

**Park District of Franklin Park
Board of Park Commissioners
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 24, 2026; 7:00 p.m.
Community Center
9560 Franklin Avenue
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
MINUTES**

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions, Corrections and Deletions to the Agenda

No additions, corrections or deletions to the Agenda.

Recess for Public Comment at 7:01 p.m.

President White recessed for Public Comment at 7:01 p.m.

Reconvene at 7:02 p.m.

President White reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

Presentation / Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated January 27, 2026

Motion #1 by Commissioner Vonesh, seconded by Commissioner Zinga to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated January 27, 2026.

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

Presentation / Approval of Manual Bill Listing dated January 2026 for \$331,000.98

Motion #2 by Commissioner Zinga, seconded by Commissioner Casas to approve the January 2026 Manual Bill Listing for \$331,000.98.

The Manual Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

Presentation / Approval of System Bill Listing dated February 2026 for \$20,585.89

Motion #3 by Commissioner O’Connell, seconded by Commissioner Zinga to approve the February 2026 System Bill Listing for \$20,585.89.

The System Bill Listing was reviewed.

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

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Reports of Officers and Commissioners

Commissioner O’Connell thanked the Park District for the opportunity to go to the Conference. It was a nice conference.

Commissioner Casas attended the Mother-Son Event; fantastic job.

Commissioner Casas heard that Emery Lehman, who won another medal, may coach Speed Skating at Franklin Park. Commissioner Casas thanked Manager Saponieri for her help gathering pictures for the Then and Now post.

Commissioner Vonesh also thanked the Park District for the opportunity to attend the conference.

Commissioner Zinga also enjoyed the conference and found many unhappy management staff during the sessions. It made him realize our Board is unique.

President White also echoed comments on conference. He reminded staff that the Forest Park St. Patrick’s Day Parade is on March 7, if anyone wants to attend.

Staff Reports:

Director

Director LoCascio commented that he is very thankful for our board. When he talks to colleagues, he hears stories of dysfunctional boards and meetings.

Solar Panel rebates are starting to come in. ComEd has provided \$35,000 for the Community Center and \$26,000 for North Park so far.

Superintendent of Recreation

Superintendent Visteen commented that Mother Son went well and was fun. Daddy Daughter Dance up to 93 registered. Pool hiring continues. We are already receiving calls about pool passes.

Ice Arena Manager

Manager Deak reported that the Ice Arena is busy with tournaments and competitions. Spring sessions begins this week. We are hosting NWHL playoff games this weekend.

Marketing & Communications Manager

Manager Saponieri reported that the first digital brochure will go live on Friday. She received printed copies today and will make them available on Friday. Registration opens next week.

Manager Saponieri explained the savings by going digital of \$5,700.

Superintendent of Finance & Technology

Superintendent Bersani reported that Budget Prep is underway. She is meeting with staff to review quarterly financials, and we'll begin reviewing preliminary budgets next week.

She is waiting for draft financial reports from Sikich.

Staff will begin Tyler ERP Pro Training next week.

She is working with Lakeside Bank to secure a competitive rate with our bond proceeds, as well as LPL for the reinvestment of the recently matured bond.

Superintendent of Parks

Superintendent Wick reported that staff are busy cleaning parks and winter pruning. Getting ready for Spring and working on budgets.

WSSRA

Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

Service Center Renovations

Motion #4 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Casas to approve Payout #5 to WB Olson, Inc., for \$36,810, leaving a balance, plus retainage of \$153,532 to finish the Service Center Roof Renovation.

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

Dog Park

Director LoCascio reported that we met with the Village of Franklin Park Zoning to go over permitting, the meeting was very productive. Director LoCascio reviewed the Dog Park Design and alternates, including curbs that the Village will reimburse us for.

New Business:

Ordinance #25-26-8/O

Motion #5 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell to adopt Ordinance #25-26-8/O, an Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Sale of Certain Used Property.

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

Board Policy Manual

Director LoCascio explained that the Draft is a more comprehensive manual. A discussion was held.

Legislative Conference and Lunch

Parks Day and Legislative Conference is in May. Let us know if you would like to attend.

We have 55 confirmed in attendance for the Legislative Breakfast on Friday at 11:30 a.m.

Suggested Motions

No Suggested Motions.

Required Signatures

Manager Laskowski received the required signatures.

Closed Session

Motion #6 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner O'Connell to enter Closed Session at 7:52 p.m. to discuss Personnel 2(c)1.

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

Rise Out of Closed Session

Motion #7 by Commissioner Casas, seconded by Commissioner Zinga, to rise out of Closed Session at 8:10 p.m.

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

Adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

Motion #8 by Commissioner O'Connell, seconded by Commissioner Zinga to adjourn at 8:11 p.m.

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

AnneMarie Casas, Secretary