

Board Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025 – 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
Commissioners Berrelez, Tallman, Carr, Bianco and Starkey were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public attended the meeting: JoAnn Freeman.
3. Approval of Minutes – March 11, 2025 – Regular Session Minutes
A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from March 11, 2025 was made by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll call: All aye
Discussion: Commissioner Bianco likes the new format. Commissioner Starkey asked questions regarding the discussion notes under Park Maintenance and Administration. He would like to add a target date for the Liberty Lakes project. Director Staton said that the target date for Sedgebrook Park, located in Liberty Lakes, is to bid out the project this spring with the intent of scheduling improvements for the fall of 2025.
4. Comments from the Public- None
5. Communications-
Director Staton provided a picture of a new WPD logo sign that has been placed at the Bangs Lake Marina in the Bait Shop, the NISRA newsletter advertising their Open House, and a thank you from Wauconda Grade School for providing a Phil's Beach basket for their Gecko Gala. A flyer for the Earth Day event in April was put in the mailboxes for each Commissioner.
6. Approval of Disbursements – March 12, 2025 – March 25, 2025 = \$51,795.44
A motion to approve the disbursements from March 12, 2025- March 25, 2025, in the amount of \$51,795.44 was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll Call: All aye
7. Committee Reports
 - A.) Recreation
Director Babicz thanked the Board for attending the Staff Appreciation Party this past Sunday. She reviewed new programs for the Spring/Summer seasons that are already receiving registration. Recreation staff is doing a great job coming up with new programs.
 - B.) Finance
Staton reviewed his written report. He noted that some of the requested changes made by the Board at the last meeting for the L&A Monthly Financial Report had not been made on the February report but should be updated in the March report. Kelly from L&A will be going on maternity.
Discussion: Commissioner Bianco noted that the last page of the report needs headers. Discussion was had on Fitness First equipment and credit card service fees.
 - C.) Park Maintenance
Piers at Bangs Lake Marina are in. The parks department is ordering a dumpster to remove the old pier pieces and the tires from the Marina. They will be working on the Beach Park Marina this week.
 - D.) W-Fest

Next meeting is tomorrow at 6:00 pm. Button design has been chosen and generators have been ordered.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Schroeder has been working on Osage Park, and sidewalks are being put in. An updated schedule was provided in the Board Packet. The Osage Park Grand Opening committee will start talks on an event to commemorate the reopening of the park..

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report. The highlights included: Director Staton will be on vacation starting this Friday through the end of next week, Village Lake Expo, Tax Levy, and new Fitness First staff.

Discussion- Commissioner Starkey asked if Commissioner Carr had been to any meetings for the Village Committee regarding the lake. Director Staton or Commissioner Starkey will follow up with the Village. Commissioner Carr mentioned that we can reach out to the Village Public Works, for information on possible signs throughout the district for native plants. Starkey asked about the Fire District training in the apartments at Bangs Lake Marina. Discussion was had on the plan to tear down the buildings. Director Staton informed the board that we may need to bring in an engineer to make sure we do it appropriately. Commissioner Starkey wants to have a plan to let the public know about the tear down of the buildings and the Fire District training.

8. New Business

A. FY25/26 Budget Review

Director Staton reviewed the draft of the 2025-2026 Budget. His focus was on Capital projects and what funds are available.

Discussion- Commissioner Bianco would like back-up for the proposed 5% increase in salaries. Possible cost of living increases or bonuses were discussed. With Director Staton out on vacation next week, discussion was had on moving the April 8 Board Meeting or postpone the timeline for the 2025-2026 Budget. Commissioners agreed to postpone the timeline for the budget. Director Staton will bring an updated timeline to the April 8 meeting.

B. Approval – Purchase Dram Shop Insurance for Christianson Rental May 17, 2025

Motion to approve the purchase of Dram Shop Insurance for the Christianson Rental on May 17 between the hours of 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, at a cost to be determined, and reimbursed to the Park District in the cost of the rental and give permission to this rental to serve mimosas, wine, and hard seltzer drinks.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez.

Discussion- Commissioner Bianco asked if the party is after hours when the building is not open.

9. Unfinished Business

A.) Human Resources Coordinator

Director Staton has spoken with two different companies and has one more meeting on Thursday regarding contracting out an HR Coordinator.

10. Commissioners 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 Board that were discussed in executive session

13. Adjournment

At 7:16 pm a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Carr and second by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll Call: All aye