

Medinah Park District
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
August 20, 2025 6:30PM
Connolly Recreation Center
22W130 Thorndale Avenue, Medinah, IL.

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Medinah Park District, DuPage County, Illinois was held on Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at the Connolly Recreation Center, 22W130 Thorndale Avenue, Medinah, IL.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by President Neitzke.

Pledge of Allegiance

Oath of Office – Gokhan Cukurova

Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Alyssa Neitzke, President

Irene Jarocinski, Vice President

Jaclyn Scafidi, Commissioner

Gokhan Cukurova, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present:

Steven Muenz, Executive Director, Board Secretary

Maria Piworski, Superintendent of Finance/HR

Vince DeGrado, Superintendent of Parks

Dan Touzious, Asst. Supervisor of Parks

Jim Huetson, Superintendent of Recreation

Public in Attendance

Jason Carpenter, Peggy Ott, Kataryne Nowak, Brooks Wogelius, Catherine Z, Anna Rakowski, Jean Ott

Quorum

Commissioner Neitzke recognized a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

President Neitzke asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the agenda. Director Muenz stated the agenda could move forward as amended. It was moved by President Neitzke, and seconded by Commissioner Jarocinski to approved the agenda as amended. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: AN, IJ, JS, GC

Nay: None.

Absent: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Agenda

President Neitzke asked if there were any requests to remove items from the consent agenda. Hearing none, President Neitzke asked for a motion. It was moved by Commissioner Scafidi and seconded by President Neitzke to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: IJ, JS, GC, AN

Nay: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

Staff Reports

A. Financial Report – Commissioner Scafidi thanked Supt. Piworski for procuring the \$5,000 donation for Harvest Fest from Itasca Bank. Commissioner Scafidi would be glad to solicit for additional donations for Harvest Fest. Supt. Huetsen said we will be charging for the venues at Harvest Fest this year. Commissioner Scafidi said it looks like a few items look like they have been inflated, they should be at 3.5% that is the rate of inflation. She also has some questions about the rental budget increases as well as summer camp numbers. Supt. Huetsen explained how this is figured. And the board has 3 opportunities to review the budget before it is approved. Commissioner Jarocinski said that the website still lists Goodenough Park and it is now Commissioners Park. Ex. Director Muenz said the new sign has not been put in place yet. Commissioner Jarocinski then asked about the payment from the Village of Itasca. Ex. Dir. Muenz said he has reached out to the attorney and has not heard back yet. Commissioner Scafidi asked additional questions regarding the payment.

B. Recreation Report – None

C. Risk Management Report – None

D. Parks/Maintenance Report – None

Commissioner Scafidi asked about budgeted funds for the repair of the light at the sled hill. Commissioner Scafidi asked about funds for playgrounds that have not been budgeted but not spent. Supt. DeGrado stated those funds will be spent on playgrounds in the fall.

Citizen Comments 6:54 pm

Jean Ott question regarding property boundaries. She will be happy to provide a copy of the letter she received from the Village of Itasca. Jean Ott stated she was disappointed the Casio trip was cancelled. Jean Ott stated the plaques for Maryann Grygiel and Augie Felcan had been decided upon previously and asked about leaves for the donation wall.

Written/Verbal Communication from Public to Staff/Commissioners

Commissioner Scafidi said a resident asked if the board would like her to be the recording secretary and have a third party process the Board Meeting minutes. Another resident asked if they could have the Goodenough Park sign for nostalgic purposes. President Neitzke said some residents are concerned about the new MyRec system when registering for sports it was asking for age instead of grade. Supt. Huetsen stated a few items were incorrectly entered and have since been corrected.

Attorney Report

None.

Director's Report – Notes

Commissioners Park Parking – Still reaching out to Bloomingdale Township and have not heard back regarding an engineer to look at the project.

NEDSRA – Golf Classic taking place on September 11, 2025 if any commissioners are interested in attending please let Ex. Dir. Muenz know. Elevator work is ramping up at the Addison Park District and it still waiting inspection. NEDSRA Ex. Dir. Jerry Barton will be scheduling times to attend board meeting from the various 11 districts who make up NEDSRA. His visit will be added to an upcoming agenda.

OSLAD/DECO grant updates – Still waiting on the \$200,000 payment for the OSLAD several governmental agencies still need to approve the payment/check. Ex. Director Muenz has reached out to Representative Sanilitro's office about the DECO grant, and state is still waiting on approval, no definitive timeline at this time. Possible Spring of 2026 for new HVAC system for Walnut Room.

Items for Discussion

Meacham Creek Park Natural Area – Do we want to start process to look into rezoning for natural playground. Commissioner Scafidi stated the county representative said the application would have no problems being approved, and it would be a 3 to 6 month long process.

President Neitzke stated educational signs can be installed and the area can be used for scavenger hunts. She stated the State of Illinois offers a grant for educational signage.

2026 OSLAD Grant Cycle – The cycle deadline is September, which does not leave much time to include a project for 2026. Staff will review upcoming projects and review funding. Commissioner Scafidi asked what funds it will take to keep up with what the district currently has and how to sustain the district.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Scafidi – Asked about a Google survey and if that can be sent to the community. It can be email blasted and left at the front desk for pickup.

Should the district continue to send out the brochure. She stated a postcard with a QR code may be used and the district spends funds mailing the brochure and it has not been delivered to her house. Commissioner Scafidi asked if the updated mailing list has been received. She suggested the brochure not be delivered, but have a limited supply at the Connolly Recreation Center for those who would like to pick one up.

Suggested a list of items volunteers would be able to assist with and what volunteers may be able to do. With the recreation department short staffed with the absence of an Athletic Supervisor, suggested creating a volunteer committee to complete those responsibilities.

Commissioner Cukurova – Stated that staff has discussed the elevator and should look into another company for the needed project. Requested the Board receive the current Otis Elevator contract.

He asked if the staff is using any items to track social media and stated information should be centralized to see where people are spending time on line.

Mentioned the national average of revenue to park districts by way of registration fees is 24% and the Medinah Park District falls below that.

Old Business/Action Items

A. Items Removed from consent agenda (if necessary)

B. FOIA Requests - None

C. Maryann Grygiel Memorial – It was suggested to install the memorial bench for Maryann Grygiel to the newly created butterfly garden in Thorndale Park.

It was moved by Commissioner Scafidi and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to approve the purchase and installation of a memorial bench for Maryann Grygiel at the newly created butterfly park. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Aye: GC, AN, IJ, JS

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

D. Meacham Creek Natural Area – It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to begin the application process for the zoning variance at Meacham Creek Park. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: AN, IJ, JS, GC

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

New Business

A. Resolution 25-15

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to approve Resolution 25-15, allowing the purchase of a memorial plaque for Mr. Augie Felcan not to exceed \$500. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: JS, GC, AN, IJ

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Other Business

A. Financial Sustainability Seminar – Commissioners Scafidi and Jarocinski attended the seminar and discussed deferred maintenance concerns and what needs maintenance currently and what will need maintenance in the future. Questioned what the costs will be to redo the parking lots at Thorndale Park and that funds should be budgeted each year for upkeep on lots. Spoke about the previously discussed extension of the building and if there are not funds to maintain, an initial project cannot be completed. There are a lot of park districts and towns that are failing due to the lack of planning. Jamie Sabbach is available for consultation for the district, but her fees are \$100,000.

Executive Session

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to move to executive session regarding 120/2(C)1 – Personnel at 8:14pm. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Aye: IJ, JS, GC, AN

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Adjournment

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to adjourn the regular meeting of August 20, 2025 at 9:57 PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

All in favor: Ayes (4) AN, IJ, JS, GC

Opposed: Nays (0)

Absent: (0)

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Muenz, Board Secretary

Alyssa Neitzke, Board President

Date: August 20, 2025