

**PARK DISTRICT OF HIGHLAND PARK  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Labrador

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Greenberg, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Labrador

**Absent:** Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

**Staff Present:** Executive Director Romes; Deputy Director Carr; Director Voss; Director Peters; Director Baird, Assistant Director Acevedo; Manager Meredith; Manager Kutscheid; Coordinator Hejnowski

**Guest Speakers:** None

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg, seconded by Commissioner Beck to approve the Minutes from the February 11, 2026 Workshop Meeting, Minutes from February 17, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting, Minutes from the February 25, 2026 Regular Meeting, the Dynegy Energy Services, LLC Electric Service Agreement bid via Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), Ordinance 2026-03: An Ordinance Amending the Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025 and Ending on December 31, 2025, 2026 Routine Grounds Maintenance Services - South Route, 2026 Routine Grounds Maintenance Services - North Route, 2026 Sport Court Improvement Project, Rejection of the 2026 Park Avenue Dredging Project Bid, 2026 Park Avenue Dredging Rebid Project, and Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$3,812,441.38

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greenberg, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Labrador

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**FINANCIAL FORECASTS AND TREASURER’S REPORT**

***Operations (General and Recreation Funds) Budget vs. Actual***

Director Peters shared the end-of-year projections and actual figures as of February 28, 2026. She is pleased to report that Actual Revenues exceeded budgeted revenues by \$573,102 actual expenses came in under budget by \$841,289.

***Conclusion***

The following Park District programs and facilities are performing better than budget: interest income has a \$78,000 surplus, adult tennis has a \$43,000 surplus, pickleball memberships have a \$47,000 surplus, the dance program has a \$52,000 surplus, and early childhood enrichment has a \$95,000 surplus. Also, there are \$69,000 savings from payroll expenses.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration to Approve Authorization for the Executive Director to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with True North Educational Cooperative 804**

Executive Director Romes reported that construction of the new West Ridge Community Center commenced in Spring 2025, with its opening scheduled for May 11, 2026. Upon completion and opening of this facility, the existing West Ridge Center will undergo demolition. The current West Ridge Center accommodates approximately 30 administrative employees whose offices require relocation. To address these short-term office needs, the Park District has partnered with TrueNorth Cooperative 804 to utilize available office space. Administrative staff are expected to transition to the new location by May 4, 2026. The attached proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between the Park District and TrueNorth outlines the terms governing temporary office space arrangements.

The initial term of the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) will begin upon execution by both Parties, with commencement occurring no earlier than April 15, 2026. The Park District is expected to achieve full occupancy of the temporary office space at TrueNorth starting May 4, 2026. This initial term will extend through November 1, 2026, at a total cost of \$50,000. This fee includes all utilities (electricity, water, heating, and cooling), routine building maintenance and custodial services, access to common areas and restrooms, as well as building security and standard access controls.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg and seconded by Commissioner Beck authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for lease of office space with TrueNorth Cooperative No. 804.

**Roll Call:**

**Aye:** Commissioner Greenberg, Commissioner Beck, Commissioner Labrador

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Vice President Freeman, President Grossberg

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Consideration to Approve the 2026 Weeding & Landscaping Service**

This item was presented at the March 17 Finance Committee Meeting. It was the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the bid proposal from the Langton Group.

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg and seconded by Commissioner Beck to approve the 2026 Weeding & Landscape Services bid proposal, including Alternate 3, from Langton Group in the amount of \$52,036.

**Roll Call:**

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** None

**Abstain:** None

**Motion Carried**

**B. Parks Foundation**

Commissioner Beck reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions Celebration generated \$184,000 in gross revenue. The Parks Foundation is hosting a beach party in August and a pickleball fundraising tournament in November at Club Pickle and Padel. Please two report the Foundation has nine board members, and only to fill two more seats.

**C. Board Committee Updates**

Executive Director Romes reported at the March 17 Finance Committee Meeting staff presented and provided contract recommendations for several items on tonight's consent agenda, including Ordinance #2026-03 An Ordinance Amending the Appropriation Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning January 1, 2025 and Ending on December 31, 2025, Dynegy Energy Services, LLC Electric Service Agreement bid via Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC), 2026 Routine Grounds Maintenance Services - South and North Routes, 2026 Park Avenue Dredging Rebid Project, and the 2026 Sport Court Improvement Project.

Staff reviewed the bid results for the 2026 Weeding and Landscaping Services and provided a contract recommendation. This item was moved to the march 18, 2026 consent agenda.

The gymnastics Studio at Centennial Ice Arena will be vacant in May with the opening of the West Ridge Community Center. Ductwork from the former studio rink (decommissioned in 1983) is intrusive and limits alternative programming; staff requested direction from the Finance Committee and Park Board on removal.

Staff presented the Park District’s Employee Compensation Plan, highlighting policy and best practices to ensure the park district establishes and maintains competitive wages and provides base pay that meets or exceeds the market.

**C. Heller Nature Center and Rosewood Interpretive Center Annual Report**

Manager Meredith shared 2025 highlights, including 300 plays by users of the new augmented reality app, 385 skiers who enjoyed the trails this winter, and more than 460 individuals who participated in special events. New native plantings were installed along the facility entrance, and staff completed several minor facility improvements. She compared 2024 and 2025 family and youth programming, after-school programming, and summer camp enrollments and revenues. After-school program and summer camp enrollments declined. While staff are meeting the community’s desire for weekly camp enrollment options, enrollments were lower than budgeted; therefore, staff are exploring options to increase interest in nature-driven programming and camps. Additionally, she compared 2024 and 2025 Teams Course utilization and revenue. Similar to the Teams Course, which is heavily utilized by local high schools, she reported that 27 schools (over 2,159 students) visited Heller Nature Center and Rosewood Beach for specialty programs such as ravine education. Overall, Rosewood Interpretive Center revenues declined from the previous year; however, Heller Nature Center revenues increased after staffing and maintenance expenses were allocated to other areas, such as Parks.

**D. Directors Report**

Executive Director Romes reported that Lincoln Park Playground will open this Friday, March 20. He also reported that the golf course will open for play (walking only) this Saturday, March 21, weather permitting. The range at the Highland Park Golf Learning Center is anticipated to open on April 3.

He also highlighted upcoming events, including Friday Fish Fry at the ClubHouse every Friday through April 3 from 5:00–9:00 p.m. (reservations required). The Park District is also hosting several egg hunts on March 28, including the Dog Hunt, EGGcessible Hunt, Traditional Hunt, and Floating Egg Hunt. On March 29, the District is hosting an Egg-Citing Geocache, and a Glow and Egg-Splore – Flashlight Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 10.

He also highlighted spring break camp offerings available March 23 through March 27.

**E. Board Comments**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

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

None.

Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2026

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Greenberg and seconded by Commissioner Beck and approved by a unanimous vote. The Board Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Roxanne Hejnowski*

Roxanne Hejnowski, Assistant Secretary