



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 23, 2025 5:00 p.m.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

DuPage County Historical Museum

Commissioner Mee thought the Museum Annual Report was well done. He recognized that the museum is still in the black financially, and that the museum is supporting itself. He acknowledged that there was a significant amount of sponsorship for the museum.

Commissioner Pecharich stated the museum continues to do better every year, and that we are slowly reaching pre Covid numbers. O'Brien recognized Director of Marketing Wilhelmi and her team for all the marketing they do for the museum.

President Kelly stated that it seems to be a common theme that museums are not back to pre-Covid numbers. O'Brien said that she has talked to others in the field and they are reporting the same thing. People have been slow to come back.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,138,217.37 for the period beginning March 12, 2025, and ending April 8, 2025
- B. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes February 1, 2025
- C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes March 19, 2025
- ~~D. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025~~

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda Items A through C.
Seconded by Commissioner Vires. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Independence Day Fireworks & Drone Show –

- a. Commissioner Mee moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Mad Bomber Fireworks in the amount of \$30,000 for the July 3, 2025, Fireworks Show. Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

- b. Commissioner Mee moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Chicago Drone Light Shows in the amount of \$30,000 for the July 3, 2025 Drone Show. Seconded by Commissioner Welker

Discussion:

Commissioner Mee thought that since we are heading for a drone only show in 2027, we should try the combination fireworks and drone show this year.

Commissioner Pecharich would rather see a more robust fireworks show this year, instead of having a hybrid show.

Commissioner Welker stated that she looked forward to public feedback about a drone show this year and that feedback will help guide planning future shows.

Benard verified that a full drone show would be allowed adjacent to the new DuPage County Transportation Center in 2027 but a fireworks at that location will no longer be possible in 2027 and going forward from there.

Commissioner Pecharich stated that we discussed approaching the city about an increase to their financial contribution. Benard reported that in 2024, the city increased their annual contribution to July 4 activities by \$10,000 to \$40,000 and that he will make a follow request.

President Kelly is not in support of a combination show. He would like to put the extra \$15,000 left over from last year towards the fireworks show this year. He did not think we needed two years of a combination drone and firework show.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Mee, Vires, Welker

Nays: Pecharich, Kelly

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2. **Ordinance 2025-03**

Commissioner Barrett moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-03 Approving the Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. **Commissioner Conference Attendance**

Commissioner Frey moved to approve of Commissioner Barrett's attendance during the Illinois Association of Park Districts 2025 Legislative Conference April 29-30 at a cost not to exceed \$600. Seconded by Commissioner Vires. Motion passed by voice vote.

4. **2025 Staff Leadership & Training Program**

Commissioner Mee moved to accept a proposal for providing training and leadership development services from the Corporate Learning Institute at a cost not to exceed \$33,300. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Vires spoke favorably about the program.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. **Grant Agreements with the Cosley Foundation Inc**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the following grant agreements with the Cosley Foundation Inc.

- a. Zoo overflow parking area design and construction
- b. Zoo existing conditions audit
- c. Zoo veterinary equipment

Seconded by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. **Utility Procurement**

Commissioner Mee moved to Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Natural Gas Contracts for Transport and Choice Accounts for a 24- or 48-Month Term Starting July 2025 at a Rate Not to Exceed \$ 5.00 Dth for Transport Accounts and \$5.50 Dth for Choice Accounts (Supplier, term and final rates will be determined by April 30).

Seconded by Commissioner Frey.

Executive Director Benard stated that the transport accounts are for our two largest consumers Arrowhead and the Community Center, The Choice accounts are everything else.

Benard stated that he intends to sign a 48-month price lock contract.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

7. Central Athletic Complex Parking Lot Project

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve change order #1 with Patriot Paving for a contract increase of \$36,270. Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. Central Athletic Complex Parking Lot Project

Commissioner Barret moved to approve an additional services proposal from Engineering Resources Associates for a contract increase of \$1,500. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.

9. 2025 Vehicle purchases

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the purchase of two 2025 Ford Transit Vans through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative / Currie Motors Ford at a total price of \$104,934.00. Seconded by Commissioner Vires

Commissioner Mee asked if we have vehicles to trade in. Executive Director Benard stated that the older vehicles will be kept in the fleet for an additional year or two and then be auctioned.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

10. Cosley Zoo Education Pavilion & Duck Enclosure Project

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Change Order #1 with E.P. Doyle for a contract reduction of \$6,975. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

President Kelly stated that we are paying a little less and getting the addition of the hot water tank. He thinks this is a good trade, since it is a better system. . Motion passed by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Executive Director Benard stated that the Superhero fun run was fantastic, with 400 runners. It is a great highlight for the sensory garden playground and our partnership with the morning Rotary Club.

Commissioner Welker reported that our Thunder teams were honored at the last City Council Meeting. She congratulated the athletics department and these teams.

Commissioner Vires congratulated Commissioners Welker, Barrett and President Kelly to another 4 year term.

Commissioner Pecharich was impressed with preschool and camp enrollment specifically a Camp No Name enrollment increase of 50%, Director of Recreation Beyer stated her team worked hard to accommodate 500 more campers this summer.

Commissioner Mee said the golf course is doing great. He receives compliments on golf course conditions all the time. He thanked Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak and Assistant Director of Operations Prazak and their staff on all the hard work that goes into it.

President Kelly stated that the Superhero Fun Run, was a great opportunity to showcase the sensory garden.

Executive Director Benard stated that the 2024 Special Event Annual reports' primary takeaway is the synergy and value we create with our partners in the community. Benard also recognized Special Events Manager Carolyn Wilkin and Special Events Coordinator Sammi Cantanzaro for producing first class special events and concerts for the community.

Commissioner Vires agreed with the value that park district special event partnerships create in the community and reported that the Wheaton Lions Club provided over \$200,000 in funding to local charities as a result of its partnership with the park district.

Commissioner Mee recognized Rudy Keller for his role in planning and executing the Field of Honor display at Seven Gables Park each year.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:34 p.m., Commissioner Vires moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barrett. seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

