



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 17 , 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 were present.

Commissioner Welker was absent.

PRESENTATIONS – Chad Shingler- Recreation

Chad Shingler Recreation Manager stated that he was speaking on behalf of the Values Committee which is made up of 7 team members from across the park district who work together to plan events that promote the park district core values of Community, Respect, Excellence, Adventure, Teamwork and Equity.

By encouraging adventure and teamwork at various staff events, recognizing excellence and achievements at the summer seasonal staff awards, and promoting equitable access to recreation with summer playdays at Marian Park, the committee has strengthened both the employee experience and the district's impact on the community.

This year the committee hosted the annual all staff district derby at Arrowhead. They have hosted one Marian Park playday with games and activities for about 25 kids with two more days scheduled later this summer. They will be hosting the summer seasonal staff awards on August 5th at Memorial Park.

Recreation Department 2025 Annual Report

Comments from Commissioner Mee:

He stated he appreciated the Year in Review section. He was impressed that the 2025 program net position exceeds the four prior years. He stated the special event page was well done and acknowledged that he enjoyed attending some of the events. Excellent staff report.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$1,951,270.40 for the period beginning May 13, 2026 and ending June 9, 2026
- B. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes May 6, 2026
- C. Approval of Workshop Minutes May 14, 2026
- D. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes May 20, 2026
- E. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes June 3, 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, Vires

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Commissioner Frey moved to accept the 2025 Wheaton Park District Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Second by Commissioner Barrett.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

Commissioner Mee acknowledged that the report was reviewed in detail during the previous subcommittee meeting.

President Vires congratulated the park district on receiving the excellence in financial reporting award and asked how many years the district has received this award.

Executive Director Benard responded that it has been 38 consecutive years.

2. Arrowhead Golf Course Chemicals

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the purchase of turfgrass chemicals including Interface, Mirage, Exteris, and Durentis, from Advanced Turf Solutions in the amount of \$22,050.14 Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

3. Safety Policy, Procedures & Crisis Management Plan

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the Safety Policy, Procedures & Crisis Management Plan as amended. Second by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

4. Northside Park Sediment Basin Dredging

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve change order #1 with Earthwerks in the amount of \$200,000 and further move that the Board of Commissioners has determined that the change order and additional expense is in the best interest of the Wheaton Park District. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

Commissioner Kelly explained that the additional dredging depth was made possible through a grant from the state of Illinois extending the time until the next dredging cycle from 15 to 22 years.

5. National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference & Exposition –

Commissioner Frey moved to approve attendance for one Commissioner at the National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference and Exposition: Sept. 29 - Oct 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA at a cost not to exceed \$3,200. Second by Commissioner Kelly. No discussion. Motion passed by voice vote

6. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a Lease and Installation Agreement structured as an annual subscription totaling approximately \$52,905.60, billed monthly, with a 3% annual escalation with Top Tracer. Second by Commissioner Pecharich.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

Commissioner Frey asked Executive Director Benard to explain this part of the project. Benard stated that the driving range renovation project includes covering the driving range tees with heated bays and technology for interactive golf activities similar to the Top Golf experience. Benard stated that we are leasing for 5 years at the monthly rate plus the escalator.

7. City of Wheaton

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve a Permanent Easement Agreement with the City of Wheaton for the Prairie and Gary Avenue Sidewalk Second by Commissioner Kelly. Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

Commissioner Kelly asked if this was the sidewalk on the west side of Gary. Executive Director Benard replied yes, the easement needed to grow in width to accommodate the new intersection configuration.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Executive Director Benard stated that the district had four outstanding days of community engagement and entertainment during the Cream of Wheaton. Benard acknowledged that it takes the entire district, as well as our partners at the Chamber of Commerce and support from the Wheaton Police Department, to put on this event, which is enjoyed by thousands of residents.

Executive Director Benard stated that the Athletic and Parks Departments hosted the Red, White, and Blue Baseball Tournament last weekend, except for a full rainout on Sunday. The Red, White, & Blue Softball Tournament is scheduled for the weekend of June 25 and will bring in teams from many surrounding communities.

Commissioner Mee stated that Arrowhead through the end of May and the May golf rounds have exceeded the last five (5) years.

Commissioner Mee acknowledged that the Wheaton United Soccer tournament had 198 teams, compared to 129 teams in 2025 and brought in nearly \$122,000 in registration fees. 305 games and 3,000 participants. Kudos to staff.

Commissioner Mee stated that pool pass sales look good and that Mother Nature was helpful for the good opening weekend.

Commissioner Mee thanked Director Kimbrough for all the ongoing Parks Department work.

Commissioner Mee told Director Wilhelmi to keep doing great work in the Marketing Department and acknowledged the addition of Assistant Director Medina to the department.

Commissioner Mee thanked the staff, City of Wheaton, volunteers, Police Department, sponsors, and CERT team for a successful Cream of Wheaton.

Commissioner Mee acknowledged that Cosley Zoo attendance numbers were up in May.

Commissioner Pecharich stated that the Cream of Wheaton was excellent and acknowledged the team effort.

Commissioner Pecharich mentioned that she recently participated in a golf outing at Arrowhead Golf Club and stated that the grounds looked great and that the service was impeccable.

Commissioner Frey asked about the status of the Perry Weather lightning detection system installation. Executive Director Benard stated that installation is nearly complete and, after an advance promotional and public educational campaign is completed, the full system will be activated. Commissioner Kelly inquired as to which units are up. Director Kimbrough stated that Atten is the last one to be installed, which will be completed by Thursday June 18. Director Wilhelmi confirmed that public education and related communications are scheduled for next week.

President Vires Stated that the Cream of Wheaton entertainment was terrific. He is looking forward to the Memorial Park Concert series which kickoffs the weekend of June 26.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:19 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn to closed session under Pending, probable or imminent litigation, 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (11)

Commissioner Pecharich seconded.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

