

**Park District of Franklin Park  
Board of Park Commissioners  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025; 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center  
9560 Franklin Avenue  
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
MINUTES**

**Call to Order at 7:01 p.m.**

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

**Roll Call**

Physically Present: Commissioner, Mark K. White, Susan E. O'Connell, 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: Jennifer Costa, Parks Services Assistant; Robert Blonski, Parks Department Staff; Aidan Nahanovil, Student; Nate Brown, Norridge Park District; and Londa Vonesh, Franklin Park Resident.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda**

There were no additions, corrections or deletions to the Agenda.

**Administer Oath of Office to Michael A. Vonesh and Joseph E. Zinga**

Human Resources Manager Laskowski administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Vonesh and Commissioner Zinga.

**Recess for Public Comment at 7:05 p.m.**

President Vonesh recessed for Public Comment at 7:05 p.m.

**Reconvene at 7:06 p.m.**

President Vonesh reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

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

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

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

**Presentation/Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated March 2025 in the amount of \$196,278.66.**

Motion #2 by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Casas, to approve the March 2025 Manual Bill Listing in the amount of \$196,278.66.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Presentation/Approval of System Bill Listing dated April 2025 in the amount of \$70,497.99**

Motion #3 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell, to approve the April 2025 System Bill Listing in the amount of \$70,497.99.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Reports of Officers and Commissioners**

Commissioner O'Connell loves the decorations throughout the Park District and the idea of recycling the plastic eggs.

Commissioner Casas raved about Spring Fever and our three new pairs numbers who performed and reminded everyone about the upcoming Ice Show and hopes to see everyone there.

President Vonesh congratulated the staff for all the good work.

**Staff Reports:**

*Director*

Director LoCascio shared the IAPD Legislative Updates. Parks Day and the Legislative Conference are next week.

A discussion was held regarding the e-bike bill. The Ordinance Code will need to be updated.

*Ice Arena Manager*

Manager Deak stated that Skating School Director Raucci and Assistant Skate & Customer Service Manager Kohout did an excellent job with Spring Fever and went above and beyond to accommodate scheduling requests so that everyone could compete.

We are hosting games for the Chi-Town Shuffle this Friday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 2:00-10:00 p.m.

Robb Fulara and Lyle Distel attended the R&R Ice Maintenance Seminar in Somerset, Wisconsin, on Wednesday and Thursday.

*Superintendent of Parks*

Superintendent Wick reported that we received the new trucks from Ford. They are at Monroe and are being worked on. The F150 will be here in about a month.

The park staff is busy with everything growing, preparing for the pool opening, and getting ready for camps.

Superintendent Wick introduced Robert Blonski, who expressed his gratitude for Franklin Park. The board welcomed him to the staff.

Parks Services Assistant Costa provided an update on the bees. She will present to 160 kids from Schiller Park School District 81 at North Park.

*Marketing & Communication Manager*

Manager Saponieri is preparing for the Color Run next Sunday. The staff will meet with the PTA on Friday and are in communication with the Village and Police. We currently have 269 registered participants, 17 staff members, and over 30 student volunteers.

The digital brochure survey went out today.

This year's Spring Ice Show Brochure features Ice Wishes that were offered years ago. Assistant Skate & Customer Service Manager Kohout thought it would be a good idea to bring them back, as it will help offset the cost.

The Egg Hunts were very well attended.

*Superintendent of Finance/Technology*

Superintendent Bersani reported that the transition to Office 365 is moving smoothly and is being transferred to the Cloud in waves.

The budgeting process for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year is progressing well.

Superintendent Bersani shared that we are searching for financial software to replace Fund Balance. We are receiving quotes from three different software providers, and we will evaluate the best, most cost-effective, and user-friendly software for the Park District. The idea is to select the most well-rounded and inclusive option for all aspects, HR, Finance, and Budget, with Staff portal accessibility.

*Superintendent of Recreation*

Superintendent Visteen shared that managers are submitting hiring paperwork for Day Camp and Pool staff. The staff training dates have been scheduled. This year, we are holding a seasonal staff training on May 22 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Camp leaders will use park district-issued cell phones instead of iPads to access camper emergency forms in ePACT.

*WSSRA*

No updates. The Derby Gala will be on May 3.

**Unfinished Business**

*Solar Project*

Jim Belden has been keeping us updated. Will have timelines next month.

*Service Center Renovations*

Shared proposal from Williams Architects. This is Phase 1. The Board approved to move forward.

*Ice Arena / Bathroom Renovation Project*

Motion #4 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Casas, to approve Payout #1 to WB Olson, Inc., for \$13,159, leaving a balance, plus retainage of \$1,187,563 to finish the Ice Arena Interior Restoration project.

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

*Dog Park*

The Village of Franklin Park approved the re-zoning at their Board Meeting last night. A discussion was held.

**New Business:**

*North Park Service Driveway Replacement*

Director LoCascio presented the plans for the North Park Service Driveway Replacement to the Board. The goal is to complete the project by Fall 2025.

**Suggested Motions**

No Suggested Motions.

**Required Signatures**

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

**Adjourn at 7:53 p.m.**

Motion #5 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell to adjourn at 7:53 p.m.

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

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Joseph E. Zinga, Secretary