

**MINUTES OF A THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
HELD ON MAY 02, 2025, 8:05 AM.**

Commissioner Ruttenberg and Vice President Freeman participated by electronic means.

**Present:** Commissioner Grossberg, Commissioner Labrador, President Bernstein

**Absent:** None

**Also, Present:** Executive Director Romes; Director Peters, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Assistant Director Acevedo, Assistant Director Soto, Manager Ochs, Coordinator Hejnowski

**Guest Speaker:** None

**Additions to the Agenda**

None.

**Wireless Access Point Purchase**

Director Smith reported that there is \$45,000 budgeted in capital funds to replace the wireless access point equipment purchase. Information Technology (IT) equipment is exempt from bidding. Staff would like to purchase replacement equipment from L6 Technology. They are a trusted vendor, and the Park District has worked with them in the past. The cost to replace the wireless access point equipment from L6 Technology is \$50,107.

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to request approval at the May 07, 2025 Workshop Meeting of the Park Board of Commissioners.

**Club Pickle and Padel Project Update**

Manager Liewehr provided a programming and operations update. She reported that there will be two membership options available at Club Pickle and Padel, Standard or Premier. She compared the membership benefits and costs. Memberships, leagues, and program enrollments will be available through the Club Pickle and Padel App. Currently, the app is available for Deer Creek Racquet Club members, Recreation Center of Highland Park members and drop in pickleball users, and Danny Cunniff outdoor court users. The District is offering a discounted sneak peek promotion for CPP memberships and summer leagues and programs. 283 memberships have been sold and 214 adults registered for summer leagues. The app will be available to the general public later this month.

She compared court fees for pickleball courts at CPP, padel courts at CPP, and the outdoor courts at Danny Cunniff Park.

Permanent court time, up to 2 hours per day, will be available at Club Pickle and Padel from September 02, 2025 – May 22, 2026. Two options will be available: this mimics the Deer Creek Racquet Club permanent court time model.

She reviewed Fall 2025 programming and open play options at Club Pickle and Padel.

Lastly, she compared Fall 2025 budgeted revenues and expenses with estimated revenues and expenses for Club Pickle and Padel. The estimated revenues and expenses were modeled after Deer Creek Racquet Club.

Director Smith provided a construction project update. He provided a summary of the budget vs the project change orders for Club Pickle and Padel.

Commissioner Labrador left the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

#### **2025 Pickleball Court Divider and Enclosure System Purchase and Installation Bid Results**

Director Smith reported that the Park District received two (2) bids. Both came in significantly over budget. Staff recommend rejecting both bids and rebidding strictly for installation. Additionally, staff are recommending purchasing the court dividers and enclosure system through Sole Source. He reviewed the allocated budget with the sole Source purchase costs.

It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to reject both bids and request approval from the Park Board of Commissioners at the May 07, 2025 Workshop Meeting to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Sole Source purchase agreement.

#### **Natural Gas Service Update**

Director Peters reported that on April 23, 2025, the Park Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #2025-03 authorizing a contract with the lowest-cost natural gas provider. The Park District received bids via AUS Energy (Alternative Utility Services, Inc.) for natural gas rates for the entire District (11 meters in total). While open to bid, the current West Ridge Center did not receive one, due to the unknown closing date of that facility and the new Dome did not receive one as there is not yet 9 months of data associated with that new meter.

The lowest bid for the nine smaller usage meters was from Interstate Gas Supply, LLC (IGS) via AUS Energy at .475 cents per therm. IGS is the current provider for these facilities through July of 2028. Per the Board Approved Resolution 2025-03, the acceptance of this bid was executed by Executive Director Rome for these 9 meters for the term of August 2025 through July 2028. To note, AUS Energy receives compensation from the natural gas supplier, and no AUS Energy representative is employed by North Shore Gas.

Under the Park District's current natural gas contract for these meters, the average year-round rate is .6150 cents per therm for the smaller facilities and .5769 cents per therm for the two larger facilities. The new contract for the smaller facilities will provide a decrease in cost of .1400 per therm, except for Fink maintenance garage and the Recreation Center (where a variable price is being used which is currently .40769 cents per therm). The new contracts for the two larger facilities will provide a decrease in cost of .1599 cents per therm.

Based upon 2024 weather conditions, this new contract for the smaller facilities will decrease the annual natural gas cost of the small meter facilities by ~23% or \$13,732.45 in total over each 12-month period of the three-year contract. The two larger facilities will decrease the annual natural gas cost of HCAP and CIA by ~38% or \$21,205.62 in total over each 12-month period of the three-year contract.

## Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

May 02, 2025

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to place the Interstate Gas Supply, LLC Large Commercial Gas Sales Agreement for Natural Gas bid via Alternative Utility Services, Inc. (AUS Energy) and the Mansfield Power and Gas, LLC Master Commercial Gas Sales Agreement for Natural Gas bid via Alternative Utility Services, Inc. (AUS Energy) for approval at the May 07, 2025 Workshop Meeting of the Park Board.

### **Other Business**

None.

### **Open to the Public to Address the Board**

None.

### **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg, seconded by President Bernstein 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.

### **Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Ruttenberg, Commissioner Grossberg, Vice President Freeman, President Bernstein

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Commissioner Labrador

**Abstain:** None

### **Motion Carried**

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 9:28 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened into Open Session at 10:06 a.m.

### **Action from Closed Session if Any**

President Bernstein reported that no action was taken.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Commissioner Grossberg and seconded by President Bernstein and approved by a unanimous vote. The Finance Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary