



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  
September 8, 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 6:01 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	Amy Vito, Superintendent of Parks
Andrea Fisher, Park Board Treasurer/Director of Finance	Alex Giannikoulis, Superintendent of Trades
Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant	Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities
Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance	Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services	Katie Waszak, Supt. of Recreation Programming
Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning	Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.

Visitors and Citizens Present

Frank Skorski, Resident  
Sara Murphy, 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 September 8, 2025, was approved. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Greg Sammons, Joe Petricca, Susan Gould, Jennifer Rogers, 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 Sammons moved and Commissioner Petricca 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 August 25, 2025, and Warrant #8. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

### Visitors and Citizens' Comments

*Sara Murphy:* Mrs. Murphy, a resident of Palatine, said that she is also representing her husband and requested time to speak for herself and her husband. President Ruff agreed, and Mrs. Murphy continued stating that she is here to speak about agenda item 5D, approval of 2025 structure demolition, and has a few points to make, which included the \$2.6 million repair estimate and lack of public answers to concerns raised over the estimate. Mrs. Murphy referred to a work order from Robe Construction dated eight months before the \$2.6 million figure was provided, which shows a similar repair for 2 poles that cost \$1,250 versus \$6,139 per pole. She told the Board that they have the power tonight to vote on the 2025 structure demolition, but if they can't provide the public with an answer as to why they made a decision on May 13 for pole repair that exceeded literally, what you would pay for pole repair by five times, then they don't deserve to make that vote. Mrs. Murphy also noted that the pony camp for children aged 4-6 was the third most wait-listed program, with over 100 kids on the waitlist when the program was canceled. She stated that unless the Board can come up with some sort of explanation tonight for why they would cancel a program that is the .1% most desired program of the park district, then they shouldn't proceed with the 2025 structure demolition. Mrs. Murphy presented correspondence between the park district and Robe Construction, along with signatures, and emails sent to the Park District last year, and requested that the documents be entered into the records. She urged the Board to reconsider its decision and provide a public explanation for its actions.

*Frank Skorski:* Mr. Skorski started by telling the Board that they are despicable, have no financial integrity, and that they hate girls. He stated that if there were two trans kids over there who wanted to ride a horse, that damn stable would be operational. Mr. Skorski criticized the Park District for still having DEI, even though the President says there's a boy and a girl. He told the Board that they are corrupt as hell if they tear down and destroy our stables, and that they will have hell to pay. He also said that the Board turned their backs on the girls of Palatine, on the parents, grandparents, and special ed kids. Mr. Skorski said there's a place in hell for you guys, and I'm sure they are warming up the coals. He also accused the Board of lying and said that sooner or later, I'm going to get you, one way or the other. He complained that the Board did not have the balls to second Sue Gould's motion to table this bullshit and not include it in the 2025-2026 budget. Mr. Skorski then suggested that Jennifer wants a job with the Park District so her old boss will hire her since she's no longer working in Arlington Heights. President Ruff told Mr. Skorski that his time is up, and he replied so is yours.

Director Holder introduced the new Superintendent of Trades, Alex Giannikoulis, and shared that he previously worked for the Palatine Park District for about five years before leaving for another district. The Board welcomed Alex back to the Palatine Park District.

### New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Professional Services Contract Administration Center Renovation Project. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Park Board of Commissioners approve DLA Architects, Itasca, IL in the amount not to exceed 7.75% of the estimated construction total to provide architectural plans for all design phases and construction, as well as construction administration services for the Administration Center Renovation Project, pending closure on the 400 S. Hicks Rd. property. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.



The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Construction Management Contract for Administration Center Renovation Project. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded the motion that the Park Board of Commissioners approve Lamp Incorporated, Elgin, IL in the amount not to exceed \$515,386.00 to provide construction management services, including preconstruction review, insurance, and project general conditions/supervision for the Administration Center Renovation Project, pending closure on the 400 S. Hicks Rd. property. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons, 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 2025 Asphalt Maintenance Project. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approves, the lowest responsible bidder, EverLine Coatings & Services, Wauconda, IL in an amount not to exceed \$32,838.40 for the 2025 Asphalt Maintenance Project, 25-102. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of 2025 Structure Demolition. Commissioner Gould made a motion to table the discussion. President Ruff asked for a second; there was no second to table the discussion. The motion failed. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Strategic Demolition & Excavation, Elmwood Park, IL, in an amount not to exceed \$133,500.00 for demolition activities located at 1510 W. Northwest Hwy and 1550 W. Northwest Hwy. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

#### Executive Director Reports

Director Rea reported on the busy week of special events and commended staff. He highlighted the Canine Carnival and the Pumpkin Plunge at Eagle Pool, both of which were well attended. The Full Moon Bike Ride with the Bike Club of Palatine was sold out. We also had a new event, our first Festival of Cultures, on Sunday afternoon, with a couple of hundred people in attendance for cultural dances and vendors. It was a really great event.

#### Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould said that she was at the Canine Carnival. It was well attended with great weather. There were also more sponsors than usual, so that was nice. Unfortunately, she has some frustrations with the Celtic Tournament and shared her concerns regarding parking issues. They were not only dangerous but criminal, as some participants blatantly ignored the no-parking signs by removing them. Commissioner Gould feels that Celtic should reexamine how many teams they invite to this tournament, as it has gotten out of hand. She also shared that she talked to the chairperson of the Celtic tournament,

and was told that 30,000 people attended the Celtic tournament. Commissioner Gould said there is no parking for that many people and suggested that they use shuttle buses. She was also told that the tournament brings a lot of money into town. However, based on a conversation Commissioner Gould had with Village Manager Ottesen a few years back, she questions the economic benefits of the tournament, as the park district does not benefit from increased sales tax during these events. She continued to say that something needs to be done. It's not just the Celtic tournament; it's all the tournaments and activities. We've got to get a handle on this. It's dangerous, and people don't understand that Celtic runs this tournament by themselves. The park district is being blamed for this, so the PR is really bad. Commissioner Gould said that she's angry and it's dangerous; it's got to be changed.

Commissioner Petricca agreed with Commissioner Gould; he also lives over there and has never seen so many cars. It is dangerous going down the side streets.

Commissioner Rogers said she attended the Festival of Cultures yesterday and applauded the Park District staff for creating such an event that is a great representation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Park District and the Village of Palatine.

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie  
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie  
Secretary

Approved:



Terry Ruff  
President

2025 Park Board Meetings	
September 22, 2025	November 10, 2025
October 13, 2025	November 24, 2025
October 27, 2025	December 8, 2025