

Medinah Park District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

September 17, 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, September 17, 2025 at the Connolly Recreation Center, 22W130 Thorndale Avenue, Medinah, IL.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by President Neitzke.

Pledge of Allegiance

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. Superintendent of Parks

Jim Huetson, Superintendent of Recreation

Public in Attendance

Stuart Boughton, Matt McAlevy, Stephanie Dooley, Bev Anderson, Kevin Anderson, Jean Ott, Hanna Bierman

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 presented. 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 stated the Board will need to see the budget draft prior to the October meeting. Discussion regarding the financial report and the changes that the new software required. The financial report was almost not available and it was received late.

Commissioner Jarocinski asked a question regarding the credit card statement and a revised receipt.

Commissioner Cukurova questioned why the statement took so long to be addressed.

B. Recreation Report – Commissioner Scafidi stated the Food Truck event was fun. The Fitness Center is in need of new equipment and better selection possibly budgeted for next year as better equipment could be a money generator.

C. Risk Management Report – None

D. Parks/Maintenance Report – Commissioner Scafidi stated the Butterfly Garden looks great. She asked about the trimming of trees in the Metra lots. Asst. Super. Touzios and Superintendent DeGrado stated the park district staff trims the trees along our property line, but does not trim or care for any plantings within the lot.

Attorney's Report - None

Citizen Comments 6:55 pm-7:02 pm

Jean Ott stated the IAPD Best of the Best event takes place October 29, 2025. It is \$125.00 per person, but she feels it is a motivational event. Park districts receive awards, and she stated the event might be good to attend.

Stuart Boughton asked if the final park Board Commissioner has been appointed. President Neitzke answered the Board is taking care of that seat. Mr. Boughton stated the south lot of Thorndale Park is in need of repaving and that the Medinah Country Club has a PGA event next year and they may repave the lot for use. He requested the purchase of a microphone system.

Written/Verbal Communication from Public to Staff/Commissioners

Ex. Director Muenz – Said he received a call on September 8, 2025 from a 40 year resident who did not give his name and said that he has never seen the park and ball field at Rhea Park so nice, and wanted it on record for the Parks Staff.

Commissioner Cukurova – Stated he has heard from multiple people regarding the name change to Commissioners Park, and if we can afford it to change the name back it would show the community we are listening. Supt. Degrado said he heard complaints about the name as well.

Director's Report – Notes

Commissioners Park Parking – Met with Dave Bohac from Morris Engineering and reviewed multiple options. He will work with some members of his staff and will contact the district in a few weeks with their thoughts on the project.

NEDSRA – Commissioner Scafidi asked if the cost of improvements NEDSRA is completing will be passed along to us. Ex. Director Muenz said no additional request for funds will take place.

OSLAD/DECO grant updates – Medinah Park District staff will contact the contractor to begin the process of the HVAC project for the Walnut Room. The window of time in the fall season works well as the need for air conditioning and heat is not prevalent.

School District #11 - Art Display in October roughly 3-4 pieces of student created art installed in the lobby until the first of the year.

Items for Discussion

Otis Elevator – Ex. Dir. Muenz made contact with Liftek, a smaller company which specializes in LuLa lifts. The rep will come out to the Connolly Recreation Center and provide a quote for the door locking project as soon as possible. Commissioner Scafidi and President Neitzke stated they feel Otis Elevator is in breach of contract due to the lack of refunding an overpayment as well as not completing the project on time.

Commissioners Comments:

President Neitzke – Would like the park district to use more volunteers, understanding they will need to be taught and trained. Staff should look into how volunteers can help and what can they do? Staff should begin the process of setting up a volunteer committee for assistance with special events.

Commissioner Jarocinski – none.

Commissioner Scafidi – Reviewed information from last month including a survey to the community. She would like to see a Maker's Market (farmers market) done once a year or possibly seasonal. She asked about a Board retreat. Ex. Dir. Muenz stated he spoke to Greg Petry, who requested the district wait until the Board is complete. She asked about Pizzo as opposed to V3 operating the stewardship of Meacham Creek Park and if there are any major differences in service. She mentioned PDRMA Health Insurance and that the district should remain with this service. Ex. Dir. Muenz stated a meeting was held with PDRMA staff and the district will continue with PDRMA as the insurance carrier. She mentioned the Character at Camp grant application must be filled out with an October deadline. She stated, with some vandalism at Manary Park, cameras in the park may be looked at as a capital project. Additional lighting at Manary Park may be an option as well. At a point in the future, she would like to have Board meetings live streamed, as well as microphones at meeting.

Commissioner Cukurova – Stated the staff should brainstorm what can we provide to volunteers for assisting. He thanked staff for putting together the gas logs to show the fuel use of district vehicles. He stated the timing of Commissioner John Blankenship's resignation and the Executive Director taking a sick day the next day shows collusion between the two. He mentioned the FOIA request he sent has not been completed. Ex. Dir. Muenz stated a letter was sent to him stating the request was to be narrowed. Commissioner Scafidi stated she has read the emails. Commissioner Cukurova and Commissioner Jarocinski requested the emails be sent to them as well.

Old Business/Action Items

A. Items Removed from consent agenda (if necessary) The approval of June 18, 2025 executive session minutes, the approval of the July 23, 2025 special meeting minutes and the approval of the July 24, 2025 special meeting minutes were removed, to be placed on the October agenda.

B. FOIA Requests – Received a FOIA request from The Data Branch, a company from Dover, DE. They requested information on purchases between January 1, 2025 and September 15, 2025. The district was able to provide them with a Vendor Activity Report covering those dates.

C. METRA Agreement – Commissioner Scafidi stated Metra was operating at a loss for 2 years but the proposed deal between Metra and the park district is not a fair deal. There are roughly 80 cars at the lot and the district should request to return to managing the property. As far as the land exchange, the square footage is close to equal but the land currently owned by the park district is considered more valuable and there is concern the access road, while not owned by the park district, is the only access to the proposed property. Staff should contact METRA to discuss a more reasonable land exchange as well as an option to purchase the entire property or returning to managing the lots.

Executive Session

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to move to Executive Session for the semi-annual review of the Executive Session Minutes at 8:41PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Aye: GC, AN, IJ, JS

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

It was moved by Commissioner Scafidi and seconded by President Neitzke to return the regular meeting after the semi-annual review of the Executive Session minutes at 10:01PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE CALL VOTE:

Aye: AN, IJ, JS, GC

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Other Business

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to approve Resolution 25-16, the semi-annual review of Executive Session minutes and the destruction of Executive Session audio recordings that are dated greater than 18 months from the date of September 17, 2025. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE 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 September 17, 2025 at 10:03PM. 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: September 17, 2025