



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 21, 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, Pecharich Vires, Welker were present.

Commissioners Frey and Mee were absent

PRESENTATIONS

Summer Day Camps

Kelly Nielsen- Preschool and Camp Manager stated that We are just two weeks away from the start of camp and only days away from training week, when over 70 camp counselors and directors will gather at the Community Center for a variety of important trainings, including CPR/AED certification, behavioral management training provided by WDSRA, ALICE training with the Wheaton Police Department, along with pool safety training with our aquatics team — and then we'll cap off the week with our 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social!

Nielsen said that the excitement about our camps is higher than ever. When registration opened in Feb., many of our camps filled very quickly. In response, we worked closely with other departments to secure additional space and hired more staff, allowing us to expand Camp No Name to accommodate 148 campers each week, which is a 50% increase from previous years. I'm thrilled to share that we now have over 4,700 children enrolled in our camps for the summer. Last year at this time it was just over 3,400.

Out of the 73-camp staff working this summer, only 17 of them are new hires. Nielsen had 125 new applicants to choose from. So, not only has the word gotten out about how great our camps are for campers but it's also **THE** place to work in Wheaton!

She said another fun piece of information to share is that we will have 20 campers with WDSRA support aides this summer, and 10 of them are new to our camps.

This year, campers will enjoy some new things on the schedule like a performance by the Jessie White Tumblers, a morning of geocaching adventures with Lincoln Marsh, an interactive reptile show, and a BMX bike show by Matt Wilhelm who was a semi-finalist from *America's Got Talent*, just to name a few of the new ones! Of course, we will bring back the favorites like going to a Kane Co Cougars game, visiting Brookfield Zoo and Main Event, and seeing a movie at the movie theater! Nielsen thought it was safe to say that our campers are in for another memorable summer!

Commissioner Pecharich asked Nielsen if CPR training for returning staff is the same for those who are new. Nielsen stated that all counselors are trained every year.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,691,771.57 for the period beginning April 9, 2025, and ending May 13, 2025
- B. Approval of Amended Subcommittee Meeting Schedule for the Wheaton Park District
- C. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025
- D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes April 23, 2025
- E. Approval of Closed Session Minutes 1/10/24, 1/17/24, 2/7/24, 2/21/24, 3/6/24, 3/20/24, 4/3/24, 4/17/24, 6/19/24, 7/10/24, 7/17/24, 8/21/24, 10/23/24, & 11/6/24

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Seconded by Commissioner Vires.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

OATH OF OFFICE / ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS / APPOINTMENTS

1. Swearing in of Park District Commissioners Elect John Kelly, Angela Welker, and Bill Barrett by Judge Paul Fullerton

Judge Paul Fullerton swore in John Kelly, Angela Welker and Bill Barrett as Commissioners for the Wheaton Park District for a four-year term.

2. Motion to Elect John Vires President and Bill Barrett Vice President of the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Welker moved to elect John Vires as President and Bill Barrett Vice President of the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich.

Motion passed by voice vote.

3. Motion to Appoint Michael Benard Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson Treasurer of the Wheaton Park District
Commissioner Kelly moved to appoint Michael Benard as Executive Director / Secretary and Sandra Simpson as Treasurer. Commissioner Pecharich seconded.

Motion passed by voice vote.

4. President to Appoint Foundation Park Board Liaisons and Subcommittee Chairpersons.
President Vires appointed the following Commissioners to the following roles:
- a. Commissioner Pecharich as the Cosley Foundation Board Liaison
 - b. Commissioner Barrett as the DuPage Museum Foundation Board Liaison
 - c. Commissioner Mee as the Sensory Garden and Playground Foundation Board Liaison
 - d. Commissioner Kelly as the Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee Chair
 - e. President Vires as the Finance Subcommittee Chair

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ray Morrill Community Center Entrance Facade Improvement Project**
Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the base bid from LZ Design Group in the amount of \$66,700 plus a 10% contingency. Seconded by Pecharich

Commissioner Pecharich wanted to confirm that there will be cost savings that will put us below \$66,700. Executive Director Benard said that we identified with the low bidder slightly over \$12,000 in deductive change orders that will be brought to the board as a subsequent change order. Commissioner Kelly, this total cost is not just for the signage. When the current lettering is removed it will create the need to replace the facade panels.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

2. **Ray Morrill Community Center Memorial Room Sound System Improvement Project** – Commissioner Welker moved to approve the base bid from Mesa Electronics in the amount of \$56,681.10. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

3. Purchase of 2025 Backhoe Loader

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the purchase of a 2025 Case 580SN Backhoe Loader in the amount of \$130,874 from McCann Industries through the Sourcewell Purchasing Program. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

4. Purchase 2025 Ford F-150

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-150 in the amount of \$39,576 from Currie Motors Ford. Seconded by Commissioner Welker. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

5. Purchase 2025 Ford F230 Crew Cab Dump Trucks (2)

Commissioner Welker moved to approve the purchase of 2 2025 Ford F230 Crew Cab Trucks in the amount of \$143,836 from Morrow Brothers through the State Purchasing Program. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

6. Blanchard Building Parking Lot Replacement Project

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve change order #1 from Abbey Paving for a contract increase of \$15,378. Second, by Commissioner Pecharich. Commissioner Kelly said it is not unusual to run into unsuitable soil, we usually expect to find this in paving projects. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. Cosley Zoo Education Pavilion & Duck Enclosure Project

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve change order #2 and #3 from EP Doyle Construction for a contract increase of \$7,850. Second, by Barrett. Commissioner Kelly reviewed the details of the change order. Motion carried by voice vote.

8. Cosley Zoo Staff and Overflow Parking Area Project

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve change order #3 from EP Doyle Construction for a contract increase of \$4,202.30. Second, by Commissioner Barrett. Commissioner Kelly said that this was for undercuts under retaining wall. The soil didn't meet specifications. Motion carried by voice vote

9. Reimbursement Agreement with Briarcliffe Baseball

Commissioner Welker moved to approve a Reimbursement Agreement with Wheaton Briarcliff Youth Baseball for the construction of a batting cage. Second, by Commissioner Pecharich

Executive Director Benard said that we have a partnership with Briarcliffe Youth Baseball for their use the ballfields fields at Briar Patch Park and Scottsdale Park. Briarcliff Baseball has agreed to reimburse the costs of construction not only for their use but for the public's use as well.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

10. Graf Park, Atten Park, Seven Gables Park & Central Athletic Complex Engineering Studies

Commissioner Welker moved to approve a contract for professional services with Wight Engineering in the amount of \$69,200 for athletic field engineering Second, by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Pecharich asked if we have any idea how much the projects we are studying will cost. Benard stated that the results of the studies will provide project cost estimates as well as feasibility. Commissioner Kelly stated that \$40,000 of the total contract is for engineering for the replacement of the synthetic turf and the new batting cage with the balance being for studying potential future projects. Commissioner Welker asked how many fields we have taken out of use for rest and repair. Benard stated that the soccer fields at the Central Athletic Complex are being rested and repaired this spring

and summer because of over use and lack of irrigation or rain. Commissioner Welker asked Benard how many lit fields we have throughout the park district. Benard stated we have them at Atten Park, Central Athletic Complex and Graf Park.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

11. Toohey Park Improvements Design Services

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve a contract for professional services with Upland Design in the amount of \$13,800 for park design service. Second, by Commissioner Welker. No discussion. Voice Vote

12. Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Statewide Funding Initiative

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a grant application for Prairie Path Park and Seven Gables Park. Second, by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

13. Annual Review of Finance Policies

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the Finance Policies of the Wheaton Park District as Amended. Second, by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

14. Cream of Wheaton Beer Garden

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve purchases from Euclid Beverage in an amount not to exceed \$29,000. Second, by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

Ayes: Barrett, Pecharich Vires, Welker, Kelly

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Frey, Mee

REPORTS FROM STAFF

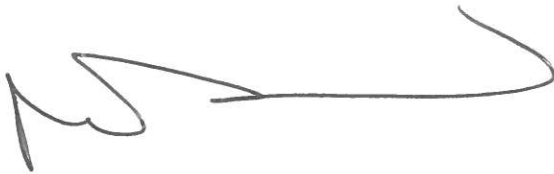
- Executive Director

Executive Director Benard thanked the board for their confidence in him as Executive Director. He was proud of our great programs, facilities, staff and community. He also thanked Commissioner Kelly for two years of leadership and counsel as President. 2023/2024 was challenging. A lot of care and time went into his presidency.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:28 p.m., Commissioner Pecharich moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS' followed by a long horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.