



**Board Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Community Center
600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, IL**

1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

At 6:00 pm Commissioner Starkey called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call: Commissioners –Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, Tallman, and Starkey

Commissioner Berrelez, Carr, Bianco and Starkey were present, along with Director Staton and Director Babicz. Commissioner Tallman was absent. The following members of the public were present, JoAnn Freeman, Island Lake Resident and Charles Bushchick, Ingelside Resident.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 24, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from March 24, 2026, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye; Commissioner Starkey abstained.

4. Comments from the Public – Those wishing to comment during the public comment section of the Board Meeting may do so, provided they follow the District’s Public Comment Policy located on the District’s website at <https://www.waucondaparks.com/general/policies/>. Public comments will be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker.

Charlie Bushchick addressed the Board on his concerns regarding the lack of picnic tables at the parks, timeline for boats to get in the water, silt fencing not being placed at the Bangs Lake Marina during construction and different size pipes needed for the piers at Bangs Lake Marina. Commissioner Starkey thanked Mr. Bushchick for his outlook and perspectives and let him know that staff will look into his concerns.

5. Communications

Director Staton shared a Thank You card from the Wauconda Police Department for the cookies we sent them during their time of bereavement.

6. Approval of Disbursements – March 25, 2026 – April 14, 2026, = \$98,499.53

A motion to approve the disbursements from March 25, 2026- April 14, 2026, in the amount of \$98,499.53 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Director Staton reviewed the report with the Board.

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz reviewed her written report highlighting upcoming special events and programs, Camp Wauconda numbers and new staff members in programs.

Discussion: Commissioner Carr asked if the gap in camp numbers is the same as the school district, which Director Staton replied we can ask the school district if they are seeing the same trend. Commissioner Starkey asked if the new yoga instructor is going to teach classes at Phil’s

Beach, and Commissioner Bianco asked if we will keep the same instructor we have had in past summers. Director Babicz responded that we are hoping to have a more consistent schedule with Yoga at the beach and will potentially utilize both instructors.

B.) Finance- Director Staton will report on Finance at the next meeting.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton reviewed Director Drinkwine's written report highlighting that parks staff have been outside in the parks, replacing the lights in the back of the Community Center and staff will be attending upcoming PDRMA trainings.

Discussion: Director Staton let the board know that the 2007 dump truck will soon be recycled and Director Drinkwine is working with group purchase to buy a new one. The Sedgebrook Park tennis courts were vandalized, and scooters/ebikes have been ridden along the grass. Director Staton will be contacting Chief Werme to see about monitoring that area. Commissioner Starkey asked to have signs posted on the tennis courts stating that they will be refurbished. He stated he is hoping we don't miss a summer without the courts. Director Staton will send an email with the pictures taken at Sedgebrook and what signage will be posted.

D.) W-Fest

The next meeting is set for May 13. Director Babicz went with Committee members Dave and Eileen Geary to POSRG Monday morning to collect information regarding ID scanners for the ID booth.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Starkey asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the updated Comprehensive Plan that Director Staton had provided at the last meeting. Director Staton reviewed the focus on a playground replacement at Larkdale Park, Demolition of the Marina, and the Master Plan at Cook Park to include a possible Inclusive Playground. Director Babicz has visited three (3) different Park District's that have inclusive playgrounds.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey asked Director Staton to put in a footer date at the bottom for when the document is edited, which Director Staton will do moving forward. Director Staton informed the board that he has meet with a neighbor to Osage Park that was asking for no parking signs. Landscaping to finish up Osage Park should take place soon. Director Staton reviewed the Featherstone schedule and how things are going at Bangs Lake Marina. Commissioner Starkey suggested having Featherstone come to one of the next meetings to review the timeline so we don't get too far behind.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report highlighting the next Triathlon Meeting on April 15, and two upcoming golf outings for the Chamber and NISRA.

8. New Business

A. Approval - Intergovernmental Agreement For The Use of Wauconda Community Unit School District No.118 Facilities By Wauconda Park District

A motion to approve An Intergovernmental Agreement For the Use of Wauconda Community Unit School District No. 118 Facilities By Wauconda Park District as presented by staff was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll Call: All aye

Discussion: Director Staton reviewed the IGA process with the Board. This IGA will include all three schools that we work with. The school district will approve at their next meeting.

B. Approval – Purchase of SCAG Turf Storm Spread Spray – Russo Equipment - \$16,957.99

Discussion: Commissioner Bianco asked if the SCAG Turf Storm Spread Spray could be rented rather than purchased based on the number of uses per year. Director Staton will discuss this with Director Drinkwine and report back for the next meeting.

C. Review and Approval – FY26/27 Budget

Discussion: Tabled until next meeting so all commissioners are present.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Bangs Lake Outflow Project – Phil’s Beach Fence Update

Discussion: According to the Village of Wauconda, the electric has been installed, and the crest gate should be installed this week. Director Staton has been in contact with the Village and has expressed to them that our Board would like this project to be completed as soon as possible, as the Beach Season is approaching. Director Staton will follow up with the Village again tomorrow. Commissioner Carr asked about the crosswalk lights at Phil’s Beach and if they were working correctly because they are permanently flashing. Director Staton said that because they are solar generated, sometimes they do not work the way they should if the batteries are not charged. Director Staton just received a quote for new lights that are like the crosswalk lights by the high school. He will include this quote in the next Board Meeting Agenda. The Board expressed that they feel it is important for the lights to work properly.

10. Commissioner’s Comment

None

11. Executive Session – If needed for the

1. Litigation – Pending or Imminent 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11)
2. Personnel – Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)
3. Real Estate – Purchase or Lease (Buy) 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5)
Setting Price for Sale/Lease 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (6)

12. Issues to be voted on by the Board that were discussed in executive session

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Voice vote: All aye

The Wauconda Park District is subject to the requirements of the American’s With Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding accessibility of the meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Tim Staton at (847) 526-3610 promptly to allow the Wauconda Park District to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.