



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 16, 2025 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 Barrett, Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich and Welker were present.

PRESENTATIONS

Cody Nelson Athletic Superintendent reported to the board the following information on Fall Athletic Programs.

- **Football**
 - **Rams Tackle Football**
 - Wheaton Bowl is on Sunday, August 24th with roughly 80+ teams participating in a jamboree style set of games at Graf Park and WWSHS.
 - Rams tackle regular season officially kicks off with our first home games the weekend of August 30th with 355 registered. In 2021 there were 192 participants, meaning tackle participation is up 85% in 4 years.
 - **Rams Flag Football**
 - Evaluations are scheduled for the week of July 21st with the league kicking off games on Saturday, August 16th. There are currently over 275 participants signed up for flag football this season.
- **Cheer**
 - **Sideline Cheer**
 - This BRAND-NEW program is perfect for those who want to experience cheerleading in a fun and supportive environment with friends. Athletes will practice once a week, learning sideline cheer, jumps and stunting techniques as well as cheer at all Rams home football games which has 91 participants.
 - **Competitive Cheer**
 - Practices kicked off in May with 193 participants for this fall season. Last season our teams brought home 2 state championships, 1 2nd place finish, and 3 3rd place finishes.
- **Basketball**
 - **Travel/Feeder**
 - Tryouts are scheduled for August 17th and 24th at WNHS and WWSHS with over 200+ participants currently registered.
- **Pickleball**
 - Leagues have been strong all summer and will run through the fall season. 7 more leagues will begin next week with 92 total participants.

Athletics 2024 Annual Report:

Commissioner Pecharich asked how long we have had travel basketball. Nelson said 28 years. Commissioner Mee said staff did a nice job on the annual report. He was impressed with the 18,000 participants in various programs; he liked that the Athletics Department recognized the Parks Department in their report. Mee also thought the Marketing Staff helped a lot too and thanked them. He acknowledged the 2,000 volunteers in the form of coaches and leadership positions and thanked them for their service.

Commissioner Welker stated that her family participates heavily in athletic programs and in the last 2-3 years she has seen a lot of improvement, she told staff to keep up the great work.

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$2,064,350.31 for the period beginning June 11, 2025, and ending July 8, 2025
- B. Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes June 4, 2025
- C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes June 18, 2025

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda except for item B.
Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **Americans With Disabilities Act Access Audit and Transition Plan**

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the Assignment of Contract from WT Group to W-T Group AEC, LLC. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Executive Director Benard said this was a housekeeping item. This was brought to the board because this company changed their name.

Motion carried by Voice Vote

2. Purchase of Basketball League Uniforms

Commissioner Welker moved to approve the following bids from Kalci Soccer LLC for 2025 Youth Basketball League Uniforms:

- Travel Basketball Adult and Youth Sizes - \$20.00 per Uniform
- In-House Basketball Adult and Youth Sizes - \$10.50 per Uniform

Seconded by Commissioner Frey. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

3. Community Center Memorial Room Stage Drape Replacement

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the proposal from Allstar Drapery for a total of \$24,250. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Kelly asked if staff compared material. The Director of Parks & Planning Sperl said yes they did and they are satisfied.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

4. Cosley Zoo Education Pavilion & Duck Enclosure Project

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Change Orders #6 and #7 resulting in a contract increase of \$4,566 with E.P. Doyle Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

President Vires asked if we are we keeping the name Taylor Barn. Benard stated that it will be renamed the Hale Family Pavilion & Duck Enclosure. The Hale family donated to the barn.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

5. Cosley Zoo Staff and Overflow Parking Area Project

Commissioner Frey moved to approve Change Orders #4 and #6 resulting in a contract increase of \$10,232.40 with E.P. Doyle Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

6. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Renovation Concept Design

Commissioner Frey moved to approve the proposal for \$23,500 from FGMA for Arrowhead Golf Club driving range renovation concept design services. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. Commissioner Mee would like to see other driving ranges if staff tour them. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

7. Prairie Path Park Playground Equipment Purchase

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the purchase of playground equipment from GameTime in the amount of \$82,183.08 Seconded by Commissioner Barrett. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

8. Seven Gables Park Fitness Equipment Purchase

Commissioner Welker moved to approve the purchase of fitness equipment from GameTime in the amount not to exceed \$48,437.16 Seconded by Commissioner Frey.

Commissioner Mee asked if staff does the installation. Director of Parks & Planning Sperl said yes, we will but he is not sure lead time on equipment so he couldn't be sure if it will be this year.

Commissioner Kelly asked if we have a pay up front. He asked staff to make sure it doesn't violate any of our policies.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

9. Briar Patch Park Adult Fitness Area Safety Surface

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the proposal from Perfect Turf for the Briar Patch Park Adult Fitness Area Safety Surface in the amount of \$23,345.00 plus a 10% contingency. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

10. Pickleball Shade Structure Projects - Briar Patch Park, Central Park, & Northside Park

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the purchase of Parkreation shade structures for a total amount of \$22,808.00 Seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Mee asked if staff is putting this in. Sperl said yes.

Motion carried by Voice Vote, all aye except for Commissioner Welker who was opposed.

11. Northside Pool Pump Replacement

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve of the purchase of a replacement pump for Northside Pool from Layne Christensen in the amount of \$18,289. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich.

Executive Director Benard stated that at the beginning of pool season the pump had to be replaced at Northside Pool. This was replaced on an emergency basis due to the pools being open. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

12. Playground Surface Repairs

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the purchase of materials from Parity Inc. in the amount of \$18,700.00 for repairs at Atten and Seven Gables Parks. Seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Frey asked if we are putting the same material. Sperl said we are. Motion carried by Voice Vote.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Farewell Recognition for Director of Parks & Planning, Rob Sperl

Executive Director Mike Benard announced that this meeting marked the final Board meeting for Director of Parks & Planning Rob Sperl, who is concluding a distinguished 27-year career with the Wheaton Park District. Over the past decade, Sperl has led the Parks Department, overseeing the maintenance and improvement of all district facilities and grounds.

Sperl will be transitioning to a new role as Director of IDOT Projects for the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois. Executive Director Benard expressed his pride in Sperl's accomplishments and leadership. Over the years, Sperl has managed millions of dollars in capital projects and improvements, including:

- Arrowhead Maintenance Building
- Park Services Center
- Northside Park Renovation
- Clocktower Commons Renovation
- Memorial Park Bandshell and Park
- Ice Rinks at the Central Athletic Complex

Sperl managed \$4 million annually within the district's budget and played a key role in shaping the district's infrastructure and community spaces. His last day will be August 8th.

Benard congratulated Sperl and thanked him for his dedicated service and significant contributions to the district.

In his remarks, Sperl expressed gratitude to the Board and staff for their support throughout his career. He acknowledged former Director of Parks & Planning Ken Kutska for giving him the opportunity to join the district and praised the team he worked with, stating he couldn't have asked for a better group. His farewell was met with a standing ovation from both the Board and staff.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pecharich expressed her appreciation to staff and volunteers for their hard work on the Fourth of July events. She praised the fireworks and parade, stating it was the best fireworks display she had ever seen and that the district's float was outstanding. She extended thanks to the first responders who support the district's events, ensuring safety and smooth operations.

Commissioner Pecharich also highlighted the success of the Memorial Park concerts, noting their growing reputation and that people as far away as Orland Park hear about them. She commended the *Cosley Zoo Uncorked* event, calling it "fantastic" and noting how remarkable it was to see such a large turnout for the wine tasting.

Commissioner Mee echoed Pecharich's praise for the July 3rd and 4th celebrations, describing them as fantastic and the best fireworks and drone show he's ever seen. Feedback he has also received from many residents.

Mee also commended the Park District's soccer program, noting a significant increase in in-house participant numbers. He congratulated the 2010 (U15) Academy Red Girls Soccer Team on winning the Midwest President's Cup Championship and earning fourth place at the national championship. He also recognized the U8 and U12 Wolverine Lacrosse teams for securing state championship titles.

In closing, Commissioner Mee thanked Rudy Keller and his volunteers for their work on the *Field of Honor*, recognizing its impact and importance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:30 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kelly seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mee', written over the text of the adjournment.