



**MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT EMERSON PARK
March 17, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman, Commissioner Elsa Fischer

Others Present: Executive Director, Michelle Tuft
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn
Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava
Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm
Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker

CALL TO ORDER

President Susan Aberman called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Emerson Park to order at 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Michelle Tuft introduced herself, President Susan Aberman, Commissioner Elsa Fischer, and Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn. Mr. Guynn introduced his staff-Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm, Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker, and Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava.

EMERSON PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Executive Director Michelle Tuft began the presentation by providing background on the funding to be used for the renovation of the playground at Emerson Park. She explained that the Village of Skokie had remaining COVID relief funds that must be allocated to benefit a specific population within a designated area of the community. After careful consideration, staff identified Emerson Park as the most suitable location. Ms. Tuft noted that the funds are required to support initiatives related to COVID recovery or the promotion of outdoor activities, making a playground renovation an ideal and eligible use of these funds. The funds need to be used by July 8, 2026, so things will be moving along quickly. The footprint of the park and playground will remain the same.

Mr. Guynn presented the proposed playground design. The updated playground will include two separate structures: one designed for children ages 2–5 and another for ages 5–12. Each structure will feature a variety of play elements, including climbing components, slides, and a swing set, which will include one ADA-accessible swing and one tot swing.

A contractor will handle both the demolition and the installation of the new playground equipment and in-house staff will supply and install the engineered wood fiber play surfacing.

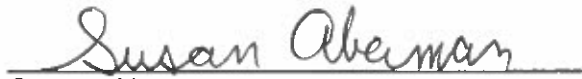
Demolition is scheduled to begin in late April and the start of the installation is targeted for mid to late May. The project should be totally completed by early to mid-July.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident noted that the current swings at Emerson Park Playground are positioned too high, making it difficult for children to safely get on and off. Mr. Guynn responded that he will have this repaired.

ADJOURNMENT

President Susan Aberman thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle Tuft
Executive Director

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first-rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.

Core Values

The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:

•Commitment• Integrity• Innovation• Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness