

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
MARCH 16, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman
Vice President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Elsa Fischer

Absent: Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Commissioner Courtney Williams

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

CALL TO ORDER

President Aberman 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

There were no citizen comments.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 17, 2026, bills payable for the month of February/March 2026, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Steve Konters of Hitchcock Design Group presented the final draft of the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, thoroughly reviewing each section to offer a comprehensive overview. He then invited questions from the board.

Vice President Jaffe suggested including the Emerson Park update, and Ms. Tuft agreed. Commissioner Fischer noted the large number of tasks planned over the next five years and was concerned it was too ambitious; Ms. Tuft expressed confidence that staff can manage them. Commissioners were requested to forward any corrections or

updates regarding the plan to Ms. Tuft. President Aberman thanked Mr. Konters. The board will approve the Comprehensive Plan in April.

Information only, no motion needed.

APPROVAL OF 2026 ASPHALT IMPROVEMENTS BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval for the 2026 Asphalt Improvements Bid, which attracted six bidders. The lowest bid of \$146,000 came from Schroeder Asphalt Services. Planned improvements will take place at Dammrich Rowing Center, Channelside Park, and the southern portion of the Devonshire Center parking lot. Mr. Guynn described the specific area involved at Channelside Park, noting that these upgrades will enhance accessibility along the path from Oakton Street to Main Street and provide connections to several parks in Evanston.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid of Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc. for the 2026 Asphalt Improvements Bid for \$146,000. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE SPORTS PARK SYNTHETIC PUTTING GREEN BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval for the Skokie Sports Park Synthetic Putting Green Bid, with Playground Safe as the low bidder at \$71,500. The putting green will be installed between the shelter and hitting structure to attract more visitors and enhance lesson offerings.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid of Playground Safe for the Skokie Sports Park Synthetic Turf Putting Green bid for \$71,500. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACTION TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Guynn provided an overview of the new Americans with Disabilities Action Audit, noting that the audit was finished last fall. The audit identified 1,400 issues related to parks, shelters, and facilities. Mr. Guynn explained that there was an update to the State of Illinois accessibility code in 2018 and that is why many of these changes must occur.

The previous audit took place in 2012, and all issues identified during that audit were completed.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the District's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Fischer expressed her gratitude to Ms. Tuft for inviting her and Commissioner Williams to the Shark Tank presentations, noting that she found it both enjoyable and impressive.

Vice President Jaffe received a text from a friend praising the park district after attending a birthday party where kids enjoyed the Park District trucks.

President Aberman described the Legislative Breakfast as informative and noted that the Liponi fundraiser was enjoyable, raising more money than last year.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft is considering rescheduling the May 19 board meeting to May 12, with tentative budget approval planned for the April 21 board meeting and final budget approval at the June 16 board meeting. The budget meeting is scheduled for April 15.

Ms. Tuft stated that the Referendum Task Force meeting held on Wednesday was positive, with participants providing favorable feedback regarding the proposed plans. Several suggestions were presented, and staff members will consult with Wight and Co. to review and consider these recommendations.

Ms. Tuft said the public hearing for Emerson Park is March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Weber Center.

Ms. Tuft said the Ice Show is this weekend at the Skatium Ice Arena.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Tuft and Mr. Guynn met with staff from School District 65 regarding Bessie Rhodes School. The school district discussed several options for selling the property. Commissioner Fischer proposed buying the school, converting it into green space connected to Timber Ridge Park, and potentially adding this plan to the referendum. Vice President Jaffe agreed that it is worth considering. Staff will reach out to District 65.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Fischer moved to enter executive session to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, pursuant to 5 ILCS120/2(c)(21); and to conduct the semi-annual review of the minutes to authorize the destruction of executive session recordings pursuant to Section 2(c)(21).

Vice President seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The regular meeting convened at 7:37p.m. Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 2026. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner vote aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

Following review of Executive Session meeting minutes dating from January 2004, Vice President Jaffe moved to release the minutes from September 25, 2025, and November 18, 2025, and to have those remaining minutes not previously released remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

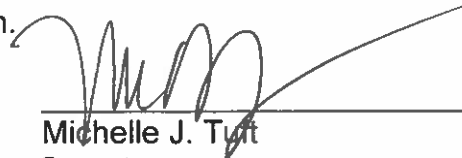
Vice President Jaffe moved to approve Resolution #26-001 authorizing the destruction of verbatim recordings for the closed session meetings of March 28, 2024, April 2, 2024, and August 19, 2024. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:38 p.m. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioners Kasalo-Terihaj and Williams were absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President
April 21, 2026



Michelle J. Tyt
Secretary