

**MINUTES OF A THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
OF THE PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK
HELD ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026, 8:07 AM.**

A motion was made by President Grossberg and seconded by Commissioner Labrador to allow Commissioner Grossberg to participate by electronic means.

Present: Commissioner Labrador, President Grossberg

Absent:

Also, Present: Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Peters, Director Smith, Director Voss, Director Gogola, Director Ochs, Assistant Director Soto, Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Kutscheid; Manager Hartnett; Coordinator Hejnowski

Guest Speaker: None

Vice President Freeman joined the meeting at 8:04 a.m.

Additions to the Agenda

None.

Resolution 2026-01 - A Resolution Authorizing the Park District Executive Director to Enter into a Contract for the Purchase of Electricity from the Lowest Cost Electricity Provider for the Purposes of Power Through the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative Bid Process or the Priority Power Bid Process

Director Peters reported that electricity at all Park District facilities and additional electric meters is currently brokered via Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), except for Deer Creek Racquet Club (DCRC), the meter at Club Pickle and Padel (CPP), West Ridge Community Center (WRCC), West Ridge Center (WRC), and one small load meter. DCRC has a separate electric contract that is tied to the solar provider there, as will WRCC. CPP has a new meter which will be included in the bid. WRC was excluded as the date of demolition of the building was unknown.

NIMEC is the largest governmental collaborative in Northern Illinois which aggregates the energy needs of over 88 Illinois municipal organizations comprising over 790,000,000 kWh annually, thus allowing them to secure more competitive pricing. They will be collecting bids on our behalf from: AEP, Constellation, Direct Energy, and Dynegy.

Priority Power is a full-service energy consulting firm and has been an industry leader for over 20 years. They manage over 10,000 clients, or 94,000,000,000 kWh, nationwide. They have relationships with over 65 electricity and natural gas suppliers. Priority Power has been repeatedly recognized as a leader within the deregulated energy industry, winning The Energy Professionals Association's (TEPA) Aggregator, Broker, Consultant (ABC) of the Year award 4 times (2023, 2020, 2017, 2015). As such, Priority Power will be collecting bids from several other energy suppliers outside of the scope of NIMEC.

As all District electric contracts expire in May, they will all be bid simultaneously on March 11, 2026, except for DCRC, WRC, and WRCC. Bids are to be submitted by 11:00 a.m.

Regarding Financial Impacts, Director Peters reported that bidding electricity for the District takes place over a few hours. Therefore, approval to participate in the NIMEC consortium bid and the Priority Power bid must take place prior to knowing the awarded supplier and associated rates. The amount of compensation that NIMEC or Priority Power receives is included in the electricity prices from the supplier, so there will be no direct payment made to NIMEC or Priority Power by the Park District. Prices will be similar to last year's prices, maybe a touch higher.

It was the consensus of the Finance Committee to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

Hidden Creek AquaPark and Rosewood Beach Concessions License RFP

Manager Hartnett reported that the Park District received two proposals in response to the RFP: one from Judy's Pizza and Catering with Relish, Inc. Judy's Pizza is a long-standing Highland Park business operated concessions the last two years at Hidden Creek AquaPark and Rosewood Beach concessions. The Park District also currently has a license agreement with Catering with Relish, Inc., which manages the Clubhouse at Sunset Valley Golf Club and has provided off-site catering services for various Park District special events.

Having prior experience working with both vendors, Manager Hartnett reviewed and compared their service history, commitments, proposed menu offerings, and pricing.

Staff recommended acceptance of the 2026 Hidden Creek AquaPark and Rosewood Beach Concessions License proposal from Catering with Relish, Inc., citing strong customer service, high food quality, and positive references. Staff noted that these factors best align with the Park District's operational needs and guest experience goals for the 2026 season.

At the request of the Park Board, this item will be placed under Unfinished Business at the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting to allow Commissioner Beck to review and provide input prior to consideration of approval of a one-year license agreement.

Club Pickle and Padel Fire Alarm Coverage Change Order

Director Smith reported that due to the unique nature of the dome structure, the facility does not meet certain City of Highland Park fire code requirements. Staff have been working with the City of Highland Park, the Park District's consultants, and construction management firm Stuckey Construction to identify solutions that will bring the facility into compliance.

Director Smith reviewed the proposed change order and associated costs, noting that this was an unanticipated expense and was not included in the original project funding.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board. This item may be removed from the consent agenda and placed under Unfinished Business if Commissioner Beck requests a presentation.

West Ridge Community Center Fire Alarm Coverage Change Order

Director Smith reported that the project architect and engineer misinterpreted the applicable fire code. As a result, staff are requesting approval of a change order at the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board to prevent construction delays. The associated costs will be funded through the project's contingency budget.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

Sunset Woods Park Tennis Courts Reconstruction

Director Smith reported that the project scope includes evaluating tennis court restoration options, installing under-court drainage, reconstructing the tennis courts, and replacing tennis court lights. He reviewed the project budget and the associated financial impacts, noting that the Park District would have \$586,200 remaining in the budget for construction. If approved by the Park Board, the goal is for construction to occur in 2027.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

February Bid Results

a. 2026 Electrical Gear Upgrade at Centennial Ice Arena

Director Smith reported that the facility's electrical mechanicals are nearly 50 years old and staff strongly recommend replacement to ensure proper operation. The Park District received three bids for the project, with the lowest bid submitted by All Industrial Electric Inc. in the amount of \$367,205. The project budget is \$295,500.

If approved, construction would begin in April, with a planned power shutdown window from May 18, 2026 through June 2, 2026, and anticipated completion in late June.

Deputy Director Carr reported that while there are no active issues at this time, failure of the existing equipment would result in a facility shutdown for an undetermined period, as replacement parts are no longer available.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

b. 2026 Devonshire Park Playground Refresh

Director Smith reported that this project is not a full structure replacement, but rather a playground refresh focused on replacing play components. The Park District received six bids for the project. The lowest bid was submitted by Maneval Construction in the amount of \$173,203; however, the bid was incomplete. Staff contacted the bidder to address the missing items but did not receive the required information.

As a result, staff recommended awarding the project to the second lowest bidder, Hacienda Landscaping, Inc., in the amount of \$187,943. The project budget is \$194,000. While the bid from Hacienda Landscaping, Inc. is under budget, the purchase of play equipment and site amenities—including removal of pedestrian pathway brick pavers to be replaced with concrete to improve ADA accessibility, curbing, and value engineering—would result in the project exceeding the budget by approximately \$24,000 if approved.

Director Voss reported that the project could be moved to approval in the late summer, with construction occurring in the fall. By doing so, the Park Board would have a better understanding of the status of the five-year capital plan. He noted that the project cost would increase if completed in the fall due to changes in prevailing wage.

This item will be placed under Unfinished Business at the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting.

c. 2026 Park Avenue Dredging Project

Director Smith reported that the project scope includes mobilization and dredging. The Park District received two bids, with the lowest bid submitted by American Shoreline in the amount of \$42,050. Even with the required environmental services testing, staff anticipates that the project will come in under budget. If approved, construction would begin in early May.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

d. 2026 Hidden Creek AquaPark Pool Shell Maintenance

Director Smith reported that the park district did not receive any bids. Staff plan to rebid for construction in the fall. Facilities staff will have to take care of patchwork and painting.

e. 2026 Hidden Creek AquaPark Mechanical Pump/Motor Replacement

Deputy Director Carr reported that the project scope includes replacing motors and the pump system that support water circulation for the splash pad and body slide. The Park District received one bid from Omni-Pump in the amount of \$73,000. He noted that the project came in under budget.

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

f. 2026 Rosewood Beach Interpretive Center Replacement of Geothermal HVAC Unit

Deputy Director Carr reported that a Geothermal System Assessment was completed in October 2025. The assessment identified replacement of the Geothermal HVAC unit as a high-priority recommendation. The Park District received four bids for the project, with the lowest bid submitted by Air Comfort LLC in the amount of \$50,100. The project budget is \$60,000.

If approved, construction would be a quick turnaround beginning in late May, with anticipated completion before June 1, 2026.

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2026

It was the consensus of the Park Board to place this item on the consent agenda for the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Park Board.

Other Business

None.

Open to the Public to Address the Board

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Hejnowski

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary