



**Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2026 – 6:00 pm
Community Center
600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, IL**

1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call: Commissioners –Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, Tallman, and Starkey
Commissioners Berrelez, Bianco, Talman, Carr and Starkey were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public were present: Kevin Burke from Featherstone, Inc and JoAnn Freeman, Island Lake Resident.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from January 27, 2026, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye; Commissioner Carr abstained.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey asked for more details regarding the budget in committee reports section 7B- Finance. Director Staton will make the adjustment before posting.

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

Commissioner Carr presented Director Staton with notes from the Village of Wauconda Lake Committee regarding weed harvesting. This was provided as information for the Board’s on sharing the cost of a weed harvester with the Village. This will be discussed under Director’ Staton’s Administration Report. Director Staton also shared an email he received from Lacey Lawrence, Hitchcock Design, outlining the costs associated with building a 3-D model of the Bangs Lake Marina project.

6. Approval of Disbursements – January 28, 2026 – February 10, 2026, = \$76,222.04

A motion to approve the disbursements from January 28, 2026-February 10, 2026, in the amount of \$76,222.04 was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Director Staton reviewed a few items that were out of the ordinary with the Board.

Commissioner Bianco asked if the cost of the dance costumes are covered by the parents. Director Babicz responded that dance costumes are added into the fall registration fee and that Dance Company costume fees are directly paid by the parents.

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz reviewed her written report with the Board. Highlights included: New Sound Healing class, Silver Sneakers update, increase in registration for Senior programming, and an HR update.

Discussion: Commissioner Starkey congratulated Director Babicz for a good job with moving new hire paperwork to a fillable online version.

B.) Finance

No report. A finance report is given to the Board at the second meeting of each month.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton reviewed Director Drinkwine's written report with highlights that included: staff assisting with the Fitness First flooring, the Fitness First heater froze during the cold temperatures and may need to be replaced soon. The Parks Department shifted work inside and touch-up painted many of the walls and gym. Director Drinkwine is looking into the cost of replacing some of the exterior doors. Director Drinkwine also talked to a company about fence replacement for Phil's Beach.

Discussion: Director Staton spoke about the water pipe that burst at the Bangs Lake Marina this morning. He mentioned that the District will not be fixing the pipe since we will be replacing it in a few weeks during the Marina Redevelopment. The District will also be unable to sell bait and bathrooms will be closed during the LVVA ice fishing tournament in a couple of weeks.

D.) W-Fest

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 11. Director Staton has the band line up finalized, and he will share with the Board. He mentioned that Nancy Burton will no longer be on the Fest committee.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Main topic for now the Comprehensive Plan is the Bangs Lake Marina Redevelopment Project to be discussed under New Business.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report with highlights that included the upcoming Legislative Breakfast, Weed Harvester, and a Daily Herald article that came out regarding Bangs Lake Marina.

Discussion: Commissioner Berrelez and Carr will join Director Staton at the Legislative Breakfast on February 27 at Mundelein Park District. Commissioner Bianco asked if only 2 commissioners could attend due to the Open Meetings Act, but Director Staton said the breakfast is considered educational so more commissioners can attend if they would like. The consensus from the Board on the weed harvester is that the District has other priorities at this time and would investigate bringing out a company if it was determined that weeding needed to be done in the tighter, Marina areas. The Board felt that the Daily Herald article was favorable to the project and was well written by the reporter.

8. New Business

A) Approval - 3D Rendering Bangs Lake Marina

Discussion: Commissioner Bianco stated that she feels the renderings would not be a good use of our resources at this time since we are so close to the start of the project and Featherstone will be providing photos throughout the process that can be shared with the residents. Commissioner

Starkey stated he is all about visuals, but since it is so close to the start of this project, the rendering may not be necessary. Commissioner Tallman stated he thought the rendering would be a part of the fee already paid to Hitchcock and that if it was the beginning of the concept phase this would be a better time to develop this item. The Board consensus was that they were not in favor of adding this cost to the project, but would keep this in mind for future projects.

B) Bangs Lake Marina Update – Featherstone Inc.

Kevin Burke from Featherstone, Inc gave a colored photo that included a timeline for Area 1 and Area 2 of the Bangs Lake Marina project with the Area 1 timeline being March 3-June 10 and Area 2 being March 3-July 29 due to IDOT approval, which always takes more time. Kevin mentioned that bids were out yesterday for the 8 remaining packages for the project and on Thursday, February 12 there will be a pre-bid meeting on site for any questions there might be about the project from the bidders.

Discussion: The Board asked questions about how slip holders will be able to dock their boats and if gas will be accessible. Kevin stated that he believes that they can create a walking path that will give slip customers access to the piers and that gas should be available. Commissioner Starkey referred to Director Staton on updating the FAQ page on the website to keep slip customers and the public informed on timing of milestones throughout the project.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Approval - Asbestos Abatement Contract Bangs Lake Marina

Motion to approve the proposal from ECC Demolition/Environmental Cleansing Corporation in the amount of \$27,300 for asbestos abatement needed to complete demolition of the structures at the Bangs Lake Marina was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Kevin Burke from Featherstone, Inc reviewed the scope of work with the Board. The first quote they received was very high based on the scope of the project, so they went to another company for a quote. Featherstone is recommending the District ECC Demolition/Environmental Cleansing Corporation. This action will require a change order from the original demolition bid. The original amount in the budget for the asbestos abatement was \$25,000 with the lowest bid coming in at \$27,300.

10. Commissioner's Comment

Commissioner Bianco noted that she attended the Sound Healing class and was very complimentary on her experience.

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 7:05 pm was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. 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.