



**Board Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2025 – 6:00 pm  
Community Center  
600 N. Main Street, Wauconda, IL**

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1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance  
At 6 pm Commissioner Starkey called the meeting to order.
2. Roll Call: Commissioners –Berrelez, Carr, Bianco, Tallman, and Starkey  
Commissioners Tallman, Bianco, Carr, Berrelez and Starkey were present along with Executive Director Staton and Director Babicz. The following members of the public attended the meeting: JoAnn Freeman and Raphaliata McKenzie, Speer Financial.
3. Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2025 – Regular Session Minutes  
A motion to approve the Regular Session Minutes from October 14, 2025, was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye: Commissioner Starkey 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 comment will be limited to three (3) minutes for each speaker.  
None
5. Communications  
Director Staton presented a Thank You card that was sent to Mark Ftacek, Facility Manager, for offering the Veterans boat rental program.
6. Approval of Disbursements – October 15, 2025 – October 28, 2025 = \$35,133.95  
A motion to approve the disbursements from October 15, 2025-October 28, 2025, in the amount of \$35,133.95 was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Bianco. Roll call: All aye  
**Discussion-** Commissioner Carr asked what the pollinator sign is? Director Staton explained this was for the Osage Park flower beds which promote bee activity and pollination.
7. Committee Reports
  - A.) Recreation  
Director Babicz thanked the High School Drama Club for working with us at Trick or Treat Main Street. She reported on the end of Halloween events, last night of Men’s Softball, and the start of Volleyball.
  - B.) Finance  
Director Staton reviewed Lauterbach and Amen’s written report.

**Discussion-** Director Staton answered Commissioner questions on the report. He spoke on the net Revenue being down by approximately \$524,560. This is due to payments for Osage Park, lower tax revenue, an additional full-time Recreation staff member and lower revenue for Fest due to weather this past summer. Director Staton is going to review with L&A a few items that need to be updated for the Marina. Director Staton reviewed new programs staff will be trying to help increase fitness revenue. These include adding Silver Sneakers and a Fun Run during Holly Jolly event.

C.) Park Maintenance

Director Staton noted that staff have been doing normal routine maintenance on the parks and have completed marina pier removal.

D.) W-Fest

No report

**Discussion:** Next meeting will be in November. Director Staton asked the Board to send him any suggestions they may have for bands.

E.) Comprehensive Plan

Reviewed at the first Board Meeting of the month.

F.) Administration

Director Staton reviewed his written report. Highlights included- The audit is not available for this meeting. An extension has been filed with the State of Illinois and S&P Global Ratings. Director Staton, Director Babicz, and HR Representative Plepel attended an Open Enrollment meeting for insurance at the Lombard Park District. They also held a meeting for staff to review the Open Enrollment process that begins November 3. Director Staton attended a Strategic Planning Session for the Wauconda Fire District today. The Park District was approached by Island Lake and the School District about taking on Afterschool Club at Cotton Creek School. We will need to update our IGA with the school district if we decide to take on this program. Reminder for the Board to let Director Staton know if they will be attending Conference in January. He gave an update on Osage Park and spoke on Red Ribbon Week.

**Discussion-** Commissioner Starkey asked Director Staton to send out a reminder e-mail about Conference with a deadline of next Wednesday. Commissioner Starkey asked if the screens on the pickle ball courts have been removed at Osage and when a determination would be to take them down or leave them up moving forward. Director Staton will contact the company and will survey the neighbors on this topic. The Board decided on a November 11 date for the Board to go into Executive Session for Director Staton's performance review.

8. New Business

A) Consideration of an ordinance providing for the issue and sale of \$251,435 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds of the District to pay for certain capital improvements and to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds.

**Discussion:** Raphaliata McKenzie from Speer Financial was present to review the six bids for the Park District bonds. Speer Financial recommended we accept the bid from Libertyville Bank & Trust Company at a net interest rate of 3.01%.

A motion to approve Ordinance 2025-06- An ordinance providing for the issue of \$251,435 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2025, of the District for the payment of land condemned

or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of the direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, and authorizing the sale of the bonds to the purchaser thereof was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Tallman. Roll call: All aye

B) Approval – 2026 Board Meeting Dates

A motion to approve the Board Meeting dates for 2026 as recommended by the Board Secretary was approved by Commissioner Berrelez and seconded by Commissioner Carr. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion-** The Board decided it was better to have 2 board meetings scheduled and cancel if needed throughout the year.

C) Approval – Product/color selections Bangs Lake Marina

Director Staton reviewed the current master plan for Bangs Lake Marina with color options for the game table, gazebo, ADA compliant Kayak/canoe launch, and board walk. His recommendation was green and white for the gazebo to match Phil's beach with timberline for the ceiling.

A motion to approve the colors the Board selected for the pavilion to be installed at the Bangs Lake Marina was made by Commissioner Tallman and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Roll call: All aye

**Discussion-** Commissioner Bianco asked if the Stamped Concrete for the Boardwalk could be slippery. Director Staton will ask Hitchcock. Commissioner Berrelez asked why he decided on steel rather than wood. Cost was the driving factor in this decision. The Board asked for a more detailed drawing for the ADA kayak ramp but agreed on the color beige. There was discussion on whether there is enough room for trailer turn around or switching lots with the shrubbery on the Master Plan design.

D) Approval – IAPD Annual Meeting Credentials

A motion to name Executive Director Staton, Board Secretary, as the District's delegate to the annual IAPD Business Meeting held at the Association's annual conference was made by Commissioner Carr and seconded by Commissioner Berrelez. Alternates will be Board President Starkey, Board Vice President Tallman, and Board Treasurer Carr. Roll call: All aye

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)

Executive Session was not needed.

12. Issues to be voted on by the Board that were discussed in executive session  
None

13. Adjournment

At motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm was made by Commissioner Bianco 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.