SKOKIE
PARK DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING ON IMPROVEMENTS AT SHAWNEE PARK
August 19, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING

Board Members Present:	President Elsa Fischer Vice-President Ezra Jaffe Commissioner Courtney Williams Commissioner Susan Aberman
Others Present:	Executive Director Michelle J. Tuft Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Director Michelle Tuft called the public hearing of the Board of Park Commissioners for the improvements at Shawnee Park to order at 7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Michelle Tuft introduced herself.
President Elsa Fischer introduced herself.
Vice-President Ezra Jaffe introduced himself.
Commissioner Courtney Williams introduced herself.
Superintendent of Parks, Planning & Facilities Corrie Guynn introduced himself.
Horticultural Supervisor Jim Hallm introduced himself.
Operations Supervisor Jeff Hacker introduced himself.
Office Manager Park Services Anjum Hava introduced herself.

SHAWNEE PARK PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND PARK AMENITY UPDATES

Executive Director Michelle Tuft began the presentation by showing a rendering of the proposed new playground at Shawnee Park. She then invited Superintendent Corrie Guynn to present the Shawnee Park renovation project.

Mr. Guynn explained that the existing playground equipment is approximately 32 years old and needs replacement.

Mr. Guynn presented the proposed design for the new Shawnee Park playground and other amenities. The improvements will include new playground equipment with updated climbing features, picnic tables, benches, garbage receptacles, water fountain, and concrete work surrounding the playground area.

The new playground will include a variety of climbing features and a new 3-slide structure that the District does not have at any other playground. Another new feature looks like an elevator, you get on it, it pushes you down and pulls you back up. The playground will also include a swing set with two belt swings, one enclosed tot swing, and one ADA plastic molded swing.

Executive Director Michelle Tuft stated that landscaping improvements will also be completed as part of the renovation. The yews along the east side of the playground and in the sign bed will be removed to create a more open and accessible appearance. The existing circular planting bed will also be removed, as it is no longer serving a functional purpose.

All the demo work will be done in-house. Staff will remove the equipment in late Fall, early Winter 2026. The contractor will install the equipment in late Spring of 2027, as soon as the weather permits.

The expected opening of the new playground would be late Spring, early Summer of 2027.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

A resident inquired if the basketball court could have the original pavement and not asphalt. Mr. Guynn mentioned that all of the park's basketball courts are asphalt, where some are just color coated so they appear to be a different material. The resident asked if the colors could be applied. Mr. Guynn stated that the lines of the court will be looked into and if changes need to be made, it will be done accordingly.

A resident asked if a dog water fountain can be included when the drinking fountain is replaced, and Mr. Guynn said we will try to do that.

A resident asked whether recycling bins could be added along with the new garbage cans, noting the large amount of waste generated by children throughout the day. Mr. Guynn stated that adding recycling bins should not be an issue and that the Park District would be happy to include them as part of the improvements.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Executive Director Michelle Tuft asked all attendees to make sure they signed in and added their email address for further updates and information on the renovation of Shawnee Park. She also stated that if there are ever any emergency issues at the park that require immediate attention, call the Skokie police and report it. The park monitor can also be contacted for any minor issues at the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Executive Director Michelle Tuft thanked everyone for attending and providing input, and adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Elsa Fischer
President

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.
Core Values
The Skokie Park District will fulfill its mission through:
•Commitment• Integrity• Innovation• Service •Openness •Environmental Stewardship •Inclusiveness