



Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 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, Tallman and Starkey were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. Commissioner Carr was absent. The following members of the public were present: Bob Berrelez, Dave Geary and Nancy Burton from the Park Foundation. Shane Bonner- Park District Employee, JoAnn Freeman- Island Lake Resident and Kevin Burke from Featherstone, Inc.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from January 13, 2025, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: A few adjustments need to be made to discussion notes from two of the Committee Reports 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.

Discussion- Park Foundation Board Members Bob Berrelez, Dave Geary and Nancy Burton presented a \$25,000 check to the Park District for upcoming Fitness Initiatives. Supervisor Bonner and Commissioner Starkey accepted the check. Supervisor Bonner gave a brief overview of how the funds will be utilized while Commissioner Starkey thanked the Foundation and expressed his gratitude for the upcoming renovations.

5. Communications

Director Staton presented a letter from Ron Salski, Executive Director of Mundelein Park District, regarding the 2026 Legislative Breakfast that will be held at the Mundelein Park District on Friday, February 27, 2026. Director Staton asked the Board to let him know if anyone was interested in attending. As of tonight, Director Staton will attend and Commissioner Berrelez will be joining him.

6. Approval of Disbursements – January 14, 2026 – January 27, 2026, = \$46,379.62

A motion to approve the disbursements from January 14, 2026-January 27, 2026, in the amount of \$46,379.62 was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez.
Roll call: All aye

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz reported on the upcoming Sweetheart Dance, Senior Lunch Club, a new Sound Healing program, and implementation of the Silver Sneakers program.

B.) Finance

Director Staton reviewed L&A's Financial Report. He spoke on trying to increase revenue in the Fitness and Beach funds. L&A transferred the Marina revenue from the deferred account, so now it is up to date and the numbers are more in line with the budget. Overall, the district is currently doing well. Director Staton said the district is currently working on the 2026-2027 budget and he and staff are taking a conservative approach this coming year.

Discussion- Commissioner Starkey asked Director Staton if his conservative approach to the 2026-2027 budget would affect upcoming projects. Director Staton responded that it will not affect Capital Projects.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton gave a brief report on what the Maintenance Department has been working on: Building Marina Piers, touch-up painting in the gym, and winter snow removal, along with periodic salting of sidewalks and parking lots.

Discussion- Commissioner Bianco asked about seeing a comment about the new piers and how many poles they have. Director Staton said it was from the Village's survey that he received. The Board asked if this should be addressed. Director Staton said staff can look into it closer to Marina season.

D.) W-Fest

The next Fest Committee Meeting is not scheduled. Director Staton reported that he would be scheduling a meeting prior to the next Board Meeting and can provide an update at that meeting.

E.) Comp Plan

As follow up from the last Board Meeting, Director Staton provided the Board with a glider bench option for the Bangs Lake Marina renovations. The Board liked this bench much better than the ones presented at the previous Meeting. The Board agreed on the style and color as presented by Director Staton.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report. Highlights included- closing for the weather on Friday, January 23, along with an update on the Bangs Lake Outflow project.

Discussion- Commissioner Starkey inquired if the fence on the Johnson side of Phil's Beach will be fixed from the damage it sustained due to high winds a few weeks ago. Director Staton said that Director Drinkwine is getting a quote to have this fixed. Commissioner Starkey asked questions on how the fencing along Main Street will look based on safety concerns with holes in the fencing. Director Staton went into detail on how the fencing will be replaced and it will fill any holes so no one will be able to access Phil's Beach from the sidewalk. Starkey asked whether the slide will be back in place and out of the way for the Adult Egg Hunt that will take place at Phil's beach in March. Director Staton said staff will adjust as needed. Director Staton and the Board of Commissioners talked about plans for the Conference this coming weekend and made suggestions on conference session topics.

8. New Business

A) Discussion and Approval – Wauconda Baseball and Softball Field Improvement Request Fieldbrook Park

A motion to approve the field improvements for Fieldbrook Park as presented by staff for a cost not to exceed \$5000 was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye

Discussion- Commissioner Berrelez asked what type of materials are included and why the field couldn't be leveled out. Supervisor Bonner and Director Staton explained in detail that they will raise the field to lift the edges. Director Staton said that we don't have other teams that use the field, but we recommended sharing the cost with them because they are our fields and we work with them in a partnership. Commissioner Starkey asked if the Park District has worked on projects with Wauconda Baseball and Softball before with Director Staton responding that we have worked with them on drainage a couple of years ago at Fieldbrook and Lagoon. Commissioner Bianco asked if this is something we could do in-house if they had not approached us and Director Staton said we would not. Supervisor Bonner let the Board know that the project would start in March before the season begins.

B) Approval 2026 Affiliate Agreements (Northern Ice Fastpitch, Wauconda Baseball and Softball, Wauconda Area Youth Soccer)

Motion to approve the affiliate agreements for the 2026 seasons as presented by staff for the following organizations: Wauconda Baseball and Softball, Wauconda Area Youth Soccer Club, and Northern ICE fastpitch was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Commissioner Bianco asked why we do the Affiliate Agreement and if we follow the criteria. Director Staton explained in detail the history of the Affiliate Agreement.

C) Approval Demolition Bid Bangs Lake Marina

A motion to award Wauconda Park District- Bangs Lake Marina Project- Bid Package A: Demolition to Environmental Cleansing Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$52,725.00 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye

Discussion: Kevin Burke from Featherstone reviewed the Bangs Lake Marina Project-Bid Package A Letter of Bid Award Recommendation with the Board. Featherstone's recommendation is to go with Environmental Cleansing Corporation. They are currently working on another project in town. Commissioner Bianco asked for reassurance that we will not have any surprises by choosing this company. Burke said he has worked with this company, and they are good to work with, and he is confident it will work well for the District. Commissioner Starkey asked for information that will allow the District to update its FAQ page. Burke said he should have 100% of the drawings tomorrow which will allow him to put together the schedule within the next week and can have it available to the Board within the next two weeks. Director Staton assured the Board that once he has the schedule, staff will work on how to update slip customers on the project and how it may affect the boating season. Burke will talk to Hitchcock on a bird's eye view of the project based on Commissioner Starkey's inquiry. He said that the drawing should come from Hitchcock. Commissioner Starkey noted to Director Staton that the FAQ page on the website needs updating with added dates as the new schedule comes in.

D) Approval Asbestos Abatement Contract Bangs Lake Marina

Discussion: Kevin Burke explained to the Board that Featherstone is waiting for additional information on pricing for this portion of the project. Director Staton will add this to the next meeting agenda.

9. Unfinished Business

None

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)

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 7:15 pm was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. 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.