressing the board with their concerns regarding the revised amendments. All Commissioners agreed that park district staff will meet with the affiliates to discuss their concerns. This will enable staff to fully understand the affiliates' position, which will be brought to the Board so that productive discussions about possible compromises can begin.

Commissioner Rogers shared that she attended the Casey Pohl Tournament, where she saw parents cheering and having a good time. She said it was nice to see the community enjoying a beautiful day at the park.

Commissioner Rushing added that she attended the softball fundraiser event mentioned by Director Rea and that it was really nice to see different parts of the community together. She said that it was fun and enjoyed seeing people spending time outdoors, socializing, and playing softball.

Commissioner Gould is looking forward to Music and Mutts on Thursday night in Town Square.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Park Board on this date, Commissioner Rushing moved that the regular meeting be adjourned, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote; the result follows:


AYE: Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:


Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved: 

Greg Sammons
President

<u>2026 Park Board Meetings</u>		
June 8, 2026	August 10, 2026	October 26, 2026
June 22, 2026	August 24, 2026	November 9, 2026
July 13, 2026	September 14, 2026	November 23, 2026
July 27, 2026	October 12, 2026	December 14, 2026