



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  
January 12, 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  
Josh Ludolph, Supt. of Recreation Facilities  
Katie Waszak, Supt. of Recreation Programming

Visitors and Citizens Present

Steve Zalusky, Daily Herald

Public Hearing

President Sammons opened the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance and 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 #26-01, 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, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026. The proposed Annual Budget for 2026 has been on public display for 30 days, and notification of the public hearing was published in the Daily Herald on December 16, 2025. The public hearing was declared open, and the floor was open to questions or comments from the Board; no questions or comments were presented. President Sammons offered that the floor was open to questions or comments from the audience. There were no questions or comments from the audience, and Director Rea stated that he did not receive any inquiries or comments prior to tonight's board meeting.

In response to 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 the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance #26-01. The motion was approved by a roll call vote and President Sammons closed the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance. The motion was approved by a roll call; the result follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

#### Approval of Agenda

In response to President Sammson, Director Rea stated that we need to add a Closed Session for pending litigation, Section ILCS 120/2(c)(11) as agenda item #5A. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the agenda be approved. By a voice vote, the agenda for the regular meeting of January 12, 2026, was approved as amended. The result of the voice vote follows:

AYE: Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Jennifer Rogers, 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 December 8, 2025, and Warrant #12. 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.

#### Visitors and Citizen's Comments

None

#### Old Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary recommending adoption of the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 26-01 as presented. Commissioner Rogers moved, and Commissioner Petricca seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners adopt the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 26-01 as presented. 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.

#### New Business

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to approval of purchase for Jacobsen SLF350 Fairway Mower through Sourcewell. Commissioner Petricca moved, and Commissioner Rushing seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the lowest responsible bidder, TurfWerks, Johnston, IA, in an amount not to exceed \$62,025.00 for the acquisition of one Jacobsen Fairway Mower through Sourcewell. 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.

### Executive Director Report

Director Rea shared some upcoming events and extended an invitation to the Board for a Senior Center fundraiser on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, the annual SLSF fashion show on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the IAPD Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Director Rea also shared that he will be sitting on the SLSF Board due to openings for Executive Directors, which includes volunteering at the upcoming SLSF Fashion Show. He continued to report that the holiday party for all staff was very nice and the first one to include part-time staff. We had over 130 people in attendance and received a lot of good feedback.

### Commissioner Reports/Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gould mentioned the email she sent concerning our new building. Director Rea mentioned that he had a conversation with the Architect today.

Commissioner Rushing restated her suggestion of increased discussion during board meetings. Director Rea said that we can add agenda items to the next meeting if the Board agrees. He also noted that closed-session conversations must fall within the guidelines.

### Executive Session

President Sammons requested a motion to close the public portion of the meeting and convene in Closed Session. Commissioner Rogers moved the Board of Park Commissioners into Closed Session under Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2: pending or imminent litigation (c)(11), potential acquisition of real estate (c)(5), semi-annual review of closed session minutes (c)(21), and personnel matters involving specific employees of the district (c)(1); Commissioner Petricca seconded the motion. The result of the roll call vote follows:

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

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried at 6:09 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 Petricca 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 7:02 p.m.

### Action on Matters Considered in Closed Session

Regarding the Closed Session discussion of pending or imminent litigation (c)(11), potential acquisition of real estate (c)(5) and personnel matters involving specific employees of the District (c)(1). There was no action taken.

Regarding the Closed Session discussion of the semi-annual review of closed session minutes (c)(21): The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to Approval of Resolution 26-01 to determine the confidentiality of Closed Session minutes. Commissioner Rogers moved, and President Sammons seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Resolution 26-01; Determining the Confidentiality of previous Board Reviewed and Approved 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.

The Board reviewed a previously distributed board summary pertaining to approval of Resolution 26-02 for destruction of recordings of Closed Session Meetings. Commissioner Rushing moved, and Commissioner Rogers seconded that the Board of Park Commissioners approve Resolution 26-02; Destruction of Certain Verbatim Recordings of Closed Session Meetings. 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.

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

AYE: Jennifer Rogers, Susan Gould, Joe Petricca, Michelle Rushing, Greg Sammons  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: None  
Motion carried at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Allie  
Park Board Secretary

Attest:



Lisa Allie  
Secretary

Approved:



Greg Sammons  
President

<b><u>2026 Park Board Meetings</u></b>		
January 26, 2026	May 26, 2026	September 28, 2026
February 9, 2026	June 8, 2026	October 12, 2026
February 23, 2026	June 22, 2026	October 26, 2026
March 9, 2026	July 13, 2026	November 9, 2026
March 23, 2026	July 27, 2026	November 23, 2026
April 13, 2026	August 10, 2026	December 14, 2026
April 27, 2026	August 24, 2026	
May 11, 2026	September 14, 2026	