

**CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS**

December 10, 2025

The Champaign Park District Board (Board) of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Martens Center, 1515 N. Market St., Champaign, Illinois. The meetings occurred pursuant to published notice duly given. President Hays presided over the meeting.

Present in person: President Craig W. Hays, Vice President Michael R. Somers, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, Jane L. Solon, and Tyler R. Rouse, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Deputy Executive Director, Attorney Guy C. Hall, Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Bret Johnson, Director of Operations and Planning, Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation, Kathryn Glynn, Director of Human Resources, Chelsea Norton, Director of Marketing & Development, Joe Kearfott, Assistant Director of Facilities & Technology, Kevin Bird, Honorary Commissioner, and Marguerite Bailey, Secretary/ Administrative Project Manager.

Staff members present in the audience: Alexandria (Ally) Kolar, Aiesha Moore Davidson, James Dilworth, Bertha Kent, Daniel Bowen, Misty Stocking, Tachel Brown, Justin Matthew, Erin Taylor, Robert Taylor, Julie Taylor, Michelle Horvat, Shiho Gimbel, Andy Wilke, Kenneth Denton, Ellie Ginger, Robert Ginger, Katy Deight, Fred Newport, Christina Mott, Cole Alvis, Nikiaya Brandon, Shannon Morber, Donald Holm, Ryan Hays, and Shannon Clarkson.

Community members present in the audience: Tyler Bishop, Dicks Sporting Goods Representative, Paige Duncan, Illinois Science Explorers UIUC Representative, Michael Lindeman, Body N' Sole Representative, and Elliot McGill, Insure Champaign Representative.

Present virtually: Donna Lawson, Treasurer

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Hays called the regular board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

C. PRESENTATION

1. Commissioner Awards, Honorary Commissioner, Volunteer, and Staff Awards Ceremony
President Hays and Ms. Sandquist welcomed staff and community members in attendance for the recognition of the 2025 Staff and Community Partner Awards. Department Heads read brief overviews of each award and described the employees' contributions that led to their selection as award recipients.

D. COMMUNICATIONS

Holiday and thank you cards were shared with the Board.

E. TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Lawson presented the report. She stated the Park District's finances had been reviewed and found to be appropriate in accordance with normal routine business. Commissioner Solon moved to accept the treasurer's report. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

F. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Sandquist reported to the Board on upcoming events. The Staff Holiday Party at Cityview will be on Friday, December 12, 2025. The IPRA Conference Early Bird registration closes December 19, 2025. Ms. Sandquist requested that Board members email availability for the first few months of 2026 to schedule a second visioning meeting.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Scheunemann reported to the board that the Parks Foundation Board (Foundation) received a donation of \$ 283 000.00 from the Karen Rogers Estate to be utilized for the Virginia Theatre. For 2025, the foundation is in receipt of approximately \$ 7,000.00 in annual donations, with \$ 2,000 being from hot chocolate donations at Prairie Farm.

H. REPORT OF OFFICERS

1. Attorney's Report

Mr. Hall reported to the board that he continues to conduct normal routine business, and other various matters as needed.

2. President's Report

None.

I. CONSENT AGENDA

President Hays stated that all items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and shall be acted upon by one motion, and if discussion is desired, that item shall be removed and discussed separately. Commissioner Kuhl moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as amended. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, November 12, 2025
2. Approval of the Executive Session Meeting Minutes November 12, 2025
3. Approval of Amended Meeting Schedule for 2026
4. Approval of the Developmental Services Center (DSC) Park Walkers' Agreement

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Disbursements

Commissioner Solon made a motion to approve the list of disbursements for the period beginning November 13, 2025, and ending December 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rouse. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Solon-yes, Commissioner Rouse-yes, Vice President Somers-yes, President Hays-yes, and Commissioner Kuhl. The motion passed 5-0.

2. Approval of Tax Levy Ordinance No. 690, an Ordinance Levying the Annual Tax for the Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2026, and Ending April 30, 2027 (2025 Tax Levy) with an estimated amount of \$18,283,364.00.

Commissioner Kuhl moved to adopt Ordinance Number 690, Levying the Annual Tax for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026, and ending April 30, 2027 (2025 Tax Levy) with an estimated amount of \$18,283,364.00. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Vice President Somers-yes, President Hays-yes, Commissioner Kuhl-yes, Commissioner Solon-yes, and Commissioner Rouse. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Approval of Budget Transfers for Capital Improvement Project – Johnston Park Basketball Court

Mr. Johnson reported to the Board on the improvements for Johnston Park. Ms. Kouzmanoff confirmed that the funds required can be met through processing two budget transfers outlined in Attachment A in the amount of \$130,000.00 to reallocate funding to support the Johnston Park Basketball Court with board approval. Commissioner Rouse moved to approve the budget transfers. Vice President Somers seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. Approval of Health Insurance

Ms. Glynn reported to the Board on the anticipated increase in employee medical insurance premiums for the 2026 plan year. The Board requested additional information prior to consideration and approval. The requested information includes a comparison of alternative plans, an overview of insurance coverage offered by comparable municipal entities, and a summary of wellness offerings available to employees. Commissioner Kuhl moved to table the agenda item until the January 2026 regular meeting. Commissioner Solon seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

5. Approval of Part-time and Seasonal Wages Adjustment

Ms. Glynn reported to the board that staff recommend approval of part-time and seasonal wages effective January 1, 2026. Staff is recommending a \$0.25 increase for all returning seasonal staff who have completed the previous season and have an evaluation of satisfactory or better, as well as an approval of a \$0.25 increase for all part-time staff upon receiving a satisfactory or better annual review. Commissioner Solon moved to approve wage increases as presented. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2025 Flannel Festival Recap

Ms. Robinson reported to the board an overview of the flannel festival attendance, activities, and changes that were made in comparison to the 2024 event. The public feedback was positive, and the attendance increased. Feedback was received for more small children's activities or for a kiddie area. The date for the 2026 event has already been identified as October 24, 2026. Commissioner Solon provided positive feedback and gave testimony that the mini pumpkin station was very much enjoyed by children and the families as a whole. The board thanked staff for their efforts and for executing a successful event.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board considered convening into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5), to consider the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

Commissioner Kuhl moved to convene into executive session, upon such basis. Vice President Somers seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: President Hays– yes, Commissioner Kuhl -yes, Commissioner Solon – yes, Commissioner Rouse – yes, and Vice President Somers – yes. The motion passed 5-0.

M. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:06 pm following the executive session.

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

1. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Unit #4 for Champaign Urbana Special Recreation Bus Pull-In Lane Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Project. Commissioner Solon moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Vice President Somers seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

O. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

The board thanked staff for the staff awards and presentation.

P. ADJOURN

Commissioner Solon moved to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Marguerite Bailey, Secretary