

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
MARCH 12, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. President Bernstein.

Vice President Freeman left the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice President Freeman and seconded by Commissioner Labrador to allow Commissioner Ruttenberg to participate in tonight's meeting by electronic means.

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Labrador, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Freeman, President Bernstein

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Labrador, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Freeman, President Bernstein

Absent: None

Staff Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Smith; Director Voss; Director Peters; Director Gogola; Director Hall; Assistant Director Acevedo; Assistant Director Soto, Manager Schwartz, Manager Kutscheid, Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speakers: None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions to the addition, however, President Bernstein read a statement Recognizing Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart. Last Monday, March 3 the expected trial for the case of the Highland Park Shooting came to an unexpected end before it even began with a guilty plea. This past Monday, March 10 the Mayor recognized some very important people, and I want to take a moment to share our gratitude to the Lake County State's Attorney, Eric Rinehart, and his entire team for their tireless work to pursue justice on behalf of the Highland Park community, as well as the first responders, law-enforcement, hospital personnel, the Mayor, City Manager Neukirch and her team, for their professionalism throughout this entire

investigation. Our thoughts and hearts remain with the families whose loved ones were senselessly taken, those who were injured, and everyone whose lives were forever changed by this horrific act. I also want to recognize my fellow board members and the park district staff who were present during the shooting, and share my gratitude to everyone at the Park District who has provided care for one another, support services to our employees, and healthy recreation and leisure outlets for our community members.

Commissioner Grossberg thanked the Park District for the support provided the next day and in the following weeks for employees and Park Board Commissioners. The resources and services helped with his healing process.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Executive Director Romes reported that the Park Board of Commissioners approved a professional services agreement with The Lakota Group to complete and revised master plan. The Park District will also be working with aQuity to conduct a community wide attitude and interest survey, and Berry Dunn to conduct a recreation services assessment. The Lakota Group, aQuity Research and Insights, and BerryDunn held a kickoff meeting for the Greenprint Master Plan Update on February 24, 2025 with staff and the Park Board Master Planning Project liaisons. He shared key lights from the kickoff meeting: the brand Greenprint will remain, public engagement will occur before the community wide attitude and interest survey will be released, schedule will be extended, the revised master plan will not be presented to the Park Board for approval until the end of this year.

Commissioner Grossberg and Vice President Freeman support the extended schedule since it allows new members of the Park Board to be involved.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES

A. New Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park

Manager Schwartz reported that the construction trailer is on site. Fencing will be installed this week. The south parking lot will be restriped, and signs will be installed displaying the temporary traffic pattern during construction. Staff are no longer permitted to utilize the south parking lot. The south parking lot is reserved for patrons and construction contractors. She shared an aerial image of the site highlighting the construction zone and parking zones. Print and digital communications have been shared with the community. The community can find project updates on the park district website.

B. Club Pickle and Padel Facility Project

Director Smith provided an update on construction. He shared site images showcasing electrical and plumbing. Power should be available at the site before the end of the week.

The Illinois Department of Public Health denied the variance request; the variance request does not comply with state plumbing codes for air supported structures. Staff are working with architects and engineers to develop alternatives.

C. Park Avenue Boating Facility North Beach Improvements Project

Manager Kutscheid provided a quick review of the site masterplan. The parking lot and sidewalks are complete. Pedestrian boardwalk decking is being placed. Construction is anticipated to be completed in mid-April.

D. Sunset Woods Park Improvements Project

Manager Kutscheid provided a quick reminder of the overall project. The multiuse court surfacing has been placed, the bowl has been graded for the skate park, and structures have been installed for the skate park and wheel friendly plaza. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late April.

REVIEW OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Ruttenberg reported that he reviewed the vouchers and found no discrepancies.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Labrador, seconded by Commissioner Grossberg to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)5: the purchase or lease of real estate including discussion on whether a certain parcel of property should be acquired; Section 2(c)6: the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District;

Roll Call:

Aye: Commissioner Labrador, Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, President Bernstein

Nay: None

Absent: Vice President Freeman

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 6:54 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 7:35 p.m.

ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION IF ANY

President Bernstein reported that no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Ruttenberg and seconded by Commissioner Grossberg and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Workshop Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary