Medinah Park District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
February 18, 2026 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, February 18, 2026 at the Connolly Recreation Center, 22Wl30 Thorndale Avenue, Medinah, IL.

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by President Neitzke.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call
Commissioners Present:
Alyssa Neitzke, President
Irene Jarocinski, Vice President
Jaclyn Scafidi, Commissioner
Gokhan Cukurova, Commissioner
Matt McAlevy, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present:
Steven Muenz, Ex. Director
Maria Piworski, Superintendent of Finance/HR and Assistant Secretary Vince DeGrado, Superintendent of Parks
Dan Touzios, Asst. Superintendent of Parks
Brooks Wogelius, Recreation Supervisor

Public in Attendance
Jean Ott
Robert Zoltek

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 presented. It was moved by President Neitzke, and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to approve the agenda as presented. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Aye: AN, IJ, JS, MM, 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. President Neitzke asked for a motion. It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Aye: IJ, JS, MM, GC, AN
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried.

New Business
A. None

Staff Reports
A. **Financial/HR Report** - Commissioner Scafidi asked how many resumes have been received? Supt. Piworski said 5 resumes have been received. Commissioner Scafidi asked how long we will be posting the new position. Supt. Piworski stated that we will post this position for a month or until filled. President Neitzke asked if we have yet reviewed the resumes. Supt. Piworski stated she had briefly reviewed them.

B. **Recreation Report-** No questions

C. **Risk Management Report** - Commissioner Scafidi said we were close to being cut off from PDRMA. Asst. Supt. Touzios stated that Medinah Park District was on the orange level, not the red level, and we are taking the steps to have this corrected.

D. **Parks/Maintenance Report-** No questions

Attorney's Report - None

Citizen Comments 6:36 PM
Jean Ott said Ex. Director Muenz stated Itasca gave us the money incorrectly. Commissioner Scafidi said Itasca will not ask for their money back Jean Ott said she looked up the addresses and Highland Gate is in Itasca but is part of Medinah Park District. She wants the board to be aware of that because she feels the money should always belong to the Medinah Park District. President Neitzke said they can look into this further. Jean Ott presented written information to the board in the form of a brochure.

WrittenNerbal Communication from Public to Staff/Commissioners
No communications to staff.
Commissioner Jarocinski - Said she spoke to a woman across the street from Riha Park talked about boys burning the outhouse. The woman was intimidated by the people who burned the outhouse. Commissioner Jarocinski asked if there was any other damage done. Supt. DeGrado said on July 5, outhouse was burned at that location. Police asked the neighbors and no one saw anything.
Commissioner Cukurova -None
Commissioner Scafidi-None

Commissioner McAlevy -None
President Neitzke - None

Director's Report-Notes

DECO Grant - All the documentation has been sent over to the representative from the state, including the invoice for the HVAC unit and all their requested documentation. Just waiting to hear back from the regarding a possible payout of $22,500.

Budget and Appropriation Ordinance Final Approval- February 24, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

NEDSRA - the last board meeting was February 4, 2026. They reviewed PDRMA and renewed health insurance for the next 3 years. Included information on their next couple of special events coming up.

IAPD Legislative Breakfast-March 6th at Fountain View Recreation Center of Carol Stream Park District. $35 per person. RSVP by February 23, 2026.

Items for Discussion

Metra-Reached out again. No response as of yet from Metra attorney.

2026 Presidents Cup- Waiting on new offer from the PGA that has been put through legal and finance. They will send it over as soon as they receive it.

Community Survey - Results are in the packet. 65 responses.

