



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF
THE SALT CREEK RURAL PARK DISTRICT HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT
ROSE PARK 530 SOUTH WILLIAMS AVENUE, PALATINE, ILLINOIS 60074
JUNE 10TH, 2025**

Meeting was convened at 7:00pm – Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

- **Attendees: Commissioners:** Ilene Seligmann, Paul Nagel, Victoria West, Patrick McGovern, Joe Mazzocchi and Michael Reiss
- **Staff:** Executive Director - Diane Hilgers, Director of Maintenance - Chris Paisley, TL Facility Manager - Ashley Medley, and Sports Center General Manager Alessandro Moraca, Jody Dodson – Superintendent of Recreation
- **Absent:** Commissioner Tim Stoeckel
- **Guests:** None

Regular Agenda/Additions/Deletions – Commissioner McGovern made the motion seconded by Commissioner West to approve the regular Agenda of June 10th, 2025; the motion carried unanimously on an all-in-favor vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Seligmann, Nagel, West, McGovern, Mazzocchi and Reiss

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Stoeckel

Consent Agenda - Commissioner McGovern motioned, seconded by Commissioner West to approve the Consent Agenda, approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting of May 13th, 2025, Warrant #2 & Prepay #2 and Treasurers Report. The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Seligmann, Nagel, West, McGovern, Mazzocchi and Reiss

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Stoeckel

Attorney's Report – None

Departmental Reports

- **Diane Hilgers - Executive Director** - Noted the year-end audit is scheduled for the week of June 23, 2025. The auditor will be present in the meeting room for the entire week, and Moira Palmer will focus on finalizing outstanding financial items. **St. Viator MOU Draft** - St. Viator is still drafting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is currently at the attorney review stage. The Park District has not yet reviewed it. **Arlington Village Stormwater Request** - Randy, the village manager at Arlington, inquired about using Salt Creek Lane for additional stormwater storage related to the new Bears plan. He confirmed that St. Viator's plan would not be disturbed and was aware of the possible long-term lease arrangement. **NWSRA New Executive Director** - NWSRA hired a new executive director, Andrea Griffin, who plans to meet with all 17 Park District executive directors. Her meeting at Salt Creek is scheduled for Friday, June 20, 2025, with future board meeting attendance planned. **Resident Concerns and Park Maintenance** - A resident's concern about building and landscaping was addressed. Staff reviewed options, and the resident agreed that the current brush and weeds are beneficial. No further action planned. **Park Hunt and Geocache Event** - The Park District is hosting a

park hunt with a geocache component for the third or fourth year. The event starts on Friday, June 13, 2025, lasts two months, and concludes at Mount Prospect Park. Participants collect stamps for prizes

- **Chris Paisley - Director of Parks and Planning – Parks Maintenance and Staffing** – Gave updates on regular maintenance, increased course rounds, new staff onboarding, ongoing water level and debris issues at the driving range, equipment safety concerns, and preparations for the 4th of July. **Facilities Preventative Maintenance** - Preventative maintenance on rooftop HVAC units is underway, with seal coating and striping for Twin Lakes and the Sports Center scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2025. **Fish Park Construction Project** - Pre-construction meeting held with architect and contractor; project start date depends on permit process and subcontractor registration.
- **Jody Dodson - Recreation/Marketing - Upcoming Special Events**
July 4th Parade scheduled for July 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.; Rose Park Block Party on July 11, 2025; Grealish Block Party on August 8, 2025; Turtle Trek in August. **Recreation Programming and Camps** - Adult Beach Volleyball started with eight teams each on Tuesday and Thursday nights; day camp counselor training underway; camp starts June 16, 2025; Tot Camp started last Tuesday; preschool hosted the end of school picnic, the Three's program is seeking more registrations.; **Newsletter and Resident Engagement** - June newsletter sent with a 42% open rate; fall/winter brochure in progress; local businesses being approached for sponsorships and donations. **Good News in the Neighborhood Ice Cream Giveaway** - Good News in the Neighborhood Church will distribute free ice cream at block parties; discussion about potential concerns if they distribute religious materials. **Event Promotion and Communication Challenges** - Discussion on how to notify residents about block parties, with issues around flyer delivery, complaints, and post office restrictions.
- **Ashley Medley – Twin Lakes Facility Manager - Lake and Boat Rentals** - Slower start for rentals and boats due to weather; golf rounds are steady; Friday night Patio series begins June 13, 2025, and continues every other Friday. **Dynamic Impact Court Rentals** - Dynamic Impact canceled court rentals due to low enrollment but positive relationship maintained for future opportunities. **Fishing Derby Participation** - Fishing Derby had 127 participants (85 pre-registered, over 40 walk-ins), the highest in ten years.
- **Alessandro Moraca – Sports Center General Manager - Sports Leagues and Tournaments**
Updates on ball hockey, in-line leagues, and tournament scheduling; Sunday in-line league expanded to 45 teams; rental slots increased for State Wars; US Roller Cup scheduled for weekend after Labor Day. **Hotel and Airbnb Partnerships for Tournaments** - Efforts to partner with local hotels for out-of-town teams have not been successful.

Unfinished Business

- **Oath of Office** – Commissioner Joe Mazzocchi was re-elected for another six-year term and was sworn in during the meeting. Joe Mazzocchi read out loud and signed his Oath of Office.
- **Triathlon Discussion** – Director Hilgers discussed the history of the triathlon, noting it was successful for many years but has not been held for the last five years, with declining participation in the five years prior. An Aquathon was attempted two years ago to attract athletes interested in two of the three triathlon legs, but it did not meet expectations. Staff cited staffing limitations, declining trends, and the risk of repeated cancellations as reasons not to attempt a triathlon at this time. **Staffing and Program Sustainability** - Concerns were raised about the need for additional staff to sustain and grow programs. The board acknowledged that running programs with minimal staff leads to vulnerability if there are staffing changes, and that some community events have been discontinued due to these issues. **Community Engagement and Event Value** - Commissioner Mazzocchi highlighted the value

of community events like the triathlon for volunteer engagement and community spirit. There was interest in exploring new or revived events that could benefit the community, even if initial participation or financial returns are modest. **Current and Upcoming Races and Events** - The only remaining event of this nature is the obstacle course, scheduled for September 13, 2025, with approximately 125 participants in recent years. Other events like the pizza run, color run, and triathlon have been discontinued. The obstacle course uses the golf course, which must close temporarily for the event. **Event Participation Trends** - Participation in the obstacle course event has remained flat at around 125 participants. The event date was moved to avoid conflict with Oktoberfest. The event now includes an adult run to broaden appeal. **Marketing and Staffing Challenges** - Discussion covered the suitability of obstacles for adults, marketing strategies for adult participation, and logistical constraints such as the need to clear obstacles quickly to reopen the golf course. There was also mention of possible future space limitations if St. Viator builds new fields. Discussion focused on the logistical and staffing challenges of hosting events like obstacle courses and triathlons, including storage, setup, and reliance on experienced staff nearing retirement. **External Partnerships** - Explored the feasibility of partnering with external companies to run events, noting that most companies prefer thousands of participants, while the local capacity is capped at 500. **Declining Participation in Races and Athletics** - Addressed the decline in participation for races and athletic programs, referencing canceled events, changing dates/times, and competition from larger districts with more resources. **Comparison with Neighboring Districts** - Compared local offerings and participation with nearby districts such as Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Arlington Heights, and Crystal Lake, highlighting differences in facilities, participant numbers, and event success. **Facility and Field Limitations** - Discussed the lack of sufficient fields and facilities for expanding athletic programs, and the impact of losing fields to other developments. **Partnerships and Exposure through Rentals** - Considered partnering with clubs like Celtic and Elite organizations for field rentals and exposure but noted that rentals do not necessarily translate to increased program participation. **Basketball Program Collaboration** - A suggestion was made to form a Salt Creek basketball team to participate in Palatine Park District leagues. **Special Events Scale and Resident Impact** - Debated the optimal size of special events, balancing resident complaints about large crowds with the desire for higher participation and effective service.

New Business

- **NWSRA Representative** - Commissioner Mazzocchi made the motion seconded by Commissioner McGovern to appoint Director Hilgers as the NWSRA district representative. The motion carried on an all-in favor vote as follows:
AYES: Commissioners Seligmann, Nagel, West, McGovern, Mazzocchi and Reiss
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Stoeckel

Correspondence/Commissioner comments: Reciprocal Agreement with Palatine - Commissioners Nagel and Mazzocchi raised resident concerns about the lack of a reciprocal agreement with Palatine, especially for baseball and other youth sports. Director Hilgers explained that Palatine has been approached about four times in the last 20 years, most recently after COVID, but they consistently cite lack of space for their own participants. There was discussion about specific agreements, resident rates, and the perception that Palatine blames the other party for the lack of agreement. **Non-Resident Participation and Rates** - Director Hilgers discussed the high proportion of non-residents in programs (19 non-residents vs. 4 residents in a recent rental chart), the community's population size (6,000 vs. Palatine's 86,000), and the impact of raising non-resident rates. The need for non-residents to fill programs was emphasized, and the potential consequences of increasing fees were considered.

There being no further business, Commissioner Mazzocchi made the motion seconded by Commissioner West, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10pm. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PAUL NAGEL, PRESIDENT

PAT MCGOVERN, SECRETARY