

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING  
JANAURY 14, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 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 Hall; Director Ochs; Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Schwartz; Coordinator Hejnowski

**Guest Speaker:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**PARK DISTRICT ADA COMMITTEE**

Manager Schwartz reported that in 2024, the Park District engaged WT Group to conduct an audit of District parks and facilities to identify physical barriers to inclusion. As part of this process, WT Group facilitated community meetings and interviewed Park District staff. These efforts resulted in the completion of the ADA Transition Plan and Program and Policy Report in 2025.

Inclusion is a core value of the Park District, which is committed to advancing equity and access for all. Guided by these values, staff established an internal ADA Committee to implement the plan's recommendations and address its findings. The Park District of Highland Park's ADA Committee serves as an internal framework to collaboratively consider inclusion across all areas of operations and to work toward a universally inclusive experience at all parks, facilities, programs, and events.

Manager Schwartz also reviewed the purpose of establishing the committee, its structure and member responsibilities, committee operations, and the committee's goals for 2026.

The Committee will provide regular updates to the Park Board of Commissioners.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES**

**A. *New Facility and Site Improvements at West Ridge Park***

Manager Schwartz shared images highlighting recent project progress. Interior updates include the completion of drywall installation. Exterior work includes construction of trellises, the start of window installation, ongoing underdrain installation for the ballfield, and site preparation for ComEd to complete the power connection. In the coming months, masonry work is scheduled for the enrichment courtyard and event lawn.

**REVIEW OF VOUCHERS**

Director Peters reported that there were no remarkable items.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. *Approval of the Executive Director’s Compensation***

President Grossberg reported that in compliance with Public Act 097-0609, the Executive Director’s proposed compensation for Fiscal Year 2026 including salary, vehicle allowance, bonus, health insurance, vacation, and sick days was posted on the Park District’s website and was also included in the Park Board Meeting Packet for this evening.

Compliant with Public Act 097-0609, a motion was made by Commissioner Labrador, seconded by Vice President Freeman to approve the Executive Director’s total compensation including salary, vehicle allowance, bonus, health insurance, vacation, and sick days effective January 1, 2026.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg and seconded by Commissioner Labrador and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roxanne Hejnowski*

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary