

**GRAYSLAKE COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT
PARK BOARD MEETING**

April 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice President Rodas. Upon roll call the following were:

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

MOTION: by Kennedy that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the April 15, 2026 Park Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Deal that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the Consent agenda to include:

- The Payment of Bills and Payroll from 03-18-26 thru 04-15-26 in the amount of \$288,052.35
- Approval of the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
- Approval of IAPD Legislative Conference Travel & Training Expense Summary.

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

Board Members reviewed a draft of the meeting schedule from June, 2026 through May, 2027.

Splitt proposes that we keep the meeting schedule the same as this past fiscal year. The board would hold their regular monthly board meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month and would schedule 2 Committee of the Whole (COW) meetings in November (tax levy discussion) and May (budget discussion). If additional COW meetings are needed throughout the year, the board can decide to schedule them on an as needed basis through a public notice.

After board discussion and any proposed changes, an updated copy will be brought back to the board meeting in May for board approval.

Board Members reviewed the final pay request submitted by GameTime for the installation of playground equipment at Brittany Park. Payment will be delivered once the playground passes final safety inspection that is due to be completed within the next two weeks.

MOTION: by Formica that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the final pay request from GameTime c/o Cunningham Recreation for a total of \$75,640.00 for

the Brittany Park playground installation project. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Splitt and Muhr have been evaluating current park maintenance operations and identified opportunities to improve efficiency and better allocate staff time and resources. As part of this review, staff is proposing to contract out mowing services for select park district-owned properties for the 2026 season.

The proposed areas include 20 locations totaling approximately 23.34 acres. These sites primarily consist of small, outlying parcels such as detention and retention areas, turf around ponds, smaller neighborhood parks and parks that are further away, plus other miscellaneous turf areas.

While these areas aren't large on their own, they do take a surprising amount of staff time. A big part of that isn't just the mowing itself-it's the travel between sites, loading and unloading equipment, and moving trailers from one stop to the next. When you add it all up, it pulls staff away from some of the larger priorities in our parks.

By having a contractor handle these more scattered locations, our team would be able to stay more focused on the parks that need the most attention. This includes things like field maintenance, keeping up with mowing at our main parks during peak growing times, and continuing to make progress on beautification and improvement projects.

We'd like to try this as a one-year pilot program for the 2026 season, running from mid-April through the end of October. This would give us a chance to see how it works in practice-both in terms of cost and overall efficiency-before deciding whether it's something we want to continue long-term.

The cost for this service for April and May would be covered within our existing Professional Services budget in the General and Recreation Funds and the remainder of the contract would be budgeted for in our FY 26-27 budget.

Muhr did meet with and receive 3 quotes from Yellowstone, Vignochi and Landscape Concepts. Staff is recommending contracting with Yellowstone as they were the least expensive and they have experience with mowing all of the Round Lake Area Park District's parks.

MOTION: by Formica that the Park Board of Commissioners approve the 2026 mowing contract with Yellowstone Landscape for \$28,360.00 as presented. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Board Members reviewed the 1st draft of the proposed FY 2026/2027 Budget along with a short highlight sheet.

The budget will be going on public display on Monday, April 20th at our Administrative front office. As per the law, the budget does need to be on public display 30 days prior to the Budget and Appropriation Hearing which is scheduled for 6:45pm on May 20th.

Board Members will review the budget and let staff know if they have any questions.

Board Members reviewed and discussed the New Pulte Subdivision Sketch plan as it relates to a proposed emergency access road thru Doolittle Park.

Splitt will update the board with any information going forward.

The board reviewed the report of the Executive Director.

The district will be sending 3 staff and 4 Commissioners to the upcoming IAPD legislative Conference and Reception taking place May 5 & 6 in Springfield.

The May Committee of the Whole Meeting has been cancelled.

Splitt met with Representative Laura Faver Dias at the end of March to talk about our district and upcoming needs. Katie Gamroth, Executive Director from the Round Lake Area Park District also attended. Splitt stated they discussed Avon Township Baseball Park and the need for additional funding from the State to begin transforming that area into a Community Park. Laura was very excited about this project impacting 3 different governmental agencies and will give us her full support. Unfortunately, she informed us there are very little capital dollars in the state's budget this year but next year, she will work hard to secure us some funds for Avon park.

The Grayslake Park Foundation Meat Raffle Fundraiser will be held Sunday, April 19th from 1-4pm. The event will take place at Emils. This is the foundation's first fundraiser in quite some time and all proceeds will be coming back to the Park District either in the form of camp scholarships or park/facility improvements.

The park district will be partnering again with SRACLC to offer Bourbon & Wine at the Grayslake Nine Event at our golf course to help support SRACLC's "We Serve" program for active and honorable discharged Veterans. The event is on Friday, May 8th with Tee times at 1:00 and 4:00pm.

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Recreation.

Regnier stated that the month of April is a busy time of year in the Recreation Department with a wide variety of program planning and preparations for May events and summer programs. Staff are preparing for dance recital, preschool graduation, concessions to open at Alleghany and summer camp staff trainings are set to begin.

Staff will start the softball tournament season off on May 1 with the 10U-12U Pride tournament which currently is filled with 28 teams.

Upcoming Events:

George Weinert Fishing Derby: Saturday, June 6 from 8-10 am at Jones Island Park
Taste of Grayslake: Saturday, June 27 from 3-10 pm at Central Park

The board reviewed the report of the Superintendent of Parks.

Muhr stated that on Monday April 6th, after several days of storms, SET Environmental came out to assess the fishing pier pond. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the environmental booms had successfully absorbed both substances that were floating in the opening to the inlet. We requested a sample to be sent to a lab for further testing but they were unable to determine exactly what the brown curded substance was, but were informed that it was non-hazardous.

During the months of March and April, the district has their annual fire prevention inspection that has been completed by Fox Valley Fire during the past several years. We have official had our extinguishers recertified for 2026, our fire alarm system tested at the rec. center and our 5-year internal inspection of the sprinkler piping at the golf course. They will be completed on Thursday April 16.

The board reviewed the report of the Business Manager.

VanZant stated that 10 months into the budget year, the General Fund is at 92% collected. This favorable position is mostly due to interest income and higher rental revenue.

General Fund expenses are at 70%. In the Recreation Fund program expenses are at 76% of budget, as both salary and program expenditures within the Program department are below expectation. The YTD expenses in all funds collectively continue to be under budget.

MOTION: by Kennedy to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes as per Section 206 of 5ILCS 120/2 (c)21. Second by Deal. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted” aye” No nays. Motion passed.

Executive Session 7:37pm.

MOTION: by Kennedy to go into Open Session at 7:45pm. Second by Formica. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted “aye” No nays. Motion passed.

MOTION: by Deal to release the following closed session minutes: 10-15-25, and keep all the remaining minutes not previously released closed and all audio recordings

older than 18 months destroyed. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Rodas announced the May 20, 2026 Budget and Appropriation Hearing-6:45pm.
May 20, 2026 May Park Board Meeting -7:00pm.
May 20, 2026 Annual Park Board Meeting-immediately following May Meeting.

MOTION: by Kennedy to adjourn at 7:47pm. Second by Anderson. Upon roll call all Park Board Members voted "aye" No nays. Motion passed.

Adjourned 7:47pm.

Ray Larson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners