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
July 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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
Alex Giannikoulis, Superintendent of Trades
Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation Facilities
Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities
Cheryl Lufitz, Communications & Marketing Mgr.
Ann Patti, Marketing Coordinator
Alex Rivera Grant, Marketing Coordinator
Keith Schmerer, Facilities Manager
Marcy Laney, Accounting Assistant

Visitors and Citizens Present

John Harris, a5 Branding & Digital
Fletcher Martin, a5 Branding & Digital
Jason Goike, Downtown Palatine Business Assoc.
Terry Ruff, Resident

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the agenda be approved. By a roll call vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of July 27, 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: Special Meeting Minutes of May 30, 2026; Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2026; Warrant #6; and Ordinance #26-07 for Surplus of Property. 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

New Business

John Harris and Fletcher Martin of A5 Branding and Digital, presented the proposed brand identity for the District. Key points of the presentation included the goals of creating a modern, recognizable, inclusive, and flexible brand identity that maintains recognizable elements of the Palatine Park District while supporting consistent communication across all platforms. A summary of the branding process was provided.

The presentation also highlighted key themes identified throughout the process, including the District's strong community focus, inclusiveness, partnerships, and the need to increase awareness of its many programs and services. They introduced the recommended logo, tagline, "Play. Connect. Belong.", and supporting brand elements, including a flexible icon system designed for use across the District. They explained how the new design reflects the District's welcoming, professional, and community-focused identity while allowing flexibility for future applications.

During Commissioner questions and comments, the flexibility of the icon system was discussed, with Commissioner Gould suggesting the addition of an icon to represent the District's museum. She also shared that she likes the separate tagline, color palette, inclusion of the District's founding year, and the welcoming design. The existing signage and implementation timeline were also discussed. Commissioners Sammons and Rogers expressed their support for the proposed branding, complementing its design and flexibility. Board members thanked A5 Branding and Digital and District staff for their work on the project and expressed support for the proposed branding initiative.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the approval of the Palatine Park District Logo. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Palatine Park District Logo redesign as presented. 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 Ordinance 26-06 Transfer of Anticipated Unexpended Funds. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Ordinance 26-06, a transfer of anticipated unexpended funds totaling $1,034,630.00 between the Interfund Transfer to Capital and Contractual Services line items. 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 of Resolution 26-04 for Executive Director Employment Agreement. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve the amended employment agreement of Benjamin Rea, Executive Director, effective December 1, 2026. 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 Professional Service Contract for the ADA Transition Plan Update. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve ACTService Consulting, Wheaton, IL., in the amount not to exceed $50,000.00 for the ADA Transition Plan Update. Director Rea answered Commissioner Rogers' question, explaining the scope of the project, including updating the existing plan and making it more accessible. He also confirmed that it would be presented at a future public meeting. Commissioner Gould shared background on the museum's historic designation and accessibility challenges. She also expressed support for evaluating additional ways to improve access, including virtual exhibit opportunities through the District's website. 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 Professional Service Contract for the Swenson - Marzec Admin Center Proposal. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve Swenson - Marzec & Associates, Inc., Rockford, IL., in the amount not to exceed $64,790 for the Administration Center subsurface investigation. 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 the Approval of the 2026 Asphalt Maintenance Project Number 26-102. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve EverLine Coatings & Services, Wauconda, IL in an amount not to exceed $68,869.60 for the 2026 Asphalt Maintenance Project, 26-102. In response to Commissioner Rogers' questions about the single bid and the project budget, Director Holder explained that several bid packets were picked up, but only one was submitted. He noted that the firm has completed work for the District in recent years and that staff has been satisfied with its work. He also confirmed that the bid is under budget. 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

Director Rea reviewed the history and terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Harper College for Building M, including operational responsibilities, financial obligations, and changes to programming. He explained that increasing operating and capital expenses have exceeded revenues and that the current agreement no longer reflects the original business model. Director Rea presented a financial analysis showing that terminating the current IGA and negotiating a rental agreement for pool use could allow the District to recover $900,000 from its original bond contribution and reduce projected costs through 2038. He recommended providing notice to Harper College to begin the transition to a rental agreement while continuing aquatic programming.

Commissioner Petricca expressed support for the proposal, stating that it was well thought out. Commissioner Gould asked whether Harper College was aware of the potential change. Director Rea confirmed that they were not but stated that he was confident the District could reach a mutually beneficial agreement through a new IGA. He noted that the District would seek to become a preferred renter for the necessary pool time and hopes the transition can be completed seamlessly.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Review and Consideration of Harper Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded, that the Board of Park Commissioners move to direct staff to exit the existing IGA and enter negotiations with the Harper Administration on a new rental-based IGA for use of the indoor pool.
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 Downtown Palatine Business Association (DPBA). Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded, that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the Downtown Palatine Business Association's use of Town Square Park for an art and music fest on August 30, 2026, provided that all Park District and Village of Palatine requirements are met.
Director Rea announced a date change for the event to September 27. Jason Goike, Vice President of the Downtown Palatine Business Association, provided event details, including vendor setup, accessibility considerations, music, and logistics. In response to Commissioner questions, Mr. Goike explained that vendors will provide weighted 10x10 tents and agreed to adjust the layout to improve accessibility. He shared that the goal is to create a free, family-friendly art and music event that highlights local artists, and the potential for it to become an annual event. 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 Metro Risk Management Agency (MRMA) Settlement. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve payment of $1,034,630 to MRMA to cover the park district's portion of the judgement issued on June 23, 2026, by the United States District Court of Southern New York. 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 the Approval of 2027-2031 Golf Cart Lease. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners move to approve Harris Golf Cars, Sugar Grove, IL, in the amount not to exceed $74,640.38 annually for the Palatine Hills Golf Course Five (5) year Cart Lease Program.

Director Holder answered the Commissioners' questions regarding the new carts, which will feature upgraded seats and additional storage space to allow for expanded snack offerings on the course. He also addressed the anticipated decrease in net profit during the first two years and the plan to gradually increase rates in future years. 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 Department Reports and had no questions for staff. Due to the length of the agenda, no verbal reports were provided.

Executive Director Report

Director Rea reminded the Board of the upcoming Palapalooza staff appreciation event and encouraged Board members to attend. He also shared that the District will partner with the Village of Palatine and the State of Illinois to host a mobile emissions testing event at the Family Aquatic Center parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, following the pool's seasonal closure. Director Rea explained that the event will provide a convenient service for residents and may become an annual offering if successful. Commissioners asked questions regarding how the event originated and anticipated traffic. Director Rea explained that the opportunity was brought to the District through the Village and that traffic will be managed to maintain an efficient flow.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

There were no Commissioner Reports or Future Agenda items.

Executive Session

Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners close the public portion of the meeting and enter into Closed Session under Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) for the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:59 p.m.

Return to Open Session

Commissioner Rushing moved to come out of Closed Session and to 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 7:11 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(21) for the discussion of minutes of prior meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of review, approval or release of such minutes, Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded, that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Resolution 26-05 Determining the Confidentiality of Closed Session Minutes. 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.

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 which was unanimously approved by a voice vote as follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, Greg Sammons
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:

Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:

Greg Sammons
President

2026 Park Board Meetings	
August 10, 2026	October 26, 2026
August 24, 2026	November 9, 2026
September 14, 2026	November 23, 2026
October 12, 2026	December 14, 2026