



**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 28, 2026 – 6:00 pm**  
**Community Center**  
**600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, IL**

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1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Starkey called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

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

Commissioners Bianco, Berrelez, Tallman, Starkey and Carr were present, along with Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public were present, JoAnn Freeman, Island Lake Resident.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session minutes from April 14, 2026, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye

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.

5. Communications

None

**Discussion:** Commissioner Starkey complemented staff regarding our website’s FAQs, and how they have answered questions residents may have.

6. Approval of Disbursements – April 15, 2026 – April 28, 2026, = \$159,734.88

A motion to approve the disbursements from April 15, 2026-April 28, 2026, in the amount of \$159,734.88 was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion:** Director Staton informed the Board that Contractor payments listed for the Bangs Lake Marina project are already approved through the contract approval process, so these payments cannot be approved. He will make notes of these items for the Board on future disbursement reports, so they are easily identified. Director Staton explained to the Board that the City Reporter payments are listed in the report as 12 monthly payments with a description of Annual License, yet it is only payment for one annual fee with one license for the year. He will look to have this changed for the future so that it is listed as a total one payment.

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz gave a brief report on this past weekend's busy schedule at Cook Park, Dance Recital coming up on May 9, upcoming Fest Safety Meeting on May 1 and preparations for summer trainings that start on May 16.

B.) Finance

Director Staton reviewed the L&A report. He stated that we are eleven months into the year and we are doing well, especially with the more expensive projects that we have had this year.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton gave a brief report that the parks staff have been putting in piers and conducting general maintenance of the parks. Rain has kept staff indoors on multiple days of the past month.

**Discussion:** Director Staton informed the Board that WBS has done a good job in assisting the District with field improvements this Spring.

D.) W-Fest

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed at the first meeting of each month.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report. He included the two weeks look ahead for the Bangs Lake Marina Redevelopment project in the Board Packet. Director Staton has another meeting with construction management tomorrow and let the Board know that the contractors are still waiting on the Village permit to move forward with the project. The next Tri meeting is on May 20. A new logo was developed for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and the committee members investigated a different style shirt for this year. He reminded the Board about upcoming golf outings and gave an update on the Sedgebrook Park vandalism. Director Staton is in contact with the Wauconda Police Department on this matter and he will be submitting the vandalism to the nets and poles to PDRMA.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Starkey asked Director Staton to give an update on Charlie Bushchick's comments from the last Board Meeting. Comment 1- Different size poles for the Marina: Director Staton provided an amount for new poles. He spoke with Director Drinkwine who said that once boats are in, it will be difficult to change the poles for this boating season. Director Staton looked into sleeves that may help stabilize the fingers, but Director Drinkwine is concerned that will make the piers unable to move with the water level changes. Commissioner Bianco asked if there are other options besides replacing the poles such as changing the fittings or replacing only the poles that are on the fingers. The final consensus of the Board was to wait on ordering the new poles and to look at other options. If other options are not found, the Board will decide on the poles for next season. Comment 2- Lack of picnic tables at the parks: Director Staton said staff will inventory the picnic tables at the parks and update the map for the Fall Program Guide. Comment 3- Silt fencing during construction: The silt fence was put up right after storm management came out to visit the first time. They notified Director Staton today that upon their second visit, all is in good shape. Commissioner Starkey asked about the timeline for Sedgebrook tennis courts, in which Director Staton replied he will have an update for the next meeting. Director Staton let the Board know that a neighbor in the Saddlewood subdivision called about an old willow tree that needs to be taken down to which Director Drinkwine has someone coming out tomorrow to take a

look and provide a quote. Director Staton also received an email about fish in the creek by Flavor It. He said he contacted Public Works and the Village plans to clean it up and put boards back in the crest gate, so this doesn't keep happening until the new crest gate is installed.

## 8. New Business

### A. Annual Fireworks Donation - \$3000.00

A motion to approve a \$3,000 donation to the Village of Wauconda for the annual Fireworks Display was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion:** Director Staton and the Board discussed how this arrangement came about in the past.

### B. Approval - Purchase of Crosswalk Light - \$7940.00

A motion to approve the purchase of two cross walk control devices for a total cost of \$7,940 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion:** Director Staton discussed that the crosswalk light by Phil's Beach was knocked over a few years ago and ever since it has been intermittently working. Meade has been out to look at it and has made some adjustments, which have not remedied the situation. Parts for the model we have are getting hard to find and it was determined that we bring the lights up to the current standard, like the other crosswalk lights on Main Street by the High School and Library. Lead time is 4-6 weeks.

## 9. Unfinished Business

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

Director Staton has reached out to the village again to follow-up. He provided the Board with the latest information from the Village Engineer and stated that they are looking to rededicate the project on May 18.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Starkey asked how the black fencing along Main Street by Phil's Beach can be repaired because it is starting to peel. Director Staton will look into a quote on replacing or refinishing the fence.

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

Director Staton said Dave Schwarz did some research and gave a written report on purchasing the equipment. Staff are waiting to see if the company can give us a lower price.

**Discussion:** The Board held discussion on the need to purchase this equipment. After discussion the Board did not feel that the cost outweighed the benefit of purchasing the equipment. It was the consensus of the Board to not move forward with a vote to approve this purchase. No further action on this topic was taken.

### C. Review and Approval – FY26/27 Budget

A motion to approve the FY26/27 budget as presented by staff was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion:** Commissioner Bianco asked Director Staton if he is still comfortable with the budget considering the increased cost of things like fuel and energy, which Director Staton responded that he is.

## 10. Commissioner's Comment

Commissioner Carr asked if the Park District logo is on all maintenance trucks. Director Staton replied that he will check on this with Director Drinkwine. The consensus of the Board is that the logo should be on all trucks. Commissioner Starkey mentioned that he will not be at the next meeting in person but will be able to attend virtually. At the next meeting, the Board will vote on officer positions for the next fiscal year.

11. Executive Session – If needed to

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)

None

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

None

13. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco 7:28 pm. 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.