SKOKIE
PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Skokie Park District Board of Park Commissioners

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 – 6:30 p.m. at 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie, IL 60077

Attendance at the Meeting

Board Members Present:

President, Elsa Fischer
Vice President, Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner, Susan Aberman
Commissioner, Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Commissioner, Courtney Williams

Skokie Park Staff 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, Maeve Creagan

Open Meeting

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 followed by a roll call of the board.

Comments from Citizens

No Citizen comments.

Consent Agenda Approval

President Fischer invited the board to suggest changes or remove items from the Consent Agenda. After no request, a motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, including:

a. Meeting Minutes of the: Shawnee Public Hearing, Lockwood Public Hearing Minutes, Regular Meeting Minutes, Public Hearing Referendum In-person Q&A
b. October 2026 bills payable
c. Treasurer's Report
d. Staff Reports: Parks, Recreation and Facilities, Marketing and Sponsorship, Information Technology, Community Committees, and NRPA Conference Reports

Result: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. All Commissioners voted aye; motion carried.

Treasurer's Action Items

1. **Approval of Ordinance #26-006 Limited Tax Bonds:**
   Raphaliata McKenzie of Speer Financial presented the results of the district's bond sale. Four bids were received, and First Secure National Community Bank submitted the lowest bid at 3.66%.
   - The final principal amount was adjusted to $2,857,800. Proceeds will be used at closing to pay approximately $2.3 million in prior debt associated with the 2007B issue, with remaining funds available for capital projects. The closing date was identified as November 3, 2026.
   - Discussion addressed the district's debt structure, future bond issues, the debt service extension base, tax-rate considerations, and the use of available borrowing capacity for capital improvements.

Result: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ordinance #26-006 authorizing the issuance of approximately $2,857,800 in General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds. The motion was approved by roll call vote; votes were aye with Vice President Jaffe abstaining from the vote.

2. **Resolution #26-004 Tax Levy:**
   Treasurer Schmidt requested the authorization to use a 2.7% increase as the working figure for preparation of the tax levy. Treasurer Schmidt explained that the resolution establishes a figure for allocating the levy among funds and that a fuller tax levy presentation, including the customary chart and taxpayer example, would be provided with the formal levy.

Result: A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution #26-004. The motion was approved by roll call vote; all were aye.

Staff Action Items

1. **Backlot Bash Financial Report**
   Superintendent Labus presented the 2026 Backlot Bash financial summary with the major takeaways of:
   - Rain on Saturday and heavier rain on Sunday affected carnival and alcohol sales.
   - Although alcohol ticket prices increased by $1, overall event revenue remained lower than in 2025.
   - Total revenue: $209,105 / Total expenses: $214,322 / Net loss: $5,217
   - The net loss was lower than budgeted.

Discussion from the Board noted the high fixed costs associated with a three-day community event, particularly entertainment, and the effort to balance original performers with tribute and cover bands. Commissioners emphasized the event's community value.

President's Report

Upcoming meetings: The next regular Board meeting was announced for Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. The upcoming Board retreat was also noted for November 23, 2026, from 3 to 7pm.

Commissioner Comments:

- Commissioner Williams shared feedback regarding the recent flea market mentioning strong community interest in holding flea markets more often, a request for more publicity for indoor vendors, interest in coffee vendors and praise for a helpful Oakton Community Center employee.
- Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Aberman asked about the decreases reflected in recreation and facility revenue figures. Staff cited weather-related closures at Weber Golf Course and Sports Park Oakton Ave construction as contributing factors
- In July, the Board voted to prohibit electric and motorized devices in SPD parks. Commissioner Williams asked how the ordinance was being enforced. Staff described adding signs, coordinating with schools and police, and directing on-site staff to educate e-bike and scooter users. Staff also noted that enforcement remains difficult because children often ignore instructions or quickly ride away when approached.

Old Business & New Business

No comments.

Adjournment

Commissioners moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. All Commissioners voted aye; motion carried.

X _____
Elsa Fischer
President

X _____
Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary