



# Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 21, 2026 5:00 p.m.

City of Wheaton Council Chambers 303 W. Wesley Street Wheaton, Illinois

**CALL TO ORDER** –President Vires called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker were present.

## PRESENTATIONS

None

## COMMUNITY INPUT

None

## CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,508,894.87 for the period beginning December 10, 2025, and ending January 13, 2026
- B. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2025
- C. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes January 7, 2026

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Ray Morrill Community Center Interior Renovation Project Phase 3 –

Commissioner Frey moved to approve the base bid plus alternates 1, 2 & 3 from Happ Builders in the total amount of \$3,263,090 with a contingency amount of \$326,309.

Second by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Pecharich expressed that she did not believe the gymnasium improvements called for in alternate 1 would increase revenue or participation and felt the cost was not worth the benefit. Mee disagreed, stating it would improve the flow and staging of participants and spectators.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Welker, Vires

Nays: Pecharich

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**2. Pond Maintenance Services**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the base bid for aquatic maintenance services from McCloud Aquatics for a one-year term for 2026 in the amount of \$14,550 with options to renew for additional one-year terms in 2027 and 2028. Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**3. Arrowhead Golf Club Kitchen Rooftop Air Makeup Units Replacement Project –**

Commissioner Mee moved to approve a proposal for professional services from Berg Engineering Consultants Ltd. for the Arrowhead Golf Club kitchen and locker room rooftop unit replacement engineering at a cost not to exceed amount of \$25,000 with an allowance of \$2,000 for reimbursable expenses. Second, by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Pecharich stated that there's a date error in the report, Benard stated that the typo will be corrected. No further discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**4. Central Athletic Complex Ballfields**

Commissioner Mee moved to table an easement for the City of Wheaton sanitary sewer. Seconded by Commissioner Frey

Benard stated this needed to be tabled because we are waiting for easement documents from the city.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. **Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages on Park District Property per Park Use Ordinance Section 4.4**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to Approve the Sale and Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages During 2026 Special Events at the Following Locations:

- a. Memorial Park
- b. DuPage County Historical Museum  
*-see related staff reports for event dates*

Seconded by Commissioner Frey

Benard stated that the park district park use ordinance calls for board approval of consumption and sale of alcohol on park properties. No further discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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6. **Central Athletic Center Parking Lot**

Commissioner Mee moved to Approve a License Agreement with Bauer and Bauer Dentistry and Orthodontics for Access and Use of 20 Parking Spaces at the Central Athletic Complex. Second by Commissioner Barrett.

Benard stated that this is our third year and this agreement benefits the district with the revenue and helps Bauer and Bauer with their parking. It also helps with relief on city street parking.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. **Ordinance 2026-01 - Prairie Avenue Office Building**

Commissioner Barrett moved to Adopt Ordinance 2026-01 Approving the Terms and Authorizing the Execution of a Lease Agreement Between the Wheaton Park District and Advanced Solutions International (Formerly Computer System Innovations) for the Lease of a Portion of the Wheaton Oaks Professional Building Located at 855 West Prairie Avenue, Wheaton Illinois. Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**8. Government Relations Service Agreement**

Commissioner Welker moved to approve a one-year agreement for services with the Government Navigations Group INC at a cost not to exceed \$54,000. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Mee recalled that we would have Government Navigations Group give a presentation in the next few months. Benard stated that it was correct.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**9. Strategic Plan Consulting**

Commissioner Frey moved to approve an addendum to an agreement for consulting services between Berry, Dunn, McNeil and Parker LLC and the Wheaton Park District. Second by Commissioner Barrett.

Benard said that we recently completed a year of strategic planning with Berry Dunn as consultant and coach, and staff are now kicking off the plan this week. This addendum is for Berry Dunn to provide additional consulting and coaching work throughout this year.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Executive Director Benard stated that today marks the closure of his 19<sup>th</sup> year as the Wheaton Park District's Executive Director. He is proud to serve this community. The board thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Mee thanked staff for their hard work in 2025. He was pleased that there were 32 weddings at Arrowhead Golf Club. He noticed that we lost a few days for ice skating, Director of Athletics Lewandowski said yes, but participation numbers have come back up and are exceeding last year. Mee said that Parks Plus Fitness Center numbers are doing great. He thanked Director of Marketing Wilhelmi for all the marketing she and her staff do to promote everything in the park district. He commented that the end of the year fundraising for our foundations went very well and that people have been very generous, and he said thanked those who donated.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 5:14 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to recess to closed session for the purpose of discussing the: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees, Commissioner Frey seconded.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

At 5:35 p.m. the board reconvened to open session.

**ACTION ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

1. **Executive Director Compensation** – Commissioner Mee moved to approve a 3.5% merit increase for Executive Director Benard retroactive to January 1, 2026. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly Mee, Pecharich Welker, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:36 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barrett seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

