



Board Meeting Minutes
March 24, 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
Commissioner Berrelez, Tallman, Carr and Bianco were present, Commissioner Starkey attended remotely, along with Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public were present, JoAnn Freeman, Island Lake Resident.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2026 – Regular Session Minutes

A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from March 10, 2026, was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye; Commissioner Bianco 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.

None

5. Communications

None

6. Approval of Disbursements – March 11, 2026 – March 24, 2026 = \$89,194.93

A motion to approve the disbursements from March 11, 2026-March 24, 2026, in the amount of \$89,194.93 was made by Commissioner Bianco and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye
Discussion: Director Staton pointed out that the Polaris that was approved at the last board meeting was purchased, and the District made a donation to CERT for the volunteer work they do for us and the District made its final payment to Featherstone, Inc for the Bidding and Contract Services portion of our contract.

7. Committee Reports

A.) Recreation

Director Babicz gave an update on the Easter Events coming up, stating that all the registered programs are full. Silver Sneakers fitness classes started on Monday, March 23, Spring Break Days Off School are taking place this week, the Safety Team is meeting with Kyle from PDRMA for the annual Kick Off Meeting and several staff are taking some time off this week and next.

B.) Finance

Director Staton reviewed his written report with the Board, along with the Monthly Financial Report from Lauterbach & Amen.

C.) Park Maintenance

Maintenance staff will start the piers at Beach Park Marina tomorrow if the weather stays nice and Bangs Lake Marina next week. They are doing some spring clean-up around the buildings and in the parks. Director Drinkwine is looking at co-op purchase for a new truck and received quotes for new handicap doors for the Community Center. Director Staton informed that Board that Wauconda Baseball Softball will begin updates on the Fieldbrook fields tomorrow.

D.) W-Fest

Next meeting is scheduled for April 1; food vendor applications are due April 13.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Director Staton reviewed the updated Comprehensive Plan documents with the Board. He is looking to prioritize the development of the ADA Transition Plan. Director Babicz will be visiting other Park District's that have Inclusive Playgrounds, which will be part of the master plan for Cook Park.

Discussion: Commissioner Bianco asked Director Staton to send a text when he sends out additional information, so the commissioners have time to look through the information before the meeting.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report with the Board. Director Staton spoke with Public Works and the Village Manager regarding the Bangs Lake Outflow Project regarding the status of the Phil's Beach fence. We received the Stormwater Management permit today for the Bangs Lake Marina redevelopment project. We are now waiting for the Village of Wauconda for the conditional use permit. Director Staton and Manager Ftacek reached out to a few other companies about launching for the earlier part of the boating season and do not have a firm response at this time. Launching of boats will be available at Beach Park Marina only for now.

Discussion: Director Staton provided an update on Osage Park and the additional work that needs to be completed with start and end dates. Commissioner Tallman asked if the wind screens and sound barriers were going back up. Director Staton responded that the wind screens are going up but staff will wait to hear feedback from the neighbors on sound before putting the sound barriers back up. Commissioner Bianco stated she would like the courts to have more visibility without the sound barriers.

8. New Business

A. Review – FY26/27 Budget

Director Staton reviewed the first draft of the 2026/27 Fiscal Year Budget with the Board.

Discussion: Commissioner Carr asked Director Staton to give a review of why the revenue for boat slips is different for the past few years. Commissioner Tallman asked if staff have a set goal for the number of Silver Sneakers members they are hoping for. Director Babicz responded that staff are looking to bring in \$20,000-\$25,000, focusing more on revenue than the number of memberships. Commissioner Bianco asked how we have been advertising Silver Sneakers, if we have gone to local senior centers. Director Babicz said Supervisor Bonner is working with Coordinator Freeman on different marketing strategies.

9. Unfinished Business

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

Director Staton reviewed this agenda item in his Administrative Report.

10. Commissioner's Comment

Commissioner Berrelez was pleased to see the updates in the FAQ section of the website on Silver Sneakers and the Bangs Lake Marina Project. Commissioner Bianco asked about the signs that are up

along the path at Cook Park, which Director Babicz replied they are part of a story walk that the Wauconda Area Library is sponsoring along our path. Commissioner Tallman asked for an update on the front desk staff search. Director Babicz informed the Board that a new staff person has been hired and will start on April 1.

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 7:18 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.