

**MINUTES OF THE
REFERENDUM PROSOSAL MEETING
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JUNE 6, 2026
9:30 A.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present: President Elsa Fischer

Others Present: Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft
Superintendent of Business Services William G. Schmidt
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn
Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities Breanne Labus
Marketing and Communications Director Jim Bottorff
Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

President Fischer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Tuft had the board president and staff introduce themselves.

PROPOSED REFERENDUM AND CONCEPTUAL PLAN PRESENTATION

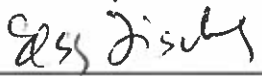
President Fischer and Executive Director Tuft presented information on the proposed bond referendum. Slides included Park District boundaries, property tax information, comparisons and tax impact analysis, recap of grant funds received since 2020, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) lease information and cost, community survey results, comprehensive plan analysis, conceptual renderings of the proposed projects at Sports Park East and Channelside South, project costs, information on Bessie Rhodes property and a timeline of next steps.

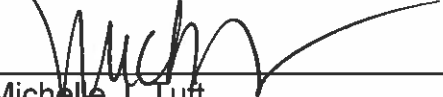
Community members asked a wide range of questions about the proposed Sports Park East and Channelside South projects. Key topics included:

- **Sports Park East amenities:** The indoor gymnasium could accommodate up to six pickleball courts, and additional outdoor soccer fields could be added if demand increases. No indoor walking track is planned.
- **Existing facilities:** The miniature golf course and driving range will remain, with only the building being replaced.
- **Staffing and fees:** The projects would primarily require additional part-time staff. There are no membership fees to use the facilities, though program registration fees would apply.
- **Soccer facilities:** The Park District currently has approximately 5 soccer fields (depending on layout). New lighted soccer fields are planned for Sports Park East, but not for Channelside South.

- **Sustainability:** Solar panels are being considered, building on the district's existing solar installations. The Park District will also evaluate geo-thermal for the new building.
- **Parking:** Approximately 300 shared church parking spaces and 150 additional spaces near Oakton Street are planned at Channelside South
- **Playgrounds:** Questions were asked about equipment for older children and the location of the all-inclusive playground. Staff noted that these considerations are being evaluated.
- **Safety and security:** Security lighting, staff presence, park monitors, and increased police patrols will help provide a safe environment, though dedicated park security is not planned.
- **Pedestrian connections:** A pedestrian bridge over McCormick and improved lighting would require coordination with the Village of Skokie and could be pursued through future grants.
- **Tax impact:** The estimated annual cost for a home valued at \$400,000 would be approximately **\$137 per year**, or about **\$11.43 per month**.
- **Bessie Rhodes property:** The Park District is interested in purchasing the property to expand Timber Ridge Park if it becomes available, though several other organizations are also interested. An acquisition could be included in the referendum.
- **Public process:** Residents will receive a survey seeking feedback before the Board decides in July whether to place the referendum on the November ballot.
- **MWRD lease:** The Park District expects to finalize new 50-year leases for its MWRD properties this year.
- **Future programming:** Staff will evaluate whether programs such as camp could use the new facility and emphasized the need for additional gym space due to high demand.
- **Funding:** The capital cost of the projects would be fully funded through the referendum, while the Park District would continue pursuing grant opportunities to offset the cost when available.
- **Indoor pool:** An indoor pool is not being considered because of its high operating costs.
- **Environmental considerations:** The projects will incorporate native plantings where possible. Odors from the nearby MWRD facility are weather-dependent and cannot be controlled.
- **Other topics:** Additional questions addressed corporate sponsorship opportunities, traffic impacts, and the anticipated project timeline. If a referendum is pursued and the measure passes, construction is expected to begin in spring 2027 and conclude in 2028.

With no further questions the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.


 Elsa Fischer
 President
 June 16, 2026


 Michelle J. Tuft
 Secretary