CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

July 22, 2026

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners (Board) held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Bresnan Meeting Center, 706 Kenwood Road, Champaign, Illinois, pursuant to notice duly given. President Michael R. Somers presided over the meeting.

Present, In-Person: President Michael R. Somers, Vice President Jane L. Solon, Commissioners Barbara J. Kuhl, and Tyler R. Rouse, Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, Jarrod Scheunemann, Deputy Executive Director, Jeannie Robinson, Director of Recreation, Courtney Kouzmanoff, Director of Finance, Jimmy Gleason, Director of Facilities & Technology, Joe Kearfott, Assistant Director of Facilities & Technology, David Galvin, Membership Manager for Leonhard & Martens Center, and Marguerite Bailey, Administrative Project Manager/ Board Secretary.

Absent and Excused: Commissioner Craig W. Hays
Present in the Audience: Nick Crompton, Chad Osterbur, and Jeff Scott.
Present virtually: Donna Lawson, Treasurer

A. CALL TO ORDER
President Michael R. Somers called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

B. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
None.

C. COMMUNICATIONS
None.

D. NEW BUSINESS
1. Approval of Agreement with 40 North for Placement of Twisted Sister Sculpture at Porter Park

Mr. Scheunemann reported to the Board the background of the relationship between the Champaign Park District (Park District) and 40 North for the purpose of a (2) year agreement. Ms. Sandquist noted that the Parks Foundation Public Art line would be used to pay the expense of the contract. Commissioner Kuhl moved to approve an agreement with 40 North for placement of the Twisted Sister sculpture at Porter Park for two (2) years, totaling $3,000.00. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

E. DISCUSSION ITEM
President Somers proceeded with Discussion Item #2, for convenience to members in the audience being present to address the topic.

2. YMCA Request for Pond Expansion- Memorandum of Understanding Discussion

Ms. Sandquist reported to the Board that the item was initially on the agenda in February. The Stephens Family YMCA (YMCA) is proposing a non-binding agreement for shared use of the pond at Zahnd Park. The pond proposal is to dredge and expand the pond. The included parties would be Carle, the Champaign Park District, and the YMCA. The percentage breakdown would be Carle 45%, the Park District 35%, and the YMCA 20%. The Board directed staff to have legal review of the Memorandum of Understanding to begin the process, expand on maintenance terms, consider establishing a reserve fund, emphasizing non-binding until all terms are agreed upon, and provide more financial consideration to the Park District since it owns the land.

1. Potential Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Projects
Ms. Sandquist reported that staff has identified three (3) projects that could be submitted for grant funding. Eisner Park, Dodds Park, and Heritage Park. She expanded on the use of Eisner Park by community members, the deteriorated grass tennis court, the community request to have a dog leash-less area, and a sidewalk on the outside of the park. The second proposed option is Dodds Soccer Park, with turf being installed, seating for spectators for Pee-Wee leagues, and potentially a connecting path that coincides with community feedback. The third proposed idea was to address Heritage Park and an ADA pedestrian bridge and a nature-themed play area. The Board indicated that all proposed projects have merit. Staff was directed to provide cost estimates for projects to be considered before a grant application is completed.

3. Champaign Park District Vision Continued
Ms. Sandquist provided an overview of the additional documents made available in response to the Board's requests from the July 13, 2026, meeting. The Board discussed deferred maintenance, current facility use for programming, and potential construction projects.
Ms. Kouzmanoff reported on fund balances and recurring annual revenue.
Ms. Robinson provided information pertaining to pre-school and cultural arts programming.
Mr. Gleason provided feedback on the Leonhard's Recreation Center usage. Noted was the Springer Cultural Center and the historical restoration requirements, the Dodd's Tennis Center with potential revenue if usable year-round, Leonhard Recreation Center, Hays Center, the Bresnan Meeting Center, and the Douglass Community Center. There was consensus that further discussion is needed to identify priorities and urgency for project priorities.

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Somers stated that the Board may convene into Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) for 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, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting, Vice President Solon moved to convene into executive session. Upon such basis. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the vote was as follows: Commissioner Kuhl – yes, President Somers -yes, Vice President Solon- yes, and Commissioner Rouse – yes. The motion passed 4-0.

G. RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 8:02 pm following the executive session.

H. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Vice President Solon commented on a recent concert she attended at the Virginia Theatre. President Somers commented that the youth production of "Annie" was also well done.

I. ADJOURN

Commissioner Kuhl moved to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Approved:

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Michael R. Somers, President Marguerite Bailey, Board Secretary