

**Park District of Franklin Park
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2025; 7:00 p.m.
Community Center
9560 Franklin Avenue
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
MINUTES**

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

President Vonesh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Physically Present: Commissioner Susan E. O'Connell, Mark K. White, Michael Vonesh, AnneMarie Casas and Joseph E. Zinga.

Present: Daniel LoCascio, Director of Parks and Recreation; Maria Laskowski, Human Resources Manager; Nathan Wick, Superintendent of Parks; Stephanie Bersani, Superintendent of Finance & Technology; Catherine Saponieri, Marketing & Communications Manager; Liz Visteen, Superintendent of Recreation; Carla Deak, Ice Arena Manager and Thomas Hoffman, Attorney.

Others Present: Sarah Kohout, Assistant Skate and Customer Service Manager; Jennifer Costa, Parks Services Assistant; and Cordellia Costa, Franklin Park Resident.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda

New Business should read 2025-2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule and Land Acquisition 2(c)5 needs to be added to Closed Session.

Recess for Public Comment at 7:03 p.m.

President Vonesh recessed for Public Comment at 7:03 p.m.

Reconvene at 7:03 p.m.

President Vonesh reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

Presentation/Approval of the Regular/Closed Board Meeting Minutes dated February 25, 2025

Motion #1 by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell, to approve the Regular and Closed Board Meeting Minutes dated February 25, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

Presentation/Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated February 2025 in the amount of \$372,312.98

Motion #2 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Casas, to approve the February 2025 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$372,312.98.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes. Motion carried.

Presentation/Approval of System Bill Listing dated March 2025 in the amount of \$65,688.66

Motion #3 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Casas, to approve the March 2025 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$65,688.66.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports of Officers and Commissioners

Commissioner O'Connell commented that she loves the idea of the Park Madness where residents are voting for their favorite parks.

Commissioner Casas highlighted all the activities at the Ice Arena. She shared that Franklin Park Ice Arena's very own Natalia Binczychi, Kiley Scoleri, Shannon Urey, and Maddie Ortiz made history by winning the Team U.S.A. World Junior Synchronized Skating Championship in Sweden!

President Vonesh thanked the staff for their outstanding work, stating that they are the backbone of the Park District.

Staff Reports:

Director

Director LoCascio requested that the Board inform him by the April meeting whether they will attend the NRPA Conference.

Director LoCascio reviewed the IAPD Platform regarding House Bills and will keep the Board updated.

Ice Arena Manager

Manager Deak mentioned that the Shamrock Showdown Women's Tournament went very well, and we were pleased to have three more teams than last year.

Our hockey staff did an excellent job ensuring that the Spring hockey evaluations and pre-season skates ran smoothly in Assistant Manager Niedziela's absence. Panther coaches and managers attended the scheduling meeting in Rolling Meadows to schedule Spring season games.

Skating School Director Raucci and Assistant Skate and Customer Service Manager Kohout have been busy preparing for the upcoming Spring Fever Skating Competition, scheduled to take place here on April 12 and 13, as well as for the Spring Ice Show rehearsals, which begin this week.

Manager Deak introduced Assistant Skate and Customer Service Manager Sarah Kohout to the Board. Growing up skating at the Ice Arena, she is delighted to return as part of the team. The Board welcomed her to the Park District staff.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Wick informed the Park Commissioner about the upcoming park work, transitioning from winter pruning to spring cleanup. He also explained the Park District's "No Mow" initiative and why several areas will be left untouched to allow native pollinators to awaken from their winter hibernation.

Marketing & Communication Manager

Manager Saponieri reported that significant marketing initiatives are being planned for the upcoming April and May events and programs, including the Egg Hunt, Earth Day, Color Run, and early bird Summer Camp & Pool Pass.

The Park Madness campaign has been an excellent way to boost engagement on Facebook, resulting in over a 50% increase in content interaction that helps keep us at the top of our followers' feeds.

At the end of Q1, we secured over \$39,000 in sponsorships, exceeding our target of \$10,000 for the entire year of 2024.

Superintendent of Finance/Technology

Superintendent Bersani discussed the transition to Office 365 and the differences between basic and premium licenses. Premium licenses are being migrated to the Cloud before basic licenses.

She discussed that the 2025-2026 budgets are underway and that several meetings have been held with department and program managers. She also explained that the year-to-date actual-to-budget numbers are consistent with expectations for this time of year.

Superintendent of Recreation

Superintendent Visteen reported that summer seasonal hiring is nearly complete. Manager Strack is close to finalizing staff for the pool, with 18 returning lifeguards and 12 returning pool attendants. Manager Rivera also has a significant number of returning Day Camp counselors, with only a few positions still available. She will need to hire a few inclusion aides.

WSSRA

The Derby Gala will be held on Saturday, May 3. If you are interested in attending, please inform Director LoCascio.

Unfinished Business

Solar Project

Director LoCascio reviewed the update on the Solar Project in his report.

Service Center Renovations

Director LoCascio and Superintendent Wick provided an update on the Service Center renovations to the Board.

Ice Arena / Bathroom Renovation Project

Director LoCascio reviewed the proposed project with the Board.

Motion #4 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner Zinga, that the Park District enter into an AIA A133-2019 Construction Management agreement with W.B. Olson for the Ice Arena Interior Renovation Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,722, and that the Executive Director execute and deliver the same.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes. Motion carried.

Motion #5 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner White to approve the following bids for the Ice Arena Renovations:

Trade	Contractor	Total Bid w/ Alternates
Masonry	JAC Masonry	\$ 62,700
General Trades	Efraim Carlson & Son	\$ 468,000
Ceramic Tile	Trostrud Mosaic	\$ 28,895
Painting	Cosgrove Construction	\$ 17,200
Plumbing	Ernie Peterson Plumbing	\$ 162,500
HVAC	R.J. Olmen Co.	\$ 36,681
Electrical	Hamilton Electric	\$ 62,600

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; O’Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

Dog Park

The Phase I Environmental Study returned clean. Director LoCascio shared the press release memo with the Board, which will be released tomorrow. It will go before the Zoning Board on April 2, and then before the Village Board. A discussion was held regarding the charging and rules for the Dog Park.

New Business:

NRPA Conference, Orlando, Florida – September 16-18, 2025

Please inform Director LoCascio whether you will be attending.

Digital Brochure 2025-2026

Manager Saponieri introduced the idea of transitioning to a digital brochure, starting with the Spring into Summer 2026 edition. The Board appreciated the proposal to still offer printed copies for those who prefer them. A discussion followed regarding this transition.

New Ballfield and Turf Maintenance Machine

Motion #6 by Commissioner O’Connell, seconded by Commissioner Zinga to approve the purchase of an ABI Force Z-23 S with mid-mount attachments, rear drag mat, aerator, and spreader at a cost not to exceed \$39,443 from TurfWerks, the exclusive provider of ABI machines in the United States, as presented by the Superintendent of Parks.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O’Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

Proposed 2025-2026 Regular Monthly Board Meeting Schedule

Motion #7 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner O’Connell to approve the 2025-2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule as follows:

May 27, 2025 – Community Center / 6:00 p.m.	November 25, 2025 – Community Center
June 24, 2025 – North Park	December 16, 2025 – Community Center
July 22, 2025 – Community Center	January 27, 2026 – Community Center
August 26, 2025 – Community Center	February 24, 2026 – Community Center
September 23, 2025 – Community Center	March 24, 2026 – Community Center
October 28, 2025 – Community Center	April 28, 2026 – Community Center

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O’Connell, yes. Motion carried.

Suggested Motions

No suggested motions were made.

Required Signatures

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

Closed Session to discuss Personnel 2(c)1, Closed Session Minutes Review 2(c)21 and Land Acquisition 2(c)5

Motion #8 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner White to enter Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss Personnel 2(c)1 and Review Closed Session Minutes 2(c)21 and Land Acquisition 2(c)5.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes. Motion carried.

Rise Out of Closed Session

Motion #9 by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Casas to rise out of Closed Session at 8:25 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes. Motion carried.

Take action, if any, on matters discussed in Closed Session

Motion #10 by Commissioner Zinga, seconded by Commissioner White that the Park District Board find that with respect to the closed session minutes October 5, 2021, December 14, 2021, February 28, 2023, March 28, 2023, April 25, 2023 and May 23, 2023 it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential and they shall be available for public inspection but that the need for confidentiality still exists as to the minutes of January 26, 2021, February 23, 2021, June 22, 2021, July 27, 2021, August 24, 2021, October 26, 2021, November 23, 2021, February 22, 2022, March 22, 2022, April 26, 2022, May 24, 2022, August 23, 2022, September 28, 2022, October 25, 2022, November 22, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 24, 2023, May 23, 2023, June 27, 2023, September 26, 2023, October 24, 2023, November 28, 2023 and February 27, 2024, April 23, 2024, June 25, 2024, July 23, 2024, August 24, 2024 September 24, 2024, October 22, 2024, November 26, 2024, December 17, 2024, January 28, 2025 and February 25, 2025 which shall remain confidential to protect the privacy of an individual or the public interest.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes. Motion carried.

Motion #11 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Casas to approve Director Daniel LoCascio's Contract at an Annual Salary of \$130,000 from May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2028.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners O'Connell, yes; White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes. Motion carried.

Adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Motion #12 by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Commissioners White, yes; Vonesh, yes; Casas, yes; Zinga, yes; O'Connell, yes. Motion carried.

Joseph E. Zinga, Secretary