

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
DECEMBER 09, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. President Grossberg.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Greenberg, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Labrador, Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Director Smith; Director Peters; Director Voss; Director Gogola; Director Baird; Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Kutscheid; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

City Council Woman, Annette Lidawer

1707 Saint John's Avenue, Highland Park

She expressed sincere appreciation to the Park Board of Commissioners and Staff, commending their outstanding service to the community and their strong cooperation with the City of Highland Park on various projects.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

A. New Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park

Director Smith shared images of recent progress. Interior updates include completed rough-in work for electrical and plumbing, with drywall installation now underway. Exterior work includes ongoing under-drain installation for the ball field, and solar panel installation is expected to begin this month.

B. Lincoln Park Improvements Project

Manager Kutscheid reported that playground and shelter installations are complete, the rubber base surface has been laid, and the ballfield has been seeded. Once snow melts, the contractor will finish final touches, conduct a safety check, and remove the construction fence. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for spring 2026.

C. Rosewood Park Playground Replacement Project

Manager Kutscheid reported that the playground installation is complete. The pathway to the playground will be laid this weekend. Once snow melts, the contractor will finish final touches, conduct a safety check, and remove the construction fence. Playground will be open for use in spring 2026.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Director Peters reported that there were two notable vouchers: a check to NSSRA for our member contributions and check to W.B. Olson for the New Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Human Relations Advisory Group

President Grossberg reported that the City of Highland Park's Human Relations Advisory Group is seeking a Park District Commissioner to serve on the group. Currently, Manager Pierce represents the district. The group supports community programs that enhance quality of life and provides advisory recommendations on social issues, equality, and social justice.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Beck, seconded by Commissioner Labrador to adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of Section 2(c)1: The employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body;

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Greenberg, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Labrador, Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 6:31 p.m.

The meeting reconvened into Open Session at 7:41 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

President Grossberg reported that the Park Board of Commissioners met in Closed Session under Section 2(c)1: The employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body;

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg and seconded by Commissioner Labrador and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary