



**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
AUGUST 12TH, 2025**

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

- **Attendees: Commissioners:** Tim Stoeckel, Ilene Seligmann (Remote), Paul Nagel, Victoria West, Patrick McGovern 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
- **Absent:** Commissioner Joe Mazzocchi
- **Guests:** Andrea Griffin (NWSRA Director)

Regular Agenda/Additions/Deletions – Commissioner Stoeckel, made the motion seconded by Commissioner West to approve the regular Agenda of August 12th, 2025; the motion carried unanimously on an all-in-favor vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Stoeckel, Seligman, Nagel, West, McGovern and Reiss

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Mazzocchi

Introduction of Guests – Andrea Griffin, new Executive Director of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA), introduced herself, shared the annual report, and discussed organizational changes, a focus on staffing and stability, and a dive back into therapeutic recreation programming, including their first programs of summer camps and ice skating. She also mentioned their work with school districts to develop robust leisure education programs. Andrea Griffin explained **SLSF** as the fundraising arm of NWSRA, highlighted Salt Creek's support through events like golf outings and galas, and discussed the upcoming fall gala event, which Andrea stated pulls in over 100,000 in revenue, in addition to five golf outings

Consent Agenda - Commissioner Nagel motioned, seconded by Commissioner Stoeckel to approve the Consent Agenda, approval of Minutes of the Regular meeting of July 8th, 2025, Warrant #4 & Prepay #4 and Treasurers Report. The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Stoeckel, Seligman, Nagel, West, McGovern and Reiss

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Mazzocchi

Attorney's Report – None

Departmental Reports

- **Moira Palmer – Superintendent of Finance - Audit Update** - Moira reported a smooth audit process, with auditors finishing a day and a half early. However, Cook County has not yet released taxes, delaying the tax rate needed for the audit. Auditors are waiting as long as possible and hope to present the audit in September, but may use last year's rate, if necessary, as was done during the year of COVID.
- **Diane Hilgers - Executive Director - Salt Creek Lane and Upcoming Event** - An announcement was made for a new event, 'Concert by the Pond,' hosted by the Village of Arlington Heights Lions Club,

scheduled for the end of this month on the 29th (Friday night), from 6 to 10 PM. The event will feature music (playing 70s and 80s music), kids' activities & fishing. **St. Viator MOU** - An email was received from St. Viator confirming they are still working on their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which should be in the Park District's hands soon. **Park and Rec Month Recognition** - During the recent Park and Rec Month, department heads did a great job expressing appreciation to their staff, with correspondence passed around. A successful summer was noted despite the heat. **Fox Point Media Project** - A second meeting was held with Fox Point Media, including attorneys, Jack Wagner, Bob Haas, and owners from Fox Point. The mission is to connect with village trustees, and Jack Wagner has met with five of them. A meeting is now being set up with the Village Manager and Palatine's attorney at a staff level for further discussion. Nothing has been formally submitted to the village yet.

Facility Reviews and Workshops – Staff will be more focused on starting workshops again as summer winds down. These workshops will include facility reviews, focusing on the Sports Center, Maintenance Shed, Salt Creek Lane, and the discussion of the Bears development. These 6 PM workshops could start as early as October

- **Chris Paisley - Director of Parks and Planning – Golf Course Aerification and Pest Issue**
The aerification program will begin in the next couple of weeks, starting with tee boxes and fairways, followed by pulling cores on the greens after Labor Day. A new mid-Atlantic insect, identified as a bluegrass weevil, has arrived in the area, causing significant damage, particularly to the collars around the greens. This pest's life cycle and multiple generations will require increased chemical fertilizer applications and preventative measures for next year. **Turf Renovations and Bluegrass Weevil Damage** - Turf renovations, including slit seeding, have already begun to address the bluegrass weevil damage, which is substantial on holes five, six, and nine, and present on two, three, and four, specifically affecting the collars around the greens. The challenge lies in the pest's rapid reproduction and life cycle, requiring ongoing preventative measures. **Facilities Maintenance and Upgrades**
Seal coating has been completed at Rose and Twin Lakes (parking lot and circle), with the Sports Center scheduled for August 29. A small blower motor in a furnace at the Sports Center went out due to age, leading to its replacement, and the air conditioner condenser was successfully relocated to another part of the building. **Fish Park Construction Updates** All paving and fencing at Fish Park have been completed. However, issues were identified with nicks in the vinyl coating of several fence posts, some down to the metal, for which a credit is being requested from the contractor. The shade sail has been delivered to the installer, and equipment installation for the courts (posts and basketball hoops by U.S. Tennis) is scheduled for this week, followed by leveling compound and color coating.
- **Alessandro Moraca – Sports Center General Manager** - The end of summer sports seasons is approaching, with playoffs underway. September will be a busy month, featuring the US Roller Cup, MIHA tournament, Griff Cup, and a women's roller derby match on Labor Day weekend. The IRHL junior and senior A divisions performed well at State Wars. Upcoming tournaments with PIHA (a roller organization) are planned for January and February, and Elite private lessons concluded successfully in July. **Sponsorship and Hotel Partnerships** - Efforts are underway to renew contracts with current sponsors and establish new hotel partnerships. A significant focus is on securing a hotel sponsor, such as Hampton in Mount Prospect, to provide block discounts for out-of-town teams participating in tournaments, aiming to enhance the appeal of the facility for visiting players and tournament directors.
- **Women's Roller Derby Facility Use** - Windy City Roller and other Chicago-style roller women's teams will be practicing and hosting games at the facility in the fall and on Labor Day weekend, particularly while their own facility is closed. Their unique use of roller derby names was noted.
- **Jody Dodson – Recreation Superintendent – Block Parties and Turtle Race** -The block parties (rescheduled Rose, and Grealish) were very successful. The turtle race sold approximately 750 turtles, with about 150 missing from inventory and 50 duplicate numbers identified. Plans include coordinating with other districts like River Trails and Bartlett to purchase more turtles together to replenish inventory, as the current turtles are 20 years old and some are lost to breakage. **Obstacle Course Challenge (OCC) Event** - The OCC is scheduled for September 13, with volunteers needed from 8 to 10 a.m. The event runs from 9 a.m. with participants finishing by 10 a.m. Current enrollment is low at 14

participants, significantly down from last year, and efforts are ongoing to promote it. **Summer Camp and Staffing** - Summer camp is wrapping up, with the last day on Friday. The summer was very smooth with minimal rain, and field trips went well. A few counselors are leaving early to return to school. **Preschool Program Updates** - Parent orientation for preschool is on August 27, meet the teacher on August 28, and preschool starts on September 2 and 3. The Pre-K program is full, while the Tuesday-Thursday three-year-old program has low enrollment (classes of six) but is expected to fill by January with new enrollments and children turning three in December. Maintenance has prepared the preschool classroom. **Facility Rentals** - Rentals in July and August have been low, as people prefer to be outdoors. However, two rentals are scheduled for August. A new rental supervisor has been interviewed and is expected to start soon, living right across the street from the facility. **Marketing and Brochure Distribution** - The fall-winter brochure was delivered to homes in Rose Park at the end of July. A preferred caterer list has been established for Rose Park rentals, including Barbara's Elegant Events, Bibibop, and RoccoVinos. The brochure has been streamlined by cutting eight pages, reducing printing costs, and by removing content like enrichment classes and lunch bunch that are primarily marketed to already full preschool families. **Brochure Usage and Enrollment Tracking** - It is difficult to track whether program registrants use the printed brochure, as online registration doesn't indicate the source. While most districts still send printed brochures, Hoffman Estates has gone almost entirely digital. For the turtle race, 85% of purchases were made online this year, a significant increase. **Brochure Printing and Distribution Numbers** - Approximately 6,500 brochures were printed. About 2,000 are distributed via carrier routes, with additional routes added for new residential areas like Payton Place and One Arlington. The remaining brochures are mailed to past participants. Double mailings occur for some residents who are both on a carrier route and a mailing list. The cost is considered reasonable.

- **Ashley Medley – Twin Lakes Facility Manager - Twin Lakes Events and Operations** - The final music night at Twin Lakes, featuring Jim Belunda, has been rescheduled to Friday, August 15, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Boats have shifted to weekends only through the end of September, with the exception of Labor Day. Staff reviews are concluding, the summer league has ended, and the fall golf league will start in two weeks. The league banquet is scheduled for next week. High school tryouts, meets, and practices are ongoing. July golf rounds were up from last year but were affected by heat and rain. **E-Bike and Bike Path Safety** - Concerns were raised about safety issues with e-bikes and battery-powered scooters on bike paths, including near accidents and complaints from residents about "crazy bikers." Discussion included the challenges of enforcing rules, setting speed limits (e.g., 12 mph), and monitoring. Other towns' policies, such as Elk Grove, were referenced, and it was noted that Arlington Heights had paused a proposed full ban on e-bikes and e-scooters. The issue is not limited to e-bikes, as regular pedal bikers also contribute to safety concerns.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

- NWSRA Resolution #25-02** – Commissioner Nagel made the motion seconded by Commissioner West to approve inclusion services by NWSRA, for recommended assessment for the calendar year 2026 in the amount of \$48,339.96. The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
 AYES: Commissioners Stoeckel, Seligman, Nagel, West, McGovern and Reiss
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Commissioner Mazzocchi
- Fund Transfer** – Commissioner Nagel made the motion seconded by Commissioner West to approve the standard fund transfers, which are done to balance funds. The motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:
 AYES: Commissioners Stoeckel, Seligman, Nagel, West, McGovern and Reiss
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Commissioner Mazzocchi

Correspondence/Commissioner comments – Commissioner and staff discussed the following:

Homeless Individual at Park - An update was provided on the ongoing situation with a homeless gentleman who has been loitering at the park for three months, sleeping in the woods, and bathing in the drinking fountain. Legal actions included issuing a citation for loitering, a one-week warning to vacate the wooded area and posting no trespassing signs. He failed to appear in court and when approached again in the park by officers, he was arrested. However, he was released as a non-violent criminal and returned to the park, swinging on swings. Residents called the police again, leading to his re-arrest twice in one day (around 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM). The fire department and an ambulance were dispatched, and he was taken to Northwest Community Hospital at his request. A social worker from Journeys has been assigned to him, but he refuses to participate in their program, preferring to live as he chooses. Residents and staff were advised to continue calling the police to build a case, as he is not welcome. Campers were kept inside during these incidents.

There being no further business, Commissioner Stoeckel made the motion seconded by Commissioner West, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:49pm. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

MICHAEL REISS, PRESIDENT

PAT MCGOVERN, SECRETARY