

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING

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

Absent: Commissioner Antonia Kasalo-Terihaj

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

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 20, 2026, bills payable for the month of January /February 2026, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

Mr. Schmidt formally requested approval of Ordinance #26-001, an annual abatement ordinance which removes specific items from the tax rolls. This must be filed by March 1, 2026.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve Ordinance #26-001 to authorize the abatement of certain taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest on General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005B, Series 2021A and interest costs on Series 2013B, Series 2015B, Series 2017B, Series 2019A, Series 2023A and Series 2025A of the

Skokie Park District. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2026 CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval for the 2026 Concrete Improvements bid, covering work at Devonshire Aquatics Center and Skokie Water Playground pools. He outlined the scope of concrete work for both sites. Ms. Tuft noted the goal is to improve the appearance of the pool areas.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid from Dale Incorporated of \$35,160 for the 2026 Concrete Improvements bid. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF 2026 VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS

Mr. Guynn requested approval for the 2026 Vehicle Replacements, proposing a Ford 250 Crew Cab to replace the existing 2015 model and a Ford 550 Dump Truck to substitute the CDL-rated 2008 Ford 750 Dump Truck. He explained that purchasing the Ford 550 Dump Truck would eliminate the need for a CDL license, thereby reducing costs.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid of Bob Ridings, Inc. to provide the two vehicles in the Vehicle Replacement Bid for \$134,966.00. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF GLEISS PARK AND LYON PARK PLAYGROUND
INSTALLATIONS BID**

Mr. Guynn requested approval for the installation of playground equipment at Gleiss Park and Lyon Park. The equipment purchase was approved in September. D&J Landscape was the lowest bidder at \$65,100, out of four bids.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the bid from D&J Landscaping for the Gleiss and Lyon Park playground installation for \$65,100. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF SKOKIE HERITAGE MUSEUM HISTORIC CABIN
RESTORATION BID**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Skokie Heritage Museum Historic Cabin Restoration bid. The cabin ceiling and walls need repair to prevent water intrusion. Ms. England the Skokie Heritage Museum manager, also coordinated with the contractor who will also provide training on how to do the repairs.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from Historic Building Institute, LLC for the Skokie Heritage Museum Historic Cabin Restoration project for \$41,500.

Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioner voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE SPORTS PARK DRIVING RANGE STRUCTURE PAINTING BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the bid for painting the Skokie Sports Park Driving Range structure, changing its color from yellow to black, to match the color of the new shelter installed last summer.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid of A Plus Painters for \$51,700 for the Skokie Sports Park Driving Range Structure Painting project. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SPORTS PARK ROOF PANEL REPLACEMENT BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the bid for replacing the roof panels at Skokie Sports Park. The current roof panels have surpassed their expected lifespan of 12-15 years although one panel was replaced three years ago due to weather-related damage. Removing the panels will also allow the struts to be cleaned and painted. Both projects at Sports Park will be completed at the same time.

Commissioner Fischer inquired about the 12–15-year lifespan, and Mr. Guynn explained that strong west winds make it unavoidable.

Commissioner Willilams moved to approve the bid of Thatcher Oaks Awnings for \$89,990 for the Skokie Sports Park Roof Panel Replacement project. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE WATER PLAYGROUND BATHHOUSE PARTITIONS REPLACEMENT BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Skokie Water Playground Bathhouse Partitions Replacement bid, which involves replacing shower and toilet partitions in both locker rooms. The project will be completed in spring before the facility opens. Similar upgrades were made last year at the Devonshire Aquatics Center.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the bid from Commercial Specialties for the Skokie Water Playground Partition Replacement Project for a total of \$56,700. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SKOKIE WATER PLAYGROUND SLIDE RESTORATION BID

Mr. Guynn requested approval of the Skokie Water Playground Slide Restoration bid, which includes recoating and painting the blue slide, upgrading its interior with fiberglass, and fixing existing leaks.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the proposal of Safe Slide for the Skokie Water Playground slide restoration for \$61,696. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

**REJECTION OF WEBER GOLF COURSE NETTING REPAIRS
AND INSTALLATION BID**

Mr. Guyn asked to reject the Weber Golf Course Netting Repairs and Installation bid, which covered netting replacement and the installation of two new netting areas. Staff recommends rejecting it due to high cost and only one bidder.

Vice President Jaffe moved to reject the bid from Misfits Construction for the Weber Golf Course Netting Repairs and Installation bid. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF WEBER GOLF COURSE NETTING REPAIRS
AND INSTALLATION BID #2**

Mr. Guynn requested approval of bid #2 for repair and installation of netting at the Weber Golf Course. The work includes placing new netting at the end of Hole #3, replacing the existing netting along the parking lot and on the west side, and installing a new system at the end of the course.

President Aberman asked if the condo would be pleased, and Mr. Guynn replied that the netting should resolve most golf ball problems and prevent balls from going over it.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the bid and Alternate #1 from Wind and Sun Projection for \$96,693.98 for the Weber Golf Course Netting Repairs and Installation bid. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Fischer wanted to compliment that the staff outing at the IPRA Conference was fun.

President Aberman attended "Perspectives: A Series of One Act Plays" at the Devonshire Cultural Center and commended Rebecca Goldberg for her outstanding performance.

Vice President Jaffe thanked staff for their work on summer camp registration day. Ms. Labus reported 6,664 registrations so far, compared to last year's total of 8,300. On the registration day, numbers reached 5,600, similar to the previous year.

Commissioner Williams inquired about Backlot Bash planning, and Ms. Labus responded that the initial committee meeting is scheduled for April. Entertainment arrangements are typically coordinated by Jim Bottorff from the Marketing Department. Ms. Labus also confirmed that the band headliners for the Backlot Bash have been secured.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft notified commissioners that the Legislative Conference in Springfield will take place on May 5 and May 6. Commissioners who wish to attend should inform her.

The Referendum Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 11, with Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj confirmed to attend. President Aberman and Commissioner Fischer will decide which of them will participate.

The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Friday at 9 a.m. Attendees include President Aberman, Commissioner Fischer, Ms. Tuft, Ms. Labus, and Mr. Guynn.

Ms. Tuft said the budget hearing needed to be scheduled and April 15 at 6:30 p.m. was selected. The tentative budget will then be approved at the April meeting and the final budget at the May meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Jaffe reported that he received an inquiry regarding Bessie Rhodes School and was informed that the school district has expressed its intention to collaborate with municipal agencies. To date, Ms. Tuft has not been approached on this matter; however, she remains receptive to further dialogue.

Ms. Tuft also informed the board that District 73.5 will not be pursuing a referendum.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:57 p.m. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj was absent. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President
March 17, 2026



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary