

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT  
JUNE 17, 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  
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. President Aberman called for the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

There were no citizen comments.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2025-2026 TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION  
ORDINANCE #25-004**

President Aberman called the public hearing to order. She made a call for comments from the public regarding the 2025-2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #25-004 and there were no comments. She closed the public hearing.

**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 May 20, 2025, Annual Meeting minutes of May 20, 2025, bills payable for the month of May/June 2025, Treasurer's Report, and Staff Reports.

**APPROVAL OF THE FINAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE**  
**FISCALYEAR 2025-2026 ORDINANCE #25-007**

Treasurer Schmidt requested the approval of the final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #25-007 for fiscal year 2025-2026. The board has reviewed the operating budget, and it was on public display for thirty days. No one requested to review it. This ordinance is identical to the tentative budget including the five-year Capital Development Plan.

Vice President Jaffe moved to approve the Final Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #25-007 for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the total amount of \$37,372,257, including the five-year Capital Development Plan totaling \$8,643,263. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

**FINAL STATUS OF 2024-2025 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS**

Ms. Tuft stated that most of the goals for 2024-25 have been completed. Any goal not completed will be carried forward to 2025-26.

Vice President Jaffe had questions about the administrative goals and Ms. Tuft explained each of them.

No motion required, for informational purposes only.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 DISTRICT AND DIVISION GOALS**

Ms. Tuft said that staff would be happy to respond to any comments or questions regarding the 2025-2026 goals. President Aberman said she appreciates the information and the new format, and said the list was impressive. Ms. Tuft said this is a comprehensive list of the district's goals and she is confident that staff will complete them.

Commissioner Williams said it is good that we can track the progress of the goals.

Commissioner Fischer said onboarding seemed to be a theme. Ms. Tuft highlighted the district's onboarding process and Superintendent Labus explained how the various facilities plan to expand and customize onboarding for each area.

Vice President Jaffe asked if a goal could be added regarding the new lease with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District for Channelside South. Ms. Tuft will add it as a goal. Vice President Jaffe asked about allowing pickleball court rentals and Ms. Labus will add it to the pickleball goal.

President Aberman said a wheelchair for Emily Oaks Nature Center is a good idea and suggested options for having a wheelchair donated.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the 2025-2026 Park District goals. Vice President Jaffe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried.

## **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION #25-003 AUTHORIZING STATE OF ILLINOIS GRANT EXECUTOR AND SIGNATORY**

The State of Illinois requires a supporting document if someone other than the Board President or Executive Director signs Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities (DCEO) grant documents. Resolution #25-003 allows the Superintendent of Parks, Planning and Facilities to sign the DCEO grants.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve Resolution #25-003 allowing the Superintendent of Parks, Planning and Facilities to sign and execute State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grants. 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, July 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

## **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Fischer said the Juneteenth event last weekend was great.

Vice President Jaffe has received great feedback about photos in the camp app and on social media. Parents are loving it. He also received great feedback about the new playground at Terminal Park.

## **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Tuft asked which Commissioners will be attending the Fourth of July parade. President Aberman, Commissioner Fischer, and Commissioner Williams will attend, Vice President Jaffe is not sure yet. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj will not attend.

Vice President Jaffe asked when the Commissioners need to decide on the Fourth of July parade and fireworks dates for next year. Ms. Tuft will speak with the Village before a decision is made.

Ms. Tuft congratulated Ms. Labus and Ms. Amato for completing the camp reaccreditation with the American Camping Association (ACA) today. The district has been accredited for the next five years and will receive formal notification soon.

Commissioner Fischer said the hot dogs in the park is next Tuesday at Playtime Park. President Aberman asked if people know where Playtime Park is and Ms. Amato said directions have been included in the marketing materials so people should know where the park is located.

Commissioner Williams said she was surprised to hear that Jesus Jones band will not be at the Backlot Bash this year as they cancelled their tour. Ms. Tuft said the Depeche Mode cover band will be performing on Saturday night at the Backlot Bash.

**OLD BUSINESS**


There was no old business.


**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Jaffe moved to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Kasalo-Terihaj seconded the motion. On a roll call vote all Commissioner voted aye. Motion carried. The regular meeting adjourned 7:01 at p.m.

  
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Susan Aberman  
President

  
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Michelle J. Tuft  
Secretary

July 15, 2025