

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
MAY 12, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

Board Members Present: President Susan Aberman
Vice President Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Elsa Fischer
Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Commissioner Courtney Williams

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
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

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 21, 2026, minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of April 15, 2026, bills payable for the month of April/May 2026, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. Tuft said Hitchcock Design Group presented the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan at the January 20, 2026, board meeting. The content of the document has not been changed but some grammatical corrections were made, and staff is recommending the approval of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the 2026-2031 Comprehensive Plan. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular and annual board meetings will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Vice President Jaffe said he heard great comments about the Gleiss Park renovations.

Commissioner Fischer said the IAPD Legislative Conference was informative. The largest issue facing park districts comes from Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) who is transitioning to be the Illinois Department of Early Childhood (IDEC). IAPD is working diligently to protect park districts from unnecessary mandates from IDEC.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft reminded the board that the Festival of Cultures is this weekend with the opening ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

President Aberman and Ms. Tuft met with Village officials to address recent antisemitic issues in the parks.

Ms. Tuft met with the Village, Police Department, and Jewish leadership to talk about what the Village and Park District are doing to address antisemitism. Ms. Tuft also discussed the Stand-Up Skokie campaign. The tag line is Be Kind, Be Respectful and Be an Upstander.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Tuft provided an update on the Bessie Rhodes School property. The District 65 School Board will discuss listing two school properties for sale at their next board meeting and hope to decide on how to proceed by the second week of June. Two private schools, two governmental agencies and private entities have expressed interest in purchasing the property. The school district is valuing the property at \$4.8 million. They will be seeking community engagement in a few weeks via a survey and a public meeting. Ms. Tuft plans to attend.

President Aberman said it sounds like there is a lot of interest in the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Fischer asked whether the board would like to hold a board retreat or team planning session. The board identified three possible dates—November 23, 24, or 30—and Ms. Tuft will place the item on the June agenda. Board members should come with ideas for the retreat agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Elsy Fischer

President

Elsy Fischer

Michelle J. Tuft

Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

June 16, 2026

Scroll to next page for Annual Meeting Minutes

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
MAY 12, 2026**

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present: Commissioner Susan Aberman
Commissioner Ezra Jaffe
Commissioner Elsa Fischer
Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj
Commissioner Courtney Williams

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY SECRETARY

President Aberman moved to appoint Michelle Tuft as the temporary Secretary to conduct the election of President of the Board of Park Commissioners for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Temporary Secretary Tuft entertained nominations for the office of President of the Board of Park Commissioners. Vice President Jaffe nominated Commissioner Fischer for President. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

President Fischer then assumed leadership of the meeting.

President Fischer asked for nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj nominated Commissioner Jaffe. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. No other nominations were made. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Jaffe was elected Vice-President.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY AND TREASURER

President Fischer moved to appoint Michelle Tuft as the Board Secretary. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

President Fischer moved to appoint Bill Schmidt as the Board Treasurer. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioner voted aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ms. Tuft noted that the Board rarely holds committee meetings and asked whether it wished to continue them. She explained that committees are mainly used for parks public hearings and the annual finance committee meeting to approve the budget. She questioned whether they are still needed and suggested discussing the matter at the Board retreat.

President Fischer asked the Board to review current committee chairs and to choose a committee. The committee chairs are as follows:

Vice President Jaffe – Finance
Commissioner Williams – Recreation
Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj – Parks
Commissioner Aberman – Marketing

No motion required.

APPOINTMENT OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT OFFICER AND ALTERNATE

President Fischer moved to appoint Michelle Tuft as the open meetings act officer and Bill Schmidt as the alternate. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OFFICERS

Vice President Jaffe moved to appoint Michelle Tuft, Bill Schmidt, Corrie Guynn and Breanne Labus as Freedom of Information Act Officers. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND (IMRF) AUTHORIZED AGENT

Vice President Jaffe moved to appoint Laura Le as the IMRF Authorized Agent. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF MAINE-NILES ASSOCIATION OF SPECIAL RECREATION (M-NASR) BOARD ALTERNATE

Vice President Jaffe moved to appoint Breanne Labus as the M-NASR board representative alternate. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL MEETING DAY, TIME, AND LOCATION

Vice President Jaffe moved to adopt the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Weber Leisure Center as the official meeting date, time, and location for the Skokie Park District Board of Park Commissioners for the fiscal year 2026-2027. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

Commissioner Williams moved that Wintrust Financial, Chase Bank N.A, Wells Fargo Corporate Trust Services, First Bank Chicago, Illinois Institutional Investors Trust, Bank of New York, Zions Bank, Byline Bank and Ehlers Bond Trust Services be approved as official depositories for the Skokie Park District for fiscal year 2026-2027. Commissioner Aberman seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL SIGNATORIES FOR BANKING PURPOSES

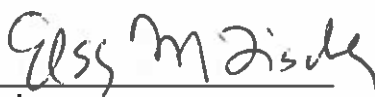
Commissioner Williams moved that the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer be designated as official signatories of the Skokie Park District for banking purposes for fiscal year 2026-2027. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Commissioner Williams moved to designate the Pioneer Press - Skokie Review as the official publication of the Skokie Park District for the fiscal year of 2026-2027. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Aberman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried. The annual meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Elsa Fischer
President



Michelle Tuft
Secretary

June 16, 2026