



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 20, 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. Commissioners Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, Welker were present

Commissioner Barrett was absent

PRESENTATIONS - None

COMMUNITY INPUT

Public comments are important to the Board. However, it is the Board's policy not to take action on items until time has been taken to gather information and discuss all options. Lack of action does not imply lack of interest in the issues. During the community input portion of the agenda the Board typically will ask residents to provide input prior to accepting input from nonresidents.

The purpose of the public participation is to allow the public the opportunity to make a statement to the Board. The purpose of public participation is not to provoke a debate with the Board. Once an individual has spoken, that individual may not speak on the same issue again Any limitation regarding addressing the Board may be waived by the Park Board President.

Except during the public comment portion of the regular Board agenda, or as stated in this rule, no person other than the Executive Director or the District's Attorney may address the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$2,638,908.21 for the period beginning April 8, 2026 and ending May 12, 2026
- B. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes April 8, 2026
- C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes April 15, 2026

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Second by Commissioner Kelly. Discussion: Executive Director Benard stated that item 6 for the April 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes was corrected to reflect that the motion failed.

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.510-4944; fax number 630.665.5880; email dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS & LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

1. Commissioner Kelly moved to Elect John Vires President and William Barrett Vice President of the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners. Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.
2. Commissioner Frey moved to appoint Michael Benard Executive Director / Secretary, and Sandra Simpson Treasurer of the Wheaton Park District. Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote.
3. President Vires Appointed Foundation Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairpersons as follows:
 - a. Cosley Foundation Board Liaison – Linda Pecharich
 - b. DuPage Museum Foundation Board Liaison – William Barrett
 - c. Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation Board Liaison – Terry Mee
 - d. Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Chair – John Kelly
 - e. Finance Subcommittee Chair – John Vires

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wheaton Park District Finance Policies

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve proposed additions to the policy.

- a. Budget Amendment Policy
- b. Long-Term Financial Planning Policy

Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

2. Ordinance 2026-04

Commissioner Frey moved to adopt Ordinance 2026-04 Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District. Second by Commissioner Welker. No discussion.



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Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

3. Cosley Zoo Exhibit Renovation Project Concept

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the "Burrows to Branches" Cosley Zoo Exhibit Renovation Project concept. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Mee asked Executive Director Benard if this is phase 1. Benard stated that the motion is for the approval of the Burrows and Branches exhibit concept only and that future exhibit renovation concepts will be proposed independently. Board approval of this concept will allow the Cosley foundation to begin fundraising. President Vires stated that these exhibits were identified in the Cosley Zoo conditions audit as the highest priority for renovation.

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

4. Atten Park – Springbrook Creek Shoreline Stabilization Project

- a. Commissioner Mee to approve the application for the 2026 IEPA 319 grant for Atten Park Streambank Stabilization. Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.
- b. Commissioner Mee moved to approve the cost sharing agreement with the Robert R. McCormick Foundation for 50% of the cost of engineering in the amount of \$44,010. Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.
- c. Commissioner Mee moved to approve a contract with Hey & Associates to proceed with tasks 1 through 7 of their proposal in the amount of \$88,020. Second by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Mee asked when this would begin. Benard stated that engineering and design work will begin right away with the goal of having shovel ready plans to present with the grant application. We have learned that shovel ready projects are more likely to be funded. Commissioner Kelly noted that, if successful, 60% of the project costs would be paid through the grant and the park district and Cantigny will split the remaining 40%.



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Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

5. Northside Park – Lagoon Sediment Settling Basin Dredging Project

Commissioner Frey moved to approve a contract with Earthwerks in the amount of \$535,000 plus a 10% contingency amount for the Northside Park Settling Basin Dredging. Second by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

6. Northside Park – Lagoon Sediment Settling Basin Dredging Project

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the additional services proposal from Burke LLC for construction phase engineering for an amount not to exceed \$12,000 for the Northside Park Lagoon Sediment Settling Basin Dredging project. Second by Commissioner Welker.

Commissioner Mee asked when we expect to start, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, said the project schedule is mid-June to end of July. Commissioner Kelly asked if the extra \$12,00 service is for on-site supervision, Hinchee said that was correct.

Hinchee stated that it includes as built survey following the dredging to verify that we achieved the contours we're looking to achieve.

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett



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7. Ray Morrill Community Center

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$565.92 for the Ray Morrill Community Center Interior Renovation Project Phase 3. Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.
Motion passed by voice vote

8. Alcohol Sales and Service on Park District Property

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve alcohol sales and service for 2026 Events at Cosley Zoo and DuPage County Historical Museum

- a. Boots and Bandanas at Cosley Zoo – July 16 5:30 – 8:00 pm
 - b. Donor Event at Cosley Zoo – October 8 5:30 – 7:30 pm
 - c. DuPage Museum Lecture Night – November 12 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

9. Rice and Northside Pool Chemical Purchases Commissioner Mee moved to accept the Bids for the purchase and delivery of Pool Chemicals from Hawkins and Terrace Supply for the 2026, 2027 and 2028 seasons as follows:

- a. Hawkins – Sodium Hypochlorite Liquid, Coagulator, Cyanuric Acid, Muriatic Acid, and Calcium Chloride
 - b. Terrace Supply – CO2 Liquid Gas, Container Rental
- Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

10. Vehicle Purchase

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the purchase of Parks Department Fleet Vehicles from Currie Motors Ford as follows:

- a. 2026 Ford F150 pickup truck \$39,860.00
- b. 2026 Ford F250 pickup truck \$42,767.00



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- c. 2026 Ford F250 Crew Cab pickup truck \$46,585.00
- d. 2026 Ford F450 Dump truck \$76,359.00
- e. 2026 Ford Transit Van. Insurance covered replacement - \$1,000.00 deductible

Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent Barrett

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Cosley Zoo 2025 Annual Report

Commissioner Mee report stated that this report encompasses everything at Cosley zoo, He thought it was a great report. Commissioner Pecharich said that in the year and 4 months that Bockheim has been here he has followed in former Zoo Director Sue Wahlgren's footsteps very well, Pecharich thanked him and staff for an excellent job.

Department Reports

Commissioner Pecharich attended the values committee Derby Days, and she thought it was well done and recognized that a lot of hard work goes into it. She stated that the Park Board of Commissioners car won the spirit of the Wheaton Park District award. She thanked President Vires for his hard work on building the car.

Commissioner Mee stated that Arrowhead's numbers are great, they are expecting 37 golf outings, and have already hosted two outings, and they have booked 35 weddings. He congratulated the athletics staff who placed second out of 62 teams at the 19th Annual Illinois Park and Recreation Association's Park Pursuit Event.

Mee asked Director of Marketing Wilhelmi how many runners are registered for the Run For The Animals. Wilhelmi stated there are 1,100 registered already, which is increased from last year at this time.



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Executive Director Report Benard thanked staff for their hard work in preparing for the very busy summer season and thanked the board for their continued support. He provided the following information concerning park district operations and services:

- 596 seasonal staff members have been hired for the summer
- 1,036 concert tickets have been sold to date
- In 2025, the Mary Lubko Center served over 17,000 patrons, and is on track to meet or exceed that number in 2026
- Over 20,000 rounds of golf have been played at Arrowhead Golf Course to date
- 4,811 are enrolled in day camps
- 189 played in baseball and softball All-Star games
- 198 teams played in the Wheaton United Soccer Invitational - up 67 teams over last year - approximately 3,000 Participants - 305 games played
- 2,309 are enrolled in athletic camps
- 3,000 are participating in league sports
- 2,856 Parks Plus Fitness Center members
- 4,367 pool passes sold
- 1,384 are signed up for Swim Lessons
- Cosley Zoo has been visited by 27,431 people to date

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:25 Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.