Medinah Park District

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
October 21 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, October 21 2026 at the Connolly Recreation Center, 22W130 Thorndale Avenue, Medinah, IL.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Commissioners Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Maria Piworski, Executive Director
Dan Touzios, Deputy Director
Brooks Wogelius, Recreation Supervisor
Vince DeGrado, Superintendent of Parks

Public in Attendance
Ray (Al) Kubalewski
Philip Delaney
Mike Aguire
Peter Pocrnich
Angel Vazquez
Will wade
Mike Astrowski
Ken Heroux
Tania Brito
Laura Kermos
Joe Kermos
Robert O'Lery
Mike Goetz
Fernando Fuertes
Karolina Polakowski
Agnieszka Swiatek
Ben Anderson

Jed Simmons
Zachara Family
Bob Furlin
Stephanie DeGrado

Quorum
President Scafidi recognized a quorum.

Approval of Agenda
President Scafidi asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the agenda. Executive Director Piworski stated the agenda could move forward as presented. It was motioned by Commissioner Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Jarocinski to approve the agenda as presented. President Scafidi asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Approval of Consent Agenda
President Scafidi asked if there were any requests to change or remove items from the consent agenda. President Scafidi said the Consent Agenda could move forward as presented. It was motioned by Commissioner McAlevy and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. President Scafidi asked for discussion. There was none.

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

Staff Reports
Recreation Report (Recreation Supervisor, Brooks Wogelius) – Each staff member read highlights of their report.
Commissioner Scafidi asked the total cost revenue of the Harvest Fest event. Staff did not have them on hand but explained they will be sent to the board. Commissioner Neitzke suggested no show fees for vendors.
President Scafidi asked costs of table vendors for the event. Deputy Director Touzios explained that this year there was no cost to encourage more companies to use booths in order to increase interest and is anticipating charging next year.
Commissioner Neitzke asked about or digital advertising. Commissioner Scafidi asked about basketball season and its advertising. Brooks explained he is working on athletics as well as his own duties and is planning on advertising for and preparing for basketball season.
Commissioner Scafidi complemented on the cast-iron cooking program conducted on October 9th.

C. **Deputy Director Report/Safety Coordinator Report –** Each staff member read highlights of their report.
Commissioner Cukurova – Wanted to comment on the great work Maria and Dan have done so far moving the District forward.
Commissioner McAlevy – Asked the color scheme of PDRMA's essentials rating metric breakdown. Deputy Director Touzios explained PDRMA's breakdown.

D. **Parks/Maintenance Report –** Each staff member read highlights of their report.
Commissioner Jarocinski asked if the vehicle driving inside Manary Park causing damage was a four-wheel drive vehicle or not. Superintendent DeGrado explained he couldn't tell, but definitely agrees it to be a vehicle that had caused the damage. Commissioner Cukurova asked if we can install solar powered cameras. Deputy Director Touzios explained he is communication with PDRMA and solar companies to see if this is possible and what is required if so. Commissioner Neitzke asked how many police reports were taken at Manary Park, Deputy Director said there were three reports taken for a vehicle in Manary Park.

Attorney's Report
None.

Citizen Comments (3 minutes per speaker with a maximum comment period of 15 minutes)

Daniel Ritz - Asked about the parking lots used by the PGA Tour and if funds were collected from its use.

Vince DeGrado Jr. – Spoke about his recent baseball tournament him and his group had conducted and stated that it was a great event and other outside teams really enjoyed themselves.

Robert Zoltek – Asked for a follow up on his family's park sign and was wondering when it may be ready. Robert mentioned the date of November 15th as a nostalgic day for his family and was wishing the sign would be ready by then.

Written/Verbal Communication from Public to Staff/Commissioners
Commissioner Cukurova noticed many people that he didn't recognize during one of his children's programs at Medinah Park Districts and was happy to see the Medinah Park District is attracting other residents from other districts. Commissioner Cukurova also commented about the positive feedback on the newly renovated Thorndale South parking lot.

Director's Report
The NEDSRA Board of Trustees met on October 7, 2026 for its regular meeting, which included the annual financial report from Sikich for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2026. Trustees were also tasked with reviewing and approving the 2027 health insurance coverage for NEDSRA employees. NEDSRA is part of the PDRMA health insurance pool and there is a significant cost increase for FY 2027 with an estimate of 15.4 percent for PPO plans and 7.9 percent for HMO plans.

The 2027 annual IAPD/IPRA State Conference is scheduled for January 28-30, 2027, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Additional information, such as a general outline of events, costs associated with registration and exhibit hall vendors, is available on either the IAPD or IPRA websites. Please let me know of your interest in attending the 2027 conference at your earliest convenience and I will take care of conference registration and hotel reservations. Please note that Hyatt hotel reservations fill up quickly. Executive Director Piworski asked the board for a designated delegate for IAPD – President Scafidi nominated herself to be the designated delegate.

School District #11 has delivered artwork from students within the district for display at the Connolly Recreation Center. This artwork should remain on site through February of 2027. Please stop by the Recreation Center and browse the beautiful display hanging on our walls.

Items up for review and approval by the Board at the November 18, 2026, meeting will include the approval of the 2027 regular Board meeting dates, the adoption of the Tax Levy Ordinance for the 2027 fiscal year and the first draft of the 2027 fiscal year budget. The American Litho contract for brochure printing will also be on the agenda in November.

Each year at this time, an Estimated Levy is prepared for Board review of the taxes to be levied for the coming year through the Tax Levy Ordinance, which will come before you at the November meeting. State law requires that if taxes levied each year are greater than 5% higher than those extended in the previous year, the Park District must hold a public hearing on the Tax Levy Ordinance and must publish a very specific public notice. Currently, staff is recommending keeping the district below the levy increase threshold this year. Approval of the estimate of taxes to be levied will come up later this evening under new business.

A discussion was had with Metra regarding taking over operations. Metra expressed that they only wanted an agreement to put any monies collected toward their capital improvements. They also proposed this happen next Spring if it should happen. We said the district is interested in getting a quote for what they would offer us for renting out district owned property. There has been no communication from them at this time on the information requested. It was made very clear that we will not allow them to use our property for free moving forward. Commissioner Neitzke asked that Metra be given a firm deadline in response to our parking lot land use no later than December of 2026. There was discussion.

The proposal to renovate Nordic Park tennis courts was significant at approximately two hundred thousand dollars. Staff thus is intending to apply for a grant from the United States Tennis Association which can potentially reimburse us up to $150,000. We are determining if we need to hire an architect for a certain portion of the submittal or if we can work around the necessary requirements. Whatever the outcome, it is our intention to apply for this grant which could significantly decrease the amount which the district would spend out of reserves.
Commissioner Neitzke asked staff to provide the current 10-year Capital Plan for the board to review during the next meeting.

Commissioners Comments:
Commissioner Jarocinski said that her husband said there are weeds in front of the CRC building.
Commissioner McAlevy commented about the great set-up for the Historical Society and wants to dedicate a room indoors for more historical memorabilia next year. There was discussion.

President Scafidi explained her opinions on the community group RMSBO and was sad to hear the negative comments from the community towards the group. President Scafidi explained the roots of the organization and the purpose of its construction for the community. President Scafidi said that Deputy Director Touzios and RMSBO's assigned liaison Ray Kubalewski have done a fantastic job creating a new contract benefiting both parties. President Scafidi explained that it is now time to stop the division, stop pointing fingers and spend the time rather working towards a solution. Discussion ensued.

Old Business/Action Items
None.

FOIA Requests
Justin Wenig - Payment records for all vendors from 1/1/25 through the current date.

New Business/Action Items

A. Vote on Estimate of Taxes to be Levied

Estimate of taxes to be levied for FY 2026 to be collected in FY 2027 in the aggregate funds at $1,348,664 and at $143,300 in the non-aggregate funds for a total of $1,491,964.

It was motioned by Commissioner Neitzke and seconded by President Scafidi to approve the Estimate of Taxes to be Levied. President Scafidi asked for discussion. President Scafidi expressed that there may be a need of increasing tax percentages in future years as cost of maintenance is increasing and the district is running out of funds to maintain itself.

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

B. Vote on Allowing the Village of Roselle The-Right-of-Way to Manary Park:

It was motioned by Commissioner McAlevy and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to not allow the Village of Roselle acquisition of the right-of-way property in front of the main entrance way to Manary Park. President Scafidi asked for discussion. Commissioner Neitzke requested that staff meet with the Village of Roselle in person to discuss the issue. The board discussed that although this contract may not be favorable to the district, they will keep an open mid to any new contracts that may be offered in the future.

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

C. Resolution 26-13: Affiliate Group Facility Use Agreement between RMSBO and the Medinah Park District:

It was motioned by Commissioner Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to approve Resolution 26-13: Affiliate Group Facility Use Agreement between RMSBO and the Medinah Park District as amended. President Scafidi asked for discussion. Commissioner McAlevy asked about previous fees collected from RMSBO in the past. Commissioner Cukurova expressed his opinions on the presented contract including grammatical errors and terminology changes. Commissioner Cukurova would like to see an in-house baseball program started by the district. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Neitzke discussed soccer field space and field conditions. The board further discussed the terms of the contract.

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

D. Resolution 26-14: Pizzo and Associates, Meacham Creek Park Stewardship Contract:

It was motioned by Commissioner McAlevy and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to approve Resolution 26-14: Pizzo and Associates, Meacham Creek Park Stewardship Contract. President Scafidi asked for discussion. There was none. President Scafidi asked if we will need to schedule another prescribed burn at Meacham Creek for 2027. Superintendent DeGrado explained they had conducted one two years ago and have not included another in the current contract for 2027.

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

Citizen Comments (3 minutes per speaker with a maximum comment period of 15 minutes)
Al Kubalewski – Discussed the conflict between the two groups was started by an individual who is no longer at the district. Al said that the contract's cost is what effects the community most and in turn, the overall growth of the RMSBO organization.

Phil Delaney – Explained that RMSBO simply makes a place for kids to grow and is upset that there is so much conflict when it is just about the kids.

Mike Aguire – Said that he wants the same thing and has the same goal that RMSBO has for his program with Medinah soccer. Mike said that we can all work together to make a schedule with both sports to make all necessary accommodations to make both sports successful at Medinah. Mike said: "All in all, it's for the kids."

Mike Harris – President RMSBO, wanted to thank staff for helping in the negotiation. Explained that there had been rumors going around that has created a conflict between the organizations. Mike explained the history of RMSBO and how the organization prides itself in providing a low-cost program for the community.

Robert Delaney – Spoke about how he can assist in placement of a culvert to expand the space at Manary Park. Deputy Director Touzios agreed to meet with Robert to show him his thoughts.

Vince DeGrado Jr. – Explained that the RMSBO organization was formed because of the lack of participants solely in Medinah alone. The only way to have enough kids to run a successful program is to combine multiple towns to make enough kids for teams. Wants to make sure RMSBO stays in Medinah.

Executive Session

It was motioned by Commissioner Neitzke and seconded by to Commissioner McAlevy to move to Executive Session under 5ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) – Personnel at 9:42 PM.

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

The meeting was moved back into open session at 11:23PM

Other Business
None.

Adjournment
It was motioned by Commissioner Neitzke and seconded by Commissioner Cukurova to adjourn the regular meeting of October 21, 2026 at 11:25PM. President Scafidi asked for discussion. There was none.

VOICE VOTE
All in favor: Ayes (5) AN, JS, MM, IJ, GC
Opposed: Nays (0)
Absent: (0)
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dan Touzios, Board Secretary Jaclyn Scafidi, Board President

Date: November 18, 2026