



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 12, 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

Commissioners Absent

Terry Ruff, President

Jennifer Rogers, Vice-President

Susan Gould

Joe Petricca

Greg Sammons

Staff Present

Benjamin Rea, Executive Director

Lisa Allie, Park Board Secretary/Executive Assistant

Sonia Austin, Superintendent of Finance

Michelle Eckelberry, Director of District Services

Dayell Houzenga, Superintendent of District Services

Jim Holder, Director of Parks & Planning

Chris Cronkhite, Superintendent of Trades

Amy Vito, Superintendent of Parks

Colleen Palmer, Director of Recreation & Facilities

Visitors and Citizens Present

Frank Skorski, 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 May 12, 2025, was approved. 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.

Certification of Election Results

The Park Board reviewed the previously distributed documents regarding the Certification of Election Results. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Park Board of Commissioners declare Sue Gould and Terry Ruff duly elected as Commissioners of Palatine Park District with said terms commencing at today's annual meeting of May 12, 2025, and expiring at the annual meeting of May 7, 2031. The Cook County Clerk's Official Certificate of Results, including the detailed precinct information from the April 1, 2025, Consolidated Election, were provided to the Park Board. The result of the roll call vote follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Administration of Oath of Office for Susan Gould and Terry Ruff

Administering the Oath of Office, Board Secretary Allie swore in Susan Gould and Terry Ruff as Commissioners of the Palatine Park District Board of Park Commissioners for the term of 2025-2031. The Park Board and staff congratulated Commissioner Gould and Commissioner Ruff on their re-election victories.

Approval of Consent Agenda

The Board reviewed the previously distributed items posted on the consent agenda. Commissioner Sammons 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 28, 2025, and Executive Session minutes of April 28, 2025, and Warrant #4. 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

Motion carried.

Visitors and Citizens' Comments

Commissioner Ruff advised Mr. Skorski that he has three minutes to speak.

Frank Skorski: It doesn't matter, I'm talking to the wall, but I just wanted to come here and congratulate Ben and Jen on their anniversary of the first time that, to my knowledge, the Palatine Park District violated the law, and you just made an oath of office. Commissioner Ruff reminded Mr. Skorski that his comments should be kept to Park District business, not accusations. Mr. Skorski replied that this is Park District business, and you are violating the oath of office that you took when you lied to everybody with regard to the cost. Ben and Jennifer came up with \$2.6 million, that was a highly inflated democratic estimate of the repair cost. It's nowhere near that, and you proceeded to ruin the mother's days and daughter's days of the children, and that is Park District business. When you deprive our girls of something they enjoy, but refuse to withhold funding for football, baseball, soccer, track, or swimming. Why don't we cancel that? You lose money on your parks, you lose money on your riding trails, you lose money on your walking trails, but you decide to go after, or I should say, Ben and Jen decided to go after the girls that ride horses. They must be jealous that they can't ride horses. You guys are just deplorable, and I intend to remind you of that until Hell freezes over. Have a wonderful day.

New Business

The Park Board began the Annual Meeting Election of Officers, and nominations for the office of Park Board President for the 2025-2026 year were opened. Commissioner Gould nominates Commissioner Rogers for President. There was no second; the motion did not carry. Commissioner Rogers nominates Commissioner Ruff for President, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the nomination of Commissioner Ruff for the office of Park Board President. Commissioner Gould objected; she feels that the offices should be rotated as they have been doing for 40 years. While she thinks Terry is capable of being president, she would like to go back to rotating the offices. From the consensus of the Park Board, and with no further nominations offered, the Board of Park Commissioners agree that the nomination for Park Board President be closed; therefore, Commissioner Ruff will be nominated for the position of Board President for the 2025-2026 term. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

NAY: Susan Gould

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

President Ruff asked for nominations for the office of Park Board Vice President for the 2025-2026 year. Commissioner Rogers nominates Commissioner Sammons for Vice President. Commissioner Rogers moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the nomination of Commissioner Sammons for the office of Park Board Vice-President. From the consensus of the Park Board, and with no further nominations offered, the Board of Park Commissioners agree that the nomination for Park Board Vice-President be closed; therefore, Commissioner Sammons will be nominated for the position of Board Vice-President for the 2025-2026 term. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

President Ruff asked for nominations for the office of Park Board Treasurer for the 2025-2026 year. Commissioner Rogers nominates Andrea Fisher for Treasurer, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the appointment of Andrea Fisher for the office of Park Board Treasurer. From the consensus of the Park Board, Andera Fisher is to be appointed for the position of Board Treasurer for the 2025-2026 term. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

President Ruff asked for nominations for the office of Park Board Secretary for the 2025-2026 year. Commissioner Sammons nominates Lisa Allie for Secretary, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the appointment of Lisa Allie for the office of Park Board Secretary. From the consensus of the Park Board, Lisa Allie is to be appointed for the position of Board Secretary for the 2025-2026 term. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

President Ruff asked for approval of the Designation of Appointments for the 2025-2026 year. Commissioner Rogers made a motion to approve the following appointment for the period of May 12, 2025 through May 11, 2026: Ben Rea: Executive Director, Secretary Pro Tem, Representative to the Northwest Special Recreation Association, Representative to Park District Risk Management Agency and alternate to the Metro Risk Management Agency; Jennifer Garcia, Secretary Pro Tem; Michelle Eckelberry: Representative to the Metro Risk Management Agency; Andrea Fisher: Compliance Officer and IMRF Authorized Agent; Cheryl Lufitz: Liaison to the Greater Palatine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Park Foundation Liaison; Commissioner Ruff: Liaison to PALS (Palatine Affiliate Leader Society); Ben Rea, Lisa Allie and Jennifer Garcia appointments as Open Meetings Act (OMA) officers; Ben Rea, Lisa Allie, and Jennifer Garcia appointments as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officers; Michelle Eckelberry appointment as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) officer, and Colleen Palmer and Jim Holder appointments as ADA Representatives. Commissioner Sammons seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the appointments for May 12, 2025, through May 11, 2026. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

President Ruff asked for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Regular Meeting Dates of the Board of Park Commissioners. Commissioner Sammons moved and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the meeting dates, as presented, of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Palatine Park District for 2025-2026. The regular meetings of the Board will be conducted at the Village Hall in Community Room B at 200 East Wood Street in Palatine, Illinois, on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, beginning at 6:00 p.m., excluding the month of December, which will have one meeting. President Ruff requests a roll call vote; the results follow:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of updates to the Safety Manual. Commissioner Sammons moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve updates to the Safety Manual. In response to Commissioner Sammons' question, Director Eckelberry explained that the updates are written by Anthony, approved by Dayell, and then Michelle goes through it before she gives it to Ben. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Award of Bid for the Falcon Park Parking Lot Renovation. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, Troch McNeil Paving Company Inc., Elk Grove, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed \$435,585.00. Director Holder responded to Commissioners' questions, stating that the project would start at the end of August 2025 and that this is Phase 1 of 3; he also gave details of the 3 phases. 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
Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to the Approval of Resolution #25-05 for Appointment of Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Authorized Agent. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Sammons seconded the motion that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Resolution #25-05 naming Andrea Fisher as the IMRF Authorized Agent. The motion was approved by a roll call vote; the result follows:

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

Executive Director Report

Director Rea reported that the Big Truck event was this past Saturday, with over 3,000 people in attendance and thanked the team for a successful event. He also shared that the Mari-Rae Sopper Gymnastics Show which is this Friday and Saturday at the Community Center.

Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould shared that she was at the Big Trucks event, and they ran out of giveaways about an hour before the event ended. She said it was fun, everybody seemed to have a great time, and the weather cooperated. In response to Commissioner Rogers' question, she said that over 250 people stopped by her table to enter the raffle for a fire truck she was giving away. Commissioner Gould also shared that it was interesting to see where people come from; she has some from Chicago, Gurnee and Naperville. She said it was a great event, everything was perfect and complimented the staff.

Commissioner Petricca said there seems to be some issue with electric bikes on the bike path and asked if we have a policy on that? Director Rea explained that they are almost unenforceable from a Police Standpoint because they have pedals, so they are not considered motorized vehicles. We have in place a max speed limit but, the enforcement side of things is very difficult. He suggested that we talk to our legislators about putting some other rules in place as it's an ongoing issue, and not just here at the Palatine Park District but across the state. Commissioner Gould agreed and said that she is going to speak with Brad Helms, her council person, due to the issues she's seeing; it has gotten to be like kamikaze corner by her house. She also shared the parking issues on her street. She has tried to talk to Village Manager Ottesen in the past, but he told her to have the park district put up signs. She feels that we need to figure out something. Commissioner Petricca explained that he has had people reporting the issues to him and asked if we could put up signs with the rules. Discussion continued with regards to Hamilton, the trail and the parking issues with all the sports and other activities going on at Hamilton. Commissioner Rogers mentioned the Senate Bill that amended the definition of a bicycle; Director Rea said there needs to be more work on setting restrictions. Commissioner Gould brought up the issue with the kids riding golf carts on the bike path; they didn't seem to understand what a motorized vehicle is. She understands the beauty of an electric bike but feels that we need to have some classification of what kind of vehicles can be on the bike trails.

Commissioner Sammons wanted to thank everyone for the opportunity to go to the Legislative Conference. He finds it enjoyable and where he learned about the Senate bill and the new definition of a bicycle, he shared the details of the Bill. Discussion ensued about the bill, the use of e-bikes on a bike path, and getting the Village involved. Director Rea said that he will talk to Manager Ottesen about this.

Commissioner Ruff attended the POC Fundraiser; it was a really nice event at the NOW arena.

Executive Session

President Ruff requested a motion to close the public portion of the regular business meeting and enter into executive session. Commissioner Petricca moved and Commissioner Sammons seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners enter into closed session for discussion related to; Section 2(c)(5) Open Meetings Act for the purpose of the acquisition or lease of real property for the use of the District. The result of the roll call vote follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:30 p.m.

Return to Open Session

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

AYE: Joe Petricca, Greg Sammons, Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Terry Ruff
NAY: None
ABSENT: None
Motion carried at 6:58 p.m.

Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding Section 2(c)(5) discussion of the acquisition or lease of real property for the use of the District. No action was determined to take from the executive session meeting.

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 Sammons seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a voice vote; the result follows:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Allie
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie
Secretary

Approved:



Terry Ruff
President

<u>2025 Park Board Meetings</u>	
May 27, 2025	June 9, 2025
June 23, 2025	July 14, 2025
July 28, 2025	August 11, 2025
August 25, 2025	September 8, 2025
September 22, 2025	October 13, 2025
October 27, 2025	November 10, 2025
November 24, 2025	December 8, 2025