SKOKIE
PARK DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC HEARING ON REFERENDUM Q&A SESSION

September 22, 2026 - 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:

- President, Elsa Fischer
- Commissioner, Courtney Williams

Others Present:

- Executive Director, Michelle J. Tuft
- Superintendent of Parks, Planning and Facilities Corrie Guynn
- Superintendent of Recreation & Facilities, Breanne Labus
- Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Mary Amato
- Director of Human Resources, Keli Stonitsch

CALL TO ORDER

President Fischer called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for a Q&A on the upcoming November 3, 2026 Referendum at 6:00 p.m. and led the recitation of the pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS

President Fischer, Executive Director Michelle Tuft, and Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn introduced themselves.

STAFF PRESENTATION

President Fischer, Executive Director Michelle Tuft, and Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn presented on the bond Referendum and the project details.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

1. Questions:
    a) Would a fishing area be part of the Channelside plans?

b) How has the Skokie Parks District reached out to residents regarding the Referendum?
c) Is it possible to split the Sports Park East project and the Channelside project into two Referendums?
d) What will staffing costs be like at Sports Park East?

2. Concerns expressed by residents regarding the location and construction of Channelside and Sports Park East facilities if the Referendum passes:
    a) Proximity to Evanston
    b) Channelside's proximity mosquitoes
    c) Community concerts may be held less frequently in neighborhood parks if a larger performance facility is built
    d) Aesthetics of a bandshell
    e) The possibility of vandalism and graffiti
    f) Potential odors of the site
    g) The building costs will exceed the bond amount
3. In response to above concerns, a residents stated:
    a) Mosquitos and vandalism are not an existing issue in that area. They stated more trees and public resources can create a stronger community long term.
4. Pro-Referendum resident statements regarding the location of the new parks:
    a) A larger quantity of trees will improve Skokie
    b) The Channelside land is available and currently inaccessible for public use. The Referendum passing would allow the land to be put to mutually beneficial use.
5. Concerns regarding the ballot measure and taxation:
    a) A resident found the wording of the question on the ballot confusing.
    b) As Skokie Village taxes increase, a resident is concerned about additional increases because of the Referendum passing.

STAFF RESPONDED TO THE RESIDENT'S QUESTIONS

President Fischer, Executive Director Michelle Tuft, and Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn responded to above questions.

ADJOURNMENT

President Fischer thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

X Elsa Fischer

Elsa Fischer
President

X Michelle Tuft

Michelle Tuft
Executive Director

Vision Statement

The Skokie Park District envisions a community where all of its residents enjoy a high quality of life through leisure time pursuits, beautiful open spaces, and first-rate facilities.

Mission Statement

The Skokie Park District will realize its vision through teamwork, community partnerships, sound fiscal management, and creativity in every area of its operation.