Commissioner Jarocinski-Issues are the same as what was in the past. What will be done to fix them?
President Neitzke- We will go over the items and address them.
Commissioner Scafidi - Capital list items will make the changes in the future, if not we can reevaluate.
Commissioner McAlevy-A lot of talk about dirty. When snow melts things are dirty. When are they talking about, if its now during the winter, it is understandable since things may be hiding under the snow, that have now emerged after melting.
Commissioner Scafidi - Overall satisfaction, 46.2% are satisfied. Thinks that this is reasonable
Commissioner Jarocinski - Sit down and go over each one. Has large flowering bushes, please let her know if we would like them. Asked if we had resolved a previous issue in the warming room? Asst. Supt. Touzios responded that there was a plumbing issue previously that has been resolved. Asked if these survey comments were typed by District office staff since there were grammatical errors. Director Muenz explained that they were sent from the public that way and were not re-typed.

Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Cukurova- Printed a statement for Public Meeting Minutes. Board packet statement. Formally, separation agreement. Discussed how the board policy manual was not followed correctly and provided examples of such.

Commissioner Cukurova Statement:

Under Illinois Law 70 ILCS 120514-1, the "corporate authority" of the district is vested in the board as a whole. No individual commissioner or officer, including the board president, has the power to create an obligation or liability for the district except with the express authority of the board. The "Chain of Command" belongs to the board as a whole, not to one person: In a Park District, the Board is the employer. The President's duty is to

ensure the employer is informed.

Board Policy Manual, section 2.2.1 tells us we display
honest, transparent and accountable representation of our district and the taxpayer.

For the public record, I wish to formally voice my concern regarding the handling of the Executive Director's separation agreement. On Wednesday Feb. 4th, a binding legal document was executed. However, this Board was not notified of that execution until I personally reached out to the President more than 48 hours later to see if there were any developments as the outgoing director had a deadline to either sign or decline an agreement.

The board approved that agreement with the expectation of being informed of its execution, the President had a fiduciary and administrative duty to provide that update. By state law, withholding the fact that a legal contract has been finalized or failing to deliver that information to the rest of the board in a timely manner could be viewed as a failure to "faithfully execute" the board's orders.

Furthermore, I am very disappointed that the HR Director, who is responsible for the District's liability, payroll, benefits, onboarding and offboarding, severance pay and more-was intentionally kept in the dark, while the outgoing Director was given 'freedom' to disclose this news to select staff members of his choosing. The HR director was kept in the dark for 10 days until another commissioner could not take the president's silence anymore and informed the HR director. The board president finally sat down with HR to discuss the departure of an executive-level employee just yesterday, almost two weeks after signing this binding document.
Keeping HR in the dark for 13 days is a lifetime in public administration.

This created a tiered information structure that undermines this Board's collective authority. By prioritizing the personal preferences of a departing employee over the administrative requirements and the integrity of Medinah Park District, the President has bypassed standard governance protocols and exposed the District to unnecessary rumors and potential liability.

Because selective disclosure is the definition of favoritism, which has no place in Medinah Park District. The Executive Director admitted that he told two staff members of his departure as of last Thursday. This means the "secret" is out, but the official channels are blocked. This is how lawsuits, claims of a hostile work environment or "insider" information begin.

If you look at page 39 of the meeting packet, where you see our HR director's monthly report, she will be dealing with auditors all day Thursday and possibly Friday. This mismanagement of information flow is very unprofessional and has unfortunately left our district vulnerable. We have 2 days to prepare for an executive level departure; I find that unacceptable.

Keeping HR in the dark prevents them from doing their job efficiently which may have dire consequences for the taxpayer.

HR is not a 'choice'; it is a functional necessity of the District. The HR Director is the custodian of personnel records and the manager of District liability. By withholding a signed agreement from HR, the board president has prevented them from doing their job regarding benefits, payroll, transition logistics and more. The Executive Director's desire for secrecy cannot be prioritized over the administrative and legal requirements of the Park District. At the end, the district's interest and integrity should have come before an outgoing employee's or board president's desires/preferences.

I am asking the President to explain the legal or policy basis for withholding a signed District contract from the HR department. Do you believe it is within your authority as President to withhold signed legal contracts from the rest of the elected Board for days and the HR Department for almost 2 weeks?

