

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

September 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Ryan. Upon roll call the following were:

PRESENT: Commissioners Anderson, Kennedy, Rodas, Ryan. (Absent; Deal, Larson). Staff: Splitt, Regnier, Muhr. (Absent: VanZant.) Board Recording Secretary Shari Raven.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the September 24, 2025 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Rodas. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Rodas that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda to include:

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 08-21-25 thru 09-24-25 in the amount of \$497,889.24
- Approval of the August 20, 2025 Park Board Meeting Minutes

Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed

Splitt reviewed for Board Members the final pay request from Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. for the Alleghany Park Courts Renovation Project. The project is fully complete and will be closed out once the payment is made. Splitt has received the final Waiver of Lien as well as all certified payrolls. Terra Engineering has approved this pay request.

The courts official opened on July 2nd and we have received very positive feedback from the community. The pickleball courts have been busy pretty much every day since it opened. We have already had requests to add more pickleball courts.

MOTION: by Rodas that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the final pay request from Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. for a total of \$27,152.95 for the Alleghany Park Tennis and Basketball Court Renovation Project. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Splitt stated that the Park District’s current 10-Year Comprehensive Plan will expire at the end of 2025. This fall and winter, District staff and department heads will begin work on updating the plan to guide us for the next decade. A key component of this update will include conducting a Community-Wide Needs Assessment Survey.

Splitt and Regnier met with Dr. Joseph Ferrallo from the University of St. Francis in Joliet to discuss this process. Dr. Ferrallo was featured in the IPRA Magazine article “using Educational Partnerships to Improve Business Performance.” For the past 13 years, he and his students have partnered with nonprofit organizations on semester-long research projects aimed at improving operational efficiency, business practices, and community engagement. Most recently, they worked with the Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation (M-NASR) to successfully design and implement their community survey. This collaboration proved to be mutually beneficial for both the students and the agency.

Dr. Ferrallo and his Business Research class have agreed to partner with the Grayslake Park District for their Winter/Spring 2026 semester project. The scope of the work will include research, analysis, and recommendations in the following areas:

1. Website-form, function, layout, utilization
2. Communication & Social Media-platform, presence, posting frequency, etc.
3. Marketing-opportunities and efficiencies
4. Volunteerism & Fundraising-opportunities and recommendations
5. Community Needs Assessment Survey-development of survey tool etc.

The partnership comes at no cost to the District. A consulting firm would typically charge a minimum of \$20,000 for similar services. The only requirement is for staff to attend a final presentation at the University, where students will share their findings and recommendations. At the conclusion of the project, the district will receive four bound copies of the full report and presentation materials for use in our Comprehensive Plan update and future planning initiatives.

The project timeline is January 12, 2026-April 27, 2026. Staff is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Ferrallo and his students, and we believe this partnership will provide valuable insight and direction as we prepare the next 10 year Comprehensive Plan.

The District recently issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to four playground companies for the replacement of the playground at Brittany Park in the Misty Hill Subdivision of Hainesville. This playground, installed in the late 1990’s is now over 25 years old. While it remains in fair condition, replacement parts are no longer available, making an upgrade necessary.

The four selected companies are members of the Omnia Partners or Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Programs, which allows us to avoid the public sealed bid process. Similar to the last four playground projects, this will be a “turn-key” project, with selected company responsible for both equipment and installation.

Staff is exploring a partnership with Kids Around the World to donate the existing equipment. If accepted, their team will disassemble the structure and repurpose it for use in a developing country.

Proposals are due October 15. Staff will review submissions and narrow them down to two or three final designs. These will then be shared with Hainesville residents, who will have the opportunity to vote on their preferred design.

Our timeline is to purchase the equipment before the end of 2025 to take advantage of available grants and year-end discounts, with installation planned for spring. Results of the RFP process will be presented at the November 5 Committee of the Whole meeting, where Splitt will seek board consensus. Formal approval of the selected vendor and equipment purchase will be requested at the November 19th board meeting.

Regnier will serve as the lead staff member on this project.

