



# Wheaton Park District

## Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 18, 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.

Commissioner Kelly was absent

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Kelly Nielsen, Preschool & Camp Manager, shared an update from the Program & Recreation Services Committee.

Nielsen stated that this year, their focus was on providing practical tools and meaningful training to ensure that all visitors, especially members of our neurodiverse community and those with sensory differences, feel welcomed, understood, and supported.

One of the key achievements was the development of Social Stories. These are designed to help individuals understand social situations, expectations, and emotions, while providing clarity, predictability, and support as they navigate our facilities and some of our events. To date, they have published 10 social stories, and we're continuing to expand this collection to cover additional locations and programs.

They have printed versions of some of the Social Stories, and she shared a few with the board. Nielsen stated that so far, they have booklets for Bowties & Tiaras, Arrowhead Restaurant and the Superhero Fun Run.

They also introduced Sensory Inclusion Bags, equipped with calming tools to support individuals with sensory sensitivities. These bags are now available at 10 of our facilities, giving guests the option to self-regulate and feel more at ease while participating in our programs or while visiting our facilities.

In addition, we partnered with the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association to provide Customer Service and Sensory Inclusion Training. 40 team members across departments participated in this training, which focused on understanding sensory processing differences, inclusive best practices, and empathetic customer service strategies. We are immensely proud of the progress our staff has made across the district in building a more inclusive environment overall.

Nielsen said that looking ahead, 2026 brings a new focus...artificial intelligence. Staff was surveyed to assess familiarity and comfort with AI. Based on those results, we identified next steps and began building a thoughtful framework for implementation. On March 4, the district

hosted Scott Crowe, Executive Director of the Huntley Park District, for a presentation on AI and its applications within the Wheaton Park District. Staff also developed and distributed an AI Workplace Protocol, which went into effect in January 2026.

Nielsen said that they are proud of the work this small but mighty team has accomplished in the past year and they are also excited as they look ahead.

Commissioner Pecharich asked if other park districts were doing this. Nielsen stated that not as much as we are, WDSRA told them that we are on the forefront of doing this. Commissioner Mee was impressed with the book.

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

None

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,180,657.55 for the period beginning February 11, 2026, and ending March 10, 2026  
Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2026
- B. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes February 18, 2026
- C. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes March 4, 2026
- D. Review of Post Issuance Compliance Report for General Obligation Limited Park Bonds Series 2025

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Frey.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. **Ordinance 2026-02** – Commissioner Frey moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-02 Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District. Second by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

2. **Athletic and Recreation Program Contractual Services**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the 2026 Athletic and Recreation Program Services Independent Contractor agreement amounts resulting in expenditures over \$19,999. Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

3. **Communications Consulting Services**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve an agreement for professional services with Public Communications Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$62,000. Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

4. **Survey Consulting Services**

Commissioner Mee moved to approve an agreement for professional services with AQuity Inc. for \$29,875. Second by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

5. **Xerox**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve 5-year lease and service agreements with Xerox Business Solutions LLC for 8 Xerox Multifunction (Copier) Devices at a total annual lease cost of \$13,373.16 and an annual service cost of \$13,401.80  
Second, by Commissioner Welker.

Commissioner Mee asked if this included new machines. Benard said yes we will receive 8, new ones, and we replaced 2 of them a few years ago. So, we have a total of 10. Benard said they should come in by May at the latest.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**6. Graf Park Synthetic Turf Replacement Project**

Commissioner Frey moved to approve cooperative purchasing pricing with Field Turf in the amount of \$568,032 plus a 10% contingency for the replacement of the synthetic turf carpet at Graf Park. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Frey asked how old the existing turf is. Benard said it was installed in 2014. This turf has a life expectancy of 10 years.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**7. Graf Park Batting Cage, Bleachers and Track Improvement Project**

Commissioner Mee moved to accept the bid from Innovation Landscape for \$295,855.00 plus a 10% contingency Second by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Frey asked Superintendent of Planning Hinchee to describe the track. Hinchee stated that we put a rubberized surface that failed, we need to replace. Frey asked if the school district will use the track for track meets. Benard stated the school has a need for a competitive track, and the track at Monroe doesn't meet that need.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**8. Seven Gables & Atten Parks Backstop Painting Project**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a contract with Muscat Painting for the base bid amount of \$18,848 plus a 10% contingency Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

**9. Atten Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts Color Coating Project**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a contract with U.S. Tennis Courts for the base bid and alternate for a total of \$45,550 plus a 10% contingency Second by Commissioner Welker. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**10. Contractual Mowing Services**

Commissioner Welker moved to approve a contract renewal with Sebert for the 2026 season for a total of \$23,400.00 Second by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**11. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project Prefabricated Structure**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the base bid from Performance Delivery, Inc. dba Cover the Tees in the amount of \$693,036 plus a 10% contingency Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Mee asked Benard if construction was scheduled to begin in October. Benard said yes. President Vires explained that this comes out of the AGC Enterprise Fund. It is paid for by the surplus we run in that fund through operations such as greens fees and food & beverage.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**12. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve contract amendment 1 for additional services with FMGA Architects in the amount of \$64,425 Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**13. Natural Areas Maintenance Services (Various Park Locations)**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve contracts with Bedrock Earthscapes:

- 2025 Contract renewal & update to include the addition of Briar Patch for \$37,950 for 2026 services
- Additional services contract for added scope to parks currently under contract, prescribed burning and additional service locations for \$27,150 for 2026 services

Second by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**14. Burglar Alarm Monitoring and Maintenance Services**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the base bid for alarm monitoring services from ADS for 2026 in the amount of \$12,474 with options to renew for additional one-year terms in 2027 and 2028. Second by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Motion passed by voice vote.

**15. Portable Irrigation Equipment Purchase**

Commissioner Welker moved to approve the purchase of Three Kifco B140 Water reels from Reinders in the amount of \$46,524.00 Second by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**16. Turf Management Supplies Purchase**

Commissioner Mee moved to approve turf management supplies as recommended

*Vendor and price details provided on the last page of the agenda*

Second by Commissioner Welker.

Commissioner Frey asked if this was material for the ballfields. Director of Parks & Planning Kimbrough said it was for the soccer fields and turf throughout the parks.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**17. Rice Pool and Waterpark Renovation Design**

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a professional services agreement for concept designs and construction cost estimates from FGMA Architects in the amount of \$7,500.

Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion. Motion passed by Voice vote.

**18. Kelly / Edison Park**

Commissioner Welker moved to approve a Temporary Construction Easement Agreement with Community Unit School District 200. Second by Commissioner Pecharich.

Executive Director Benard said the school district will put a fence around the area. This agreement gives the school district temporary access to park district property during construction.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**19. Sound & Lighting for 2026 Special Events**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the 2026 Special Event Sound & Lighting proposal from Hi-Fi Events in the amount of \$32,400.00. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Mee asked how long we have used Hi-Fi. Benard said 3 years. President Vires asked if concert line up is complete. Director of Marketing Wilhelmi said they have 90% of the entertainment secured.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Kelly

**REPORTS FROM STAFF**

Executive Director Benard stated that the Arrowhead team is proud of the accomplishments of this last fiscal year, while getting ready for 2026, which will be celebrating 100 years of Golf on the property. The Arrowhead team would like to show their appreciation, not only to the Board of Commissioners, for their continued support but also to Michael Leemans. Leemans has served as a Host at Arrowhead for the past 6 years and is a team member who is always willing to go above and beyond. Benard thanked Michael for his efforts in the design and layout of this year's report with support and input from all Arrowhead divisions. Leemans introduced himself and gave the following report highlights:

AGC Netted \$1,149,435

Total Rounds of Golf: 71,136

Driving Range Sales: \$275,862

Restaurant Food Sales: Sold over 94,000 items with a gross amount of \$1,311,229

Restaurant Beverage Sales: Sold over 112,000 items with a gross of \$837,310

Halfway House and Beverage Cart: Grossed \$450,784

Banquet Team: Hosted 625 Events

The Building Grounds and Facility Maintenance Teams perform exceptional care, pride, and ownership of the facility 365 days a year 24-7 if necessary. Like all Team Members, they take pride & ownership in their work & commitment to Arrowhead.

This report contains additional items, fact, figures that we all are proud of, as we serve the community and represent the Wheaton Park District while supporting and practicing our Mission, Vision, Values and providing exceptional customer service.

Leemans stated that the team would be remised if they did not thank the other Park District Departments for their Teamwork and Support.

Commissioner Welker said it was a well put together report

Commissioner Mee thought it was a great report, the Arrowhead photo page is excellent, He stated that the 71,000 rounds were the most in recorded history. He stated that revenue from merchandise sales has increased, and that staff hosted 80 golf events. He was very impressed with the numbers. Mee thanked the Arrowhead staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Frey said it was a great report, Arrowhead is a fantastic place to go to. He told staff to keep up the good work

Commissioner Barrett agreed that it was a great report.

President Vires echoed their comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:29 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barrett seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mee', written in a cursive style.