



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
 April 27, 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

Visitors and Citizens Present

None

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the agenda be approved. Commissioner Sammons requested to add close session for Section 2(c)(1) discussion of personnel matters involving specific employees of the district. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of April 27, 2026, was approved as amended. 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 Rogers 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 April 13, 2026, and Closed Session Minutes of April 13, 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

None

New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the approval of Revised Administrative Policy Section 2.05. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Policy Purpose Statement as presented. Also, decommission policies 2.00 Common Sense Policy, 2.02 Purpose Policy, and 2.05 Administration Policy. 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 approval of the Revised Affiliate Agreement for Celtic Soccer. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the updated affiliate agreement between Palatine Park District and Celtic Soccer. Director Rea and Palmer confirmed that some of the changes are new, and others are just clarifications. Commissioner Gould is happy that there is a noise ordinance for amplified sound, but is concerned that there is no mention of the lights that are supposed to be turned off at a specific time. She also mentioned that it was part of the original agreement when Hamilton was developed. Discussion about the lights ensued, and all commissioners agreed to include additional language on lighting. The motion was approved as amended, 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 of the Revised Affiliate Agreement for Palatine Amateur Football Association (PAFA), as amended, to include additional language on lighting. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the updated affiliate agreement between Palatine Park District and Palatine Amateur Football Association (PAFA). The motion was approved as amended, 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 the Revised Affiliate Agreement for Palatine Community Baseball & Softball (PCBS), as amended, to include additional language on lighting. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Commissioners approve the updated affiliate agreement between Palatine Park District and Palatine Community Baseball & Softball (PCBS). The motion was approved, as amended, 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 approval of the Natural Gas Utility Contract. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Interstate Gas Supply, OH, for the gas supplier for a 36-month contract in the amount not to exceed \$0.4580 per therm for the district's natural gas supply. 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 stated that the first-quarter financials reflect delayed property tax receipts, resulting in net revenue being down about \$6.2 million compared to 2025. This shortfall is expected to improve in April and May. Interest income is up about 15% due to the timing of investment maturities. District expenses remain aligned as expected, with increases in salaries, benefits, and purchased services continue to be up with all the professional services we have this year. Director Fisher also reported that the annual audit was recently completed and went exceptionally well. The District will receive an unmodified opinion, the highest opinion we can have, with a full presentation scheduled for May 27th. Several members of Leadership participated in a two-and-a-half-day Financial Sustainability School. As a result, a Financial Sustainability Task Force has been created to reduce long-term dependence on tax revenue and better position the District to care for aging facilities. The team will meet with Buffalo Grove to learn from their progress, and a new financial sustainability policy will be introduced later this year. In response to Commissioner Sammons's question about measuring sustainability progress, Director Fisher explained that the District aims to grow its fund balance each year to support capital needs. All programs and facilities will be evaluated on a cost-recovery continuum, with broad community amenities remaining tax-supported and highly specialized programs expected to fully cover their costs. Surpluses from specialized offerings will help offset community-wide services, strengthening long-term financial sustainability.

The Park Board reviewed the previously distributed District Services Report. Director Eckelberry shared the following highlights: the Policy Task Force has begun meeting and will continue bringing updated and consolidated policies forward throughout the year. Three policy sections have already been reviewed, with more underway. We had 45 new hires and rehires last month, participated in several local job fairs, and hiring is nearing completion for the season. Superintendent Houzuenga and Director Eckelberry attended the IPBC Annual All-Member meeting, where they received preliminary benefit renewal rates; they are currently investigating some cost-saving options for prescriptions. There was a total of 241 volunteer hours recorded for the month of March. Youth Basketball accounted for 119 hours, with an additional 122 hours across other programs and special events. IT completed an upgrade to the internet firewall to provide improved redundancy and they replaced the Verkada camera gateway at the golf course. March included HR and safety training for returning part-time staff, the Parks Department, and golf course staff completed life-threatening bleeding and tourniquet training; we also held two CPR classes. The District remains in the discovery and research phase for the rebranding initiative, with updates to be shared soon. The Summer Program Guide has been released, and registration is now live. Finally, the District is promoting the upcoming Lucky Duck Derby fundraiser for the Palatine Parks Foundation, scheduled for June 20th.

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Parks and Planning Report. Director Holder provided the

following updates: the Birchwood boiler project punch list items have been addressed, and photos will be sent to IDPH this week. The contractor and manufacturer's representative will be on-site on Thursday to start up the boiler to ensure everything is working. The variable-frequency drives (VFDs) replacement at Birchwood began today and is expected to be finished by Wednesday. The Falcon Park and Palatine Trail

engineering is completed, and the project is out to bid with the bid opening scheduled for May 11th. Construction will start after August 17th due to 2 large events scheduled. The Admin Center bid opening was held last Wednesday. Lamp is qualifying the lowest bidders with the recommendations ready for the next board meeting. The civil engineering work for the 18th green renovation is completed, and drawings are nearly ready for MWRD submission. The landscape architect is expected to finalize plans by the end of the week so the project can go out to bid next week. Construction is targeted for August 2027 to allow adequate time for turf establishment. Director Holder also shared the following division updates: Parks staff are preparing athletic fields for spring and custom-made tomato hangers for the community gardens; Horticulture is preparing landscape beds and installing a new planter bed along Northwest Highway at the FAC; Fleet is completing annual maintenance on summer equipment; and Trades have been preparing aquatic facilities, and water service to winterized facilities has been restored. The drinking fountains freeze quickly, so they will wait to turn those on after the pools are up and running

The Board reviewed the previously distributed Recreation and Facilities Report. Director Palmer shared that March continued to be very busy as staff prepared for the upcoming summer season. Several successful events, programs, and services were offered throughout the month. SpongeBob the Musical was a huge success, with almost 1,300 in attendance across eight shows. Puzzle Palooza had 40 teams, which is the highest participation to date. A puzzle swap held before the event was popular and a good way to reuse puzzles. The Hound Egg Hunt had 75 dogs, and it didn't snow this year, so everyone was happy. The Athletics team held another Chicago Bears Flag Football Clinic, which had over 100 participants. Care hosted its second Spring Break Camp, with participation increasing from 52 last year to 133 this year. Our boys' gymnastics team took first place at State for Levels 4 and 5 last month. Camp registration, held on the first two Tuesdays in March, brought in more than 2,600 enrollments across day camp, sports camp, theatre camp, kids' camps, which all fill quickly, with additional specialty camps still accepting registrations. Projects continued with abatement work at Birchwood over spring break in preparation for the flooring project scheduled for late summer. Staff are excited about the improvements, which will refresh the facility. We also completed the installation of the basketball safety straps at Falcon. Fitness memberships continued to rise despite the warmer weather, with more than 1,000 memberships in the last month.

Executive Director Report

Director Rea provided an update on the prospective bill that would grant the new Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC) regulatory authority over recreation programs. IAPD reached out again today to share an amended version of the bill that has been submitted. However, they remain opposed and are encouraging agencies to contact their local state senators. Essentially, agencies would be required to apply for nearly every program to ensure it meets IDEC standards. The concern is that you're giving unnecessary state authority over local recreation programs that already meet the criteria they are looking for. Director Rea contacted Senator Hill's office by phone to express the concerns and requested that they consider voting no on the bill. He also followed up with an email, which her office has acknowledged. IAPD has provided a fact sheet comparing current practices to the proposed regulations, which has been shared with Senator Hill's staff. At this time, the bill was not on the Education Committee agenda for tomorrow. IAPD is concerned that it may still be called for a vote this week. Director Rea will continue to monitor that, and if it comes up for a vote, he will submit a formal statement indicating that the Palatine Park District does not support the bill to get that on record with the state. Director Rea also reported that Arbor Day was a great event and thanked Commissioner Sammons for attending. Two second-grade classes performed, including a dual-language class that performed in Spanish which was fun to hear. Director Rea also shared a reminder that the Big Trucks event is this Saturday at 10 a.m.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould mentioned today would have been her mother's 111th birthday. She shared details of her mother's background, education, and her extensive career at District 15.

Executive Session

President Sammons requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and convene in Executive Session for Section 2(c)(1) discussion of personnel matters involving specific employees of the district. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners go into closed session for discussion of personnel matters involving specific employees of the district. 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 at 6:36 p.m.

Return to Open Session

Commissioner Rushing moved to come out of closed session and resume the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners; Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by a roll call vote as follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:44 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding Section 2(c)(1), the discussion of personnel matters involving specific employees of the district. No action was taken on matters considered in the closed session.

Adjournment

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

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

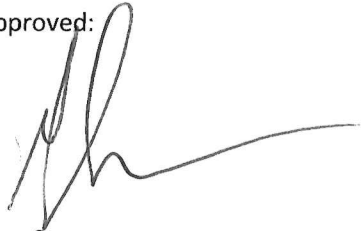
Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Greg Sammons
President

<u>2026 Park Board Meetings</u>		
May 11, 2026	July 27, 2026	October 26, 2026
May 26, 2026	August 10, 2026	November 9, 2026
June 8, 2026	August 24, 2026	November 23, 2026
June 22, 2026	September 14, 2026	December 14, 2026
July 13, 2026	October 12, 2026	