



PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
 BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF PALATINE PARK DISTRICT
 Village of Palatine, 200 East Wood Street in Palatine
 Second Floor- Village Room B
 January 13, 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

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director
 Andrea Fisher, Director of Finance
 Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance
 Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services
 Dayell Houzenga, Supt. of District Services
 Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant
 Jennifer Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Jim Holder, Director of Parks
 Chris Cronkhite, Superintendent of Trades
 Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities
 Katie Waszak, Supt. of Recreation Programming
 Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
 Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.

Visitors and Citizens Present

Steve Zalusky, Daily Herald
 Frank Skorski, Resident
 William Van Giesen, Resident

Public Hearing concerning the Adoption of the 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance

President Ruff opened the Public Hearing for the 2025 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #25-01. President Ruff stated that in accordance with the Park District Code of the State of Illinois, a Public Hearing is to be held prior to the adoption of Ordinance #25-01, which sets forth the combined budget and appropriation of funds deemed necessary to defray all necessary expenses and liabilities of the Palatine Park District for corporate purposes for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025. The proposed Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #25-01 has been on public display for 30-days and notification of the public hearing was published in the Daily Herald on January 1, 2025. The public hearing is was declared open and the floor was open to questions or comments from the Board. Commissioner Gould requested that the line item to demolish three structures at the Stables and Go-Kart facility be removed. She President Ruff had previously told her in a telephone call that we might reconsider opening the stables in the Spring so she didn't see why we would want to demolish buildings and that we never got any bids to demolish or improve the buildings. President Ruff said this it's only one line item on the budget. Commissioner Gould understood and said she would like to have it removed before it is voted on. Commissioner Gould made a motion to remove the line item to demolish the buildings. President Ruff asked for a second; there was no second. The motion failed. President Ruff asked if anyone else had any questions.

Frank Skorski stood up to speak and said that he is appalled with the Board whose only job is to make children happy. I know there's a place in hell waiting for you. You are weaving the chains that you are going to carry, assuming you believe in the hereafter as I do, and most of my friends do. You ignored 8,000 signatures, 350 emails, and letters sent to you. You further ignored the pleadings of 100 to 200 people who showed up at all the meetings. Now you promised us all of you and it's a matter of record. I don't care what you say about Susan, but we recall you saying that you were going to let the village, the people, determine what would be the outcome for the stables. And now you're talking about tearing it down? What are you trying to destroy the evidence proving that you lied? Ben - you lied \$2.6 million is not the cost to repair or replace. We gave you three estimates that were less. You are sitting over there scribbling, what are you playing tic-tac-toe with yourself or are you writing your boyfriend a letter? I'll tell you this is pathetic. You are the instrument of pain. Terry, what the hell is the matter with you? Why do you sit there like Adolf Hitler? Emotionless and afraid to talk because you have nothing to say for yourself? You'll answer to our Lord and Savior one day and I certainly hope that he remembers everything you did to his children because as he says how you treat the least amongst us is how I am going to treat you. I'm going to ask you again. That's all us poor peasants can do is pay taxes, ask, beg, grovel, crawl - to not go forward with any demolition. Susan made an excellent point - it doesn't belong on there. Why would you go out and get competitive estimates for trivial stuff, but only get one to close a place? You guys have an agenda we'll find out what it'll be and I'm telling you right now. There will be hell to pay when you guys finally show your hand. You guys have lost all respect that this community had for you. Coach everybody adored you, they felt sorry for you when you got fired. The rest of the guys are not talking. Greg talks sometimes and I appreciate it but Jennifer, what the hell? You don't even have any kids. You got a cat and a mouse or whatever the hell you got in that house so how can you come up here and take away joy from our children? What you guys are doing is reprehensible. Ben should be fired for breach of contract. He provided false and misleading information to this board and the public at large and repeats it in the newspaper and on television and to our senator. I don't know how he sleeps at night, but from now on I want a resident, and Executive Director who's a resident. The bottom line is why he doesn't live here? I'm appalled at what's going on and in spite of everything I just said I'm going to ask you politely. Please not even consider tearing down the stables until such time as you have had the public input that you promised us to help decide what best would be done with it. Don't tear the damn thing down. What if everybody wants the stables built? Then we're going to have to spend 2.6 million versus 600,000. That's financial responsibility.

President Ruff asked if anyone else had a comment on tonight's Budget? There were no other comments. No questions or comments were received prior to tonight's public hearing. In response for a motion to officially declare the public hearing closed, Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners close the public hearing regarding 2025 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #25-01. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

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

NAY: Susan Gould

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Adjournment

President Ruff asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rogers moved that the public hearing be adjourned. Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by a roll call; the result follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:16 p.m.



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



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

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director
 Andrea Fisher, Director of Finance
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 Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
 Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.

Visitors and Citizens Present

Steve Zalusky, Daily Herald
 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 January 13, 2025, was approved. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, 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 December 9, 2024, Executive Session Minutes of December 9, 2024, and Warrant #17. 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.

Visitors and Citizens' Comments

William Van Giesen thanked the Board for moving the meeting time to 6:00. This is very helpful for working families like myself. I am looking out for the working family. There's a pickleball program that my son wanted to do. He's going to be six years old and the pickleball training session starts at 4:00 PM. My son goes to Lake Louise, which ends at 3:55 p.m. How Do you think my wife or I can bring him to the Community Center in five minutes? This is what should be discussed in these meetings, about your programs. How to make it more approachable, and more realistic with these times. He is going to do a 4:30 program at Cutting Hall, which he loves. Luckily my wife and I can be flexible with our jobs, but some families can't. So, I want you to think about that. I want you to discuss how we can bring better programs to the working family and be able to make our lives a little bit easier instead of hectic, thank you.

Old Business

President Ruff asked for a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #25-01. Commissioner Rogers made a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #25-01 as presented, Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

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

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Resolution #25-01 - Allocation of Tax Levy amounts, Property Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). Commissioner Petricca moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners adopt Ordinance #25-01 that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Resolution #25-01 Allocation of Tax Levy Amounts, directing the County Clerk to make any reduction in the District's 2024 Tax Levy request by decreasing the amount in excess of the legal Levy amount in the District's Recreation Fund. The motion was approved by a roll call; 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 Approval of Professional Service Contract for The Grove and Wally Degner Park playground projects. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion. Director Rea clarified that the prices are just for professional services for the design. Commissioner Gould asked for confirmation of project procedures which includes placing a bid in the paper. Director Rea confirmed that is normal procedure. Commissioner Gould asked why this was not done for the Stables. Director Rea replied that If the Board had directed staff to bid for the reconstruction or repairs we would have done that. Discussion ensued about the previous decisions made in relation to the bids for the Stables. Commissioner Gould stated that she wants the minutes documented that we are doing three projects; all of them are necessary projects. I don't have a problem with any of these projects, but I am glad to see we are following the procedures we have always done in the 31 years I have been on this board. Why we didn't do that for the stables, is why everyone is so suspicious of this whole process and is so upset and looking for someone to blame. There has been a lot of talk of follow the money. What's going to happen? Is there a developer on the sideline looking to get some land? I have been trying to shoot this down, because I don't know of any of this going

on and I don't think it is, but when we don't follow normal procedures, what do you expect the public to think? That is my point. President Ruff asked if anyone had any additional questions as it relates to this project? No additional questions. President Ruff asked if anyone had any questions for approval of Professional Service Contract for The Grove and Wally Degner Park playground projects. There were no other questions. President Ruff asked for a roll call. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Professional Service Contract for Falcon Park's Parking Lot Pavement Improvements. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc., Vernon Hills, IL., in the amount not to exceed \$70,000, to provide construction documents, permitting and construction administration for phase 1 of Falcon Park's parking lot improvements. 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.

Executive Director Reports

Director Rea shared that we received a draft of the needs assessment survey which we got back from Hitchcock Design Group and will be going out to the public soon. We are reviewing it now and will bring a second draft back to the board on the 27th to discuss the questions on the survey.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould mentioned the article in the Daily Herald article and stated that there are about 20 of our horses, from our stables now being supported by private individuals in a fundraiser. That is abhorrent. When we have an employee who retires, they get a pension. Maybe the horses should have unionized because they get nothing. How long the Equine Guardians, make a note of it, 501(c)(3) nonprofit. How long they can sustain supporting our horses is questionable and sinful. We should have something in our budget for the care of those horses. When they were brought to the stables, and alot of them were donated, the owners were promised that they would be taken care of for the rest of their lives. I would like to see some kind of care, a steady flow of money to the people who are taking care of 20 of our equines. I think it needs to be a budget item, so we can show people that we are putting our money where our mouth was. We told people that they would go to good homes, and they would be taken care of. Now, they are dependent on the goodness of others and that is not fair.

Commissioner Sammons thanked staff for having him at the Holiday party, it was a great time. He and his wife both attended Puzzle Palooza and she had a wonderful time. It was a wonderful event.

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 discussion of Executive Session; Section 2(c)(5) Open Meetings Act authorizes only closed session discussion of the acquisition or lease of real property for the use of the District. Section 2(c)(21) Open Meetings Act (discussion of minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of review, approval or release of such minutes)

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 at 6:32 p.m.

Return to Open Session

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

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:43 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding the Closed Session Section 2(c)(5) Open Meetings Act for discussion of the acquisition or lease of real property for the use of the District. There was no action at this time.

President Ruff asked for a motion to approve Resolution #25-02; Determining the Confidentiality of Closed Session Minutes. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion. President Ruff stated the following minutes were approved for release: April 12, 2022, April 11, 2023, April 25, 2023, May 9, 2023, May 23, 2023 and partial minutes for: February 28, 2023, March 14, 2023 and June 13, 2023. 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

President Ruff asked for a motion to approve Resolution #25-03; Destruction of Certain Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Meetings. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion. President Ruff stated that the following recordings are approved for destruction: April 12, 2022, February 28, 2023, March 14, 2023, April 11, 2023, April 25, 2023, May 9, 2023, May 23, 2023 and June 13, 2023. 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

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 Petricca seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Terry Ruff
President

<u>2025 Park Board Meetings</u>	
January 27, 2025	April 14, 2025
February 10, 2025	April 28, 2025
February 24, 2025	May 12, 2025
March 10, 2025	May 27, 2025
March 24, 2025	June 9, 2025