If I had not reached out to you Friday night, when were you planning to notify the rest of us that the deadline had been met and the agreement was signed?

With that said, in order to prevent anything like this happen again in our district, I would like us to discuss and vote on a policy update at our next meeting with:

Mandatory Personnel Disclosure Policy for all future executive-level contracts. This policy shall require:

A. Full Board Transparency & Notification: All Commissioners must be notified via written memo within four (4) hours of any executive-level employment agreement being signed.

B. lmmediate Administrative Filing:
A copy of the fully executed agreement must be delivered to the Human Resources Director and the District's Legal Counsel no later than the close of the next business day.

C. Unified Communication Plan: The Board should meet for a special meeting immediately and no departure news shall be shared with any staff members until a Board-approved communication plan is in place to ensure professional stability and integrity of Medinah Park District.

D. Enforcement:
Failure to adhere to these notification timelines shall be recorded as a breach of board protocol and subject to a formal review by the Corporate Authority.

This policy simply aligns our practices with 70 ILCS 1205/4-1 and ensures the Board can act as the corporate authority it is legally required to be.

Thanks,
Gokhan

Commissioner Jarocinski-None

Commissioner Scafidi - Things need to be done differently. (Things could have and should have been done differently.)

Commissioner McAlevy - Timing was odd.

President Neitzke - It was discussed with attorney then with commissioners.

Old Business/Action Items

A. Items removed from Consent agenda. (If necessary)

B. FOIA Requests - Sheri Reid, Smart Procure. A regular requester. Information was provided the same day the request came in.

D. Resolution 26-2: Roselle Pool IGA - (Roselle Park District asked us not to make this information public until their brochure comes out.) Both districts still Itasca also. Moved by Commissioner Scafidi and seconded by President Neitzke.

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Aye: AN, IJ, JS, GC, MM
Nay: None
Absent: None

Abstain: None
Motion Carried.

E. Resolution 26-4: Andrews Services Corporation Agreement - 3% increase

Brooks was asked about working with her. Brooks stated she is great and no problems with her. Steve was asked about working with her. Steve said she was also great for the district and would recommend continuing working with her.

Commissioner Cukurova - Bring back in house. Any one staff that can do marketing? Commissioner McAlevy asked how many contracts have we had with her? Ex. Director Muenz said this was our second contract but has been working with us on our brochure for several years but has just recently taken on our marketing portion.

Moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi for vote for further discussion.

Discussion:

President Neitzke - None
Commissioner Cukurova- If it's not broken, don't fix it. possible changes during next contract renewal. Commissioner Scafidi-None
Commissioner Jarocinski-
None Commissioner
McAlevy-None

Moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi for vote to approve Resolution 26-4: Andrews Services Corporation

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Aye: AN, IJ, JS, GC, MM
Nay: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried.

New Business
None

Citizen Comments started 8:08PM
Jean Ott - Past during budget season. Board hasn't been having public discussion regarding budget. It hasn't been discussed. Commissioner Scafidi- Budget has been discussed publicly. Meetings since August have been discussed. 6PM yesterday Jean came by to review, person at front desk did not know where copy of budget was located.

Executive Session

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to move to Executive Session 120-2Cl regarding personnel at 7:26PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE CALL VOTE:
Aye: JS, MM, GC, AN, IJ
Nay: None
Absent: None
Motion
Carried

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded Commissioner Scafidi by to return the regular meeting at 9:59PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

ROLE CALL VOTE:
Aye: GC, AN, IJ, MM, JS
Nay: None
Absent: None
Motion
Carried

Adjournment

It was moved by President Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Scafidi to adjourn the regular meeting of February 18th, 2026 at 10:07 PM. President Neitzke asked for discussion. There was none.

VOICE VOTE
All in favor: Ayes (4) AN, IJ, JS, MM,
GC Opposed: Nays (0)
Absent: None
Motion
Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Piworski, Asst. Board Secretary

Alyssa Neitzke, Board President

Date: March 18th, 2026