MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present:	President Elsa Fischer Vice President Ezra Jaffe Commissioner Susan Aberman Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Absent:	Commissioner Courtney Williams
Others Present:	Executive Director/Secretary Michelle J. Tuft Superintendent of Business Services William Schmidt Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities Breanne Labus Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Mary Amato Executive Administrative Assistant Ann Perez

CALL TO ORDER

President Fischer called the regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners to order at 6:30 p.m. and called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Ken Marley commented on the Park District's proposed Timber Ridge Park expansion. He stated that the proposal was ill-timed and poorly located, noting that Timber Ridge Park already provides recreational space for residents and is within easy walking distance of Central Park.

The amenities at a cost of $12 million seems inappropriate. He does not support the expansion of Timber Ridge Park as it places a burden on Skokie residents for the redundant benefit of an already well served neighborhood.

PUBLIC HEARING – BOND ISSUE NOTIFICATION

Treasurer Schmidt explained that the public hearing is for the proposed $2,950,000 limited tax general obligation bonds series 2026.

President Fischer called the meeting to order and asked if there were any public comments and there were none. With no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Vice President Jaffe asked Mr. Schmidt when the Cook County property taxes were due and Mr. Schmidt said they are due on October 1, 2026, and explained the process.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 18, 2026, minutes of the Public Hearing on Improvements at Timber Ridge Park of August 20, 2026, bills payable for the month of August/September 2026, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR LOCKWOOD PARK

Mr. Guynn requested the approval of the playground purchase for Lockwood Park. Five vendors submitted proposals for the site, and staff selected Burke's design. A public meeting was held, and residents reviewed the design favorably.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj moved to approve the bid from Burke for the playground equipment at Lockwood Park for a total of $152,997.00. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR SHAWNEE PARK

Mr. Guynn requested approval to purchase playground equipment for Shawnee Park. Five vendors were invited to submit proposals, and four responded. After reviewing the proposals, staff selected ImagineNation's design. The design was presented at a public meeting and received positive feedback.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from ImagineNation for the playground equipment at Shawnee park for a total of $108,939.00. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE SPORTS PARK NETTING INSTALLATION

Mr. Guynn requested approval to install additional netting at Skokie Sports Park, to address golf balls entering the gas company's property. He noted that all existing netting had been replaced three years earlier. The new netting will be installed using the existing posts and beginning five feet below the current netting to create a slight overlap. The three front panels will be 100 feet high, while the panels extending north and south will be 80 feet high.

There were four bidders and the lowest bidder was Ace Netting for a cost of $326,509.16. Mr. Guynn said this will be paid out of the operating budget.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj moved to approve the bid from Ace Netting for $326,509.16 for the Skokie Sports Park Netting Installation bid. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Aberman said Backlot Bash was great. So many people came in the rain. Commissioner Aberman said staff did a good job trying to keep people dry.

Ms. Tuft said this was Ms. Labus's third year running the Backlot Bash, and she does a great job.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj said she received good feedback on the bands. .

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the Commissioners of Ann Perez, the Executive Administrative Assistant's retirement party next Thursday, September 24, 2026, at Sketch Book.

Ms. Tuft and the Commissioners congratulated and thanked Ann for her work. Ann said it was wonderful to work for the park district for 23 years.

Maeve Creagon was introduced to the Commissioners. She will be the new Executive Administrative Assistant.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj moved to enter Executive Session to conduct the semi-annual review of the minutes and to authorize the destruction of executive session recordings pursuant to Section 2(c)(21). Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular meeting reconvened at 6:51 p.m. Vice President Jaffe moved that, following the review of Executive Session meeting minutes dating from January 2004, to have the minutes not previously released remain closed because of the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve Resolution #26-003 authorizing the destruction of verbatim recordings for the closed session meetings of September 17,

2024, December 17, 2024, and January 21, 2025. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:53 p.m. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Williams was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Elsa Fischer
President

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

October 20, 2026