

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

November 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by President Ryan. Upon roll call the following were:

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

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the November 19, 2025 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

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

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 10-16-25 thru 11-19-25 in the amount of \$490,117.54
- Approval of the October 15, 2025 Park Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of but not public release of the October 15, 2025 Closed Session Minutes
- Approval of the November 5, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

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

The district is proposing the full 5% increase as restricted by PTELL for our 2025 levy for taxes paid in 2026. As a recap: The tax cap law in Illinois (PTELL) which went into effect in 1991 limits the increase of tax dollars to local governments to either 5% or the CPI, whichever is lower. CPI for Levy Year is 2.9%. Levying over CPI will allow the district to capture taxes on any new growth within the district boundaries.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners adopt Ordinance O 2025-03-An Ordinance Levying the taxes for the Grayslake Community Park District for 2025. Second by Larson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners adopt the Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2025 as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

The Treasurer’s report is prepared using the final audited statements and reports. This is a statement of the District’s monies received from each source and all

monies paid out in detail for the fiscal year. A copy of the report is filed in the Lake County Clerk's Office. The Treasurer's Report is prepared to further the transparency of government entities and will be posted on the website.

MOTION: by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2025 as presented. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

The Recreation Department is pleased to recommend Jim Starwalt for the Friends of the Park Award. For the past five years, Jim has been a generous sponsor of the George Weinert Fishing Derby, but his contributions extend far beyond his sponsorship.

Each year, Jim volunteers countless hours to ensure the event's success. He not only provides financial support but also donates numerous fishing supplies and prizes, helping to make the experience special for every participant. On the day of the derby, Jim can be found right alongside the families-baiting hooks, helping kids learn to cast, and taking fish off lines. His hands-on involvement and enthusiasm create lasting memories for children and foster a true love of fishing and the outdoors.

Jim's commitment to our community and to sharing his passion for fishing exemplifies the spirit of the Friends of the Park Award. His generosity, volunteerism, and genuine care for others make him an outstanding ambassador for our parks and programs.

MOTION: by Anderson that the Park Board of Commissioners award the 2025 Friends of the Park Award to Jim Starwalt. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Spitt will be reviewing and updating all of the policy manuals as well as the Comprehensive Plan. The first manual that has been reviewed and updated is the Board Policy Manual, which outlines the Board Members duties, functions, and responsibilities.

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the amended board policy manual as presented. Second by Larson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Spitt stated that the district received 4 proposals for Brittany Park Playground Replacement. Each company had the opportunity to submit 2 different designs. Staff chose the top 2 and then putting out a social media survey to pick the winner. Regnier heard back from Kids Around the World who will be taking the larger structure this spring to re-purpose it in a developing county. The swings and tot play structure will be removed and recycled.

MOTION: by Anderson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Brittany Park Playground Replacement with GameTime/Cunningham Recreation in the amount of \$160,572.07. Second by Kennedy. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Board Members reviewed the proposed Utility Easement Agreement between the Village of Grayslake and the Grayslake Community Park District. The agreement provides the Village with the necessary easement along the frontage of Alleghany Park for the installation of new water and sanitary sewer mains.

The Village is moving forward with extending municipal water and sewer along Alleghany road. These improvements are intended to enhance the resiliency of the Village’s water system in the south service area and support future development with the Alleghany Road corridor. For the Park District, the project also presents an opportunity to eventually transition the Alleghany Park facilities from well water and a waste tank system to municipal utilities, which will provide long-term operational and maintenance benefits.

As part of the easement agreement, the Village has agreed to waive the sanitary sewer connection fee for the Park District. Splitt also requested consideration of waiving the water connection fee, and the Village has indicated this is something they are open to discussing as the project advances.

Kennedy asked Splitt to confirm with the Village that they are not adding storm sewers to the project and to also confirm that the sanitary sewer lift station will not be built on Park District Property

MOTION: by Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners grant a utility easement to the Village of Grayslake, as outlined in the attached Utility Easement agreement, for the installation of water and sanitary sewer mains along the Alleghany Park frontage pending clarification by the Village regarding the storm sewer and lift station. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Each year, IAPD requests each member district to appoint a delegate to represent the district at the annual IAPD Business Meeting. The meeting will be on Saturday, January 31st, 2026 at 3:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Chicago at the conclusion of the annual IAPD State Conference. This certificate will entitle the delegate or, in their absence, and alternate to vote on matters presented during the Association’s Annual Meeting. Staff will forward the necessary documentation to IAPD.

MOTION: the Larson that the Park Board of Commissioners approve Commissioner Kennedy as the Delegate and Commissioner Rodas as the Alternate for the Annual IAPD Business Meeting held on January 31, 2026. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

Splitt discussed the possible future appointment of the new board member. Greg Formica presented a letter of interest to be appointed onto the Park District board. It was the consensus of the board that Mr. Formica would be an asset to the board and to the park district due to his long-standing residency and his involvement with the park district.

This will be an agenda item for the January board meeting where the board will vote to appoint Greg and then swear him in at the same meeting.

Splitt stated that John Buckner, Executive Director of SRACLC for the past 35 years will be retiring November 6, 2026. Splitt, who is the President of the SRACLC Board of Directors will be heading up the search committee for the next director. She will keep the board informed as the process moves forward.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Regnier stated that program registration will begin on Dec. 2 and the guide will cover programs running January through May.

Staff have been very busy with basketball. The feeder basketball program has completed evaluations, team selection and held parent meetings with 17 teams between North and Central. In-house basketball has completed evaluations and has assembled 32 teams; staff is completing team rosters, practice requests and coaches' meetings.

Dance will host their Winter Showcase of Dance on Sunday, December 14 at the Recreation Center. There are 160 dancers currently participating with the Expressions Dance Studio.

October was a good month for Golf Course. The course will be closed Mondays, and Tuesdays, open Wednesday thru Sunday. End of Golf Season staff meeting will be held November 25 and staff plan to close for the season on November 26th.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Parks.

Muhr stated that on Monday October 27th, Balanced Environments began the fishing pier removal at the northeast side of the pond in Central Park. The pier had begun to separate from its original footings with the water, creating potential safety hazard to the public. The district has within the past 5 years, renovated the pier on the southwest side of the pond. Due to that project, staff thought it was no longer necessary to have an additional pier on such a small body of water. An overlook was created in the place of the Fishing Pier. Decorative fencing was installed around the entirety of the area and our crew will be installing a new bench towards the entry to this new platform.

Other projects include:

- Park/Building/Irrigation/ Winterization
- Safety Overhaul to the Maintenance Department

Quick Updates:

- Tooterville Bridge install is tentavely set to begin next week November 24th and should be finished by Thanksgiving (weather dependent)
- Preparing for the Holiday Parade
- ADA Playground mulch will be added where needed in the coming weeks
- Ballfield and Dirt work will be completed until the weather turns bad

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated that 42% of the fiscal year has passed; we have received 89.5% of the property tax for the year.

Ryan announced the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting will be at 7:00pm.

MOTION: by Kennedy to adjourn at 7:40pm. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members vote "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:40pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commisioners