



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday August 19, 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. Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, & Welker were present.

Commissioner Barrett was absent

PRESENTATIONS

None

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$2,957,721.46 for the period beginning July 8, and ending August 11, 2026
- B. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes July 1, 2026
- C. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes July 15, 2026
- D. Approval of Subcommittee Minutes August 5, 2026

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cream of Wheaton Payment to the City of Wheaton

Commissioner Frey moved to approve payment to the City of Wheaton for special event support services for the Cream of Wheaton not to exceed \$40,402.32. Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

2. Personnel Policy Manual

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve the Amended Personnel Policy Manual for the Wheaton Park District Dated August 2026. 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

3. Approval of Payment exceeding \$19,999.99

Commissioner Mee moved to approve payment to Varsity Spirit Fashions & Supplies LLC in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. 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

4. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Improvement Project

Commissioner Frey moved to approve the base bid and alternates 1 & 3 in the amount of \$2,619,935 from EP Doyle along with a contingency of 10% for \$261,993.50. Second by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Mee asked whether the project was moving forward according to the established timeline. Executive Director Benard confirmed that it was. Mee then asked how staff planned to address the few outings that would be impacted. Benard stated that staff had been in contact with the affected groups and notified them that the driving range would not be available.

Commissioner Frey asked whether signs would be placed on the course to indicate the re-routing. Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak confirmed that signs would be posted.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

5. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Improvement Project

Commissioner Kelly moved to approve a contract with Geocon in an amount not to exceed \$33,717 for material testing. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Kelly said we are completing compliance