Splitt met with the new Mayor of Hainesville, Mary Koval. Splitt informed her of the dissolution of Avon Township Youth Baseball Organization and the future redevelopment of Avon Park. Mary was saddened to hear that the baseball organization has folded but is excited for the possibility of a new community park for Hainesville. The Hainesville Village is committed to helping us with the master planning of this new park as well as possible future funding. Splitt also informed Mary of our commitment this year to replace the playground at Brittany Park. Splitt and Koval will continue to meet as we move forward with the master planning and re-development of Avon Park.

Splitt mentioned that since our last discussion in August, the Village of Grayslake has updated its ordinances regarding E-Bikes and E Scooters. The Village has enacted a complete ban of E-Scooters throughout Grayslake and prohibited the operation of all classes of E Bikes on Village sidewalks and bike paths. Enforcement of these new ordinances will be challenging, and the Grayslake Police Department has indicated it will focus on education and safety first as these laws take effect. Splitt will update the Park Code to address the use of E-Bikes and E-Scooters in parks and on Park District bike paths. Splitt will align our regulations with the Village ordinances, and will bring this item back to the board for consideration and approval at the October meeting.

The Tooterville Bridge is scheduled to be installed the 3rd week of November. There will be a pre-construction meeting on Wednesday, October 1st at 10:30am with Joe Krebs from Custom Bridges and Boardwalks along with Dan Strahan from Gewalt Hamilton Engineers and Peter Riggs from the Village.

The SRACLC Annual Holiday Tree Festival will be held Saturday, November 15th at 6:00pm. Board Members should let Splitt know if they can attend.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Our Spring Dance Recital is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 2026 at Grayslake Central High School Theater.

Preschool started the first week of September and we have 96 students in the program this year.

The very popular Pumpkin Fest is planned for Thursday, October 23 from 5:30-7:30pm at Central Park. Staff has planned for games, activities, and hayrides on Central Park Lane and the interactive award-winning costume contest. The highly anticipated character path awaits participants in which we rely heavily on our high school volunteers for that part of the evening. Food trucks will return since they were successful last year. Staff will work with the Village of Grayslake Public Works Dept. for this event to ensure that our event area has defined and controlled entry points.

August was a really good month for golf course and revenue reflected that with \$28,663 in green fees. The Summer Medley tournament was hosted with 37 golfers in attendance. Staff plan to reduce clubhouse hours in November to be open Thursday thru Sunday, end of season will be November 30th. All golf will meet in November to recap and plan ahead for March 2026.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Parks.

Muhr stated the district was able to have Balance Environments complete the shoreline seawall restoration project at Jones Island Beach.

On Wednesday September 17th, Peter Snelton and Sons were out at the golf course to install a new Phase 3HP Well-Pump that would provide drastically more GPM (gallons per minute) into the pond, which is where our irrigation pump is for the entire course.

During the weekend of September 6th, Total Paving was out to finish a complete seal-coat and re-stripping of the parking lot at 240 Commerce. The lot turned out great overall, but for next year, Muhr will get a price to have it crack-filled as well.

Muhr stated that maintenance staff has completed the third phase of the asphalt project at Doolittle Park, getting just about to the end of the Handicap parking spots. This lot should have one more section to be replaced and then this lot will be completely redone within the past 5 years.

At the golf course, we had an ADA concrete pad installed so that our course is player friendly to all patrons who desire to play golf.

Both the Park and Pond paths were overlaid at Valley Forge Park. These two paths had begun to chip away on the sides and had tripping hazards starting to form throughout the entirety of the path.

During the last month, the maintenance staff has installed two memorial benches for two separate families. One down at Jones Island, overlooking the water and to the left of the beach. The other bench was installed over at the Aquatic baseball field.

Splitt reviewed the report of the Business Manager in lieu of VanZant's absence.

Splitt stated that the revenue and expenditures, general fund and recreation fund are all on track so far for this fiscal year.

Ryan mentioned the October 15, 2025 Park Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm.

MOTION: by Kennedy to adjourn at 7:54pm. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:54pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners