

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT
JULY 15, 2025
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 Breanne Labus
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. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Bobbie Newman, President of the Barcelona Condo Association, attended the meeting to express concerns regarding the Weber Park Golf Course. She reported that in recent years, residents have experienced frequent incidents involving stray golf balls landing on their lawns and in the parking lot—some narrowly missing people. She shared that a golf ball recently missed hitting her head while she was standing on her porch. According to Ms. Newman, residents are finding golf balls on their property nearly every day.

She noted that while there is a sign near the third hole reminding golfers not to hit balls over the fence, the residents living on the south side of the building are requesting a tall net be installed, similar to the netting on the west side of the course.

Ms. Newman also presented an agreement she drafted for golfers to sign, outlining their responsibility for any physical damage or medical expenses caused by errant golf balls. Ms. Tuft will share the document with the board. President Aberman thanked Ms. Newman and assured her the matter would be looked into further.

Mr. David Dalka addressed the board on behalf of residents on the 9300 block of Lorel Avenue, where his parents reside. He expressed concerns regarding the parking lot at

Sequoia Park, which is adjacent to Jane Stenson School. Mr. Dalka stated that the self-park lot, established by the Park District several years ago, is now being misused by two main groups.

First, he noted that individuals are congregating in the lot to eat, loiter, and leave behind significant amounts of litter. Second, he explained that Jane Stenson School is using the lot as a pickup and drop-off zone. Since school bus service has not resumed post-pandemic, the volume of cars has created congestion, preventing emergency vehicles such as police and ambulances from accessing nearby homes.

Mr. Dalka requested that Jane Stenson School be prohibited from using the parking lot for pickup and drop-off and be required to utilize their own property or reinstate bus transportation. He also mentioned an increase in rat activity in the area and asked for assistance from the Park District.

President Aberman thanked Mr. Dalka for bringing these concerns to the board's attention and stated that the district would look into the matter and follow up with him.

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. Motion carried. The Consent Agenda consisted of the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 17, 2025, bills payable for the month of June/July 2025, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

ADOPTION OF SUPPLEMENTAL ORDINANCE #25-008 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF APPROXIMATELY \$2,500,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS (ALTERNATE REVENUE SOURCE), SERIES 2025 A, OF THE SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

Mr. Schmidt introduced Mr. Aaron Gold from Speer Financial to present the results of the recent bond sale. Mr. Gold reported that three bids were received, with the lowest bid submitted by Stifel Financial of Birmingham, Alabama, at a net interest rate of 4.0864%. The proceeds from the bond sale will be used to fund various capital improvement projects and cover the associated issuance costs. Mr. Gold also said the district's AA2 Moody rating was confirmed.

Mr. Gold recommended that the bonds be purchased from Stifel Financial at a cost of \$2,507,359.65.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Supplemental Ordinance #25-008 authorizing the issuance of \$2,507,359.65 of General Obligation Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2025A of the Skokie Park District. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The next regular meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners is Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Fischer thanked everyone for the fun Fourth of July parade. President Aberman said the weather cooperated and it was really nice.

Vice President Jaffe raised a question regarding the Voucher Payables Report and asked if any other Commissioners had similar questions during their review. President Aberman emphasized that it is the board's responsibility to understand how the Park District's funds are being spent, noting that the report provides a detailed listing of payments made and to whom.

Ms. Tuft offered to meet with Vice President Jaffe—and any other Commissioners who are interested—to review the report in detail and address any questions they may have.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Tuft distributed an email she received from Village Manager, John Lockerby regarding the potential purchase of property located at 7854 Lincoln Avenue, at the corner of Babb and Lincoln Avenues, for use as park land. The property is situated across from Lincoln Junior High School. Ms. Tuft stated she would follow up with the individual who contacted Mr. Lockerby and, if there is genuine interest, she will bring the matter forward as a future agenda item.

Ms. Tuft reported that the second property under consideration is located at 4811 Oakton Street, across from Crafty Beaver. She noted that the Village of Skokie has long expressed interest in establishing a downtown park and recently informed her that the property is now for sale at a price of \$1.5 million. Ms. Tuft stated that if the board is interested, the item could be added to a future agenda for discussion.

President Aberman recalled that the board had previously walked the area and noted complications involving ComEd, who had not responded to inquiries at the time. Commissioner Williams added that there are overhead lines and wires on the site, which could present challenges.

Ms. Tuft shared, for informational purposes, that Village Manager, John Lockerby informed her the Holiday Inn had requested a meeting with both the Park District and the Village to discuss baseballs entering their parking lot from the Laramie Park ball field. Ms. Tuft declined the meeting, stating that there is no reason for the Village to be involved in the matter at this time.

Mr. Guynn reported that since the installation of the new netting, there have only been two incidents, representing a significant decrease. In one case, a car was hit, and the individual who hit the ball took responsibility and paid for the damage.

Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj asked whether the Holiday Inn had ever permitted the Park District to install signage warning about baseballs. Mr. Guynn confirmed that they have not allowed any signage to be posted.

Ms. Tuft shared that District 72 Fairview School is interested in building an inclusive tot lot designed for children with disabilities and has asked if the Park District would be interested in partnering on the project and submitting a joint proposal.

Ms. Tuft noted that the Park District has already finalized its budget for the current fiscal year but could consider the project for the next fiscal year. The initiative involves a matching grant, where District 72, the Park District, and the Skokie Community Foundation would share the cost.

Ms. Tuft reminded staff that next week the Hot Dogs in the Park will be at Pawnee Park.

Mr. Guynn asked the Commissioners to schedule public hearing dates for renovations at Gleiss and Lyon Parks. The dates selected were August 28 for Gleiss Park and September 3 for Lyon Park, both at 6:30 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS


There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Fischer seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioner voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.



Susan Aberman
President



Michelle J. Tuft
Secretary

August 19, 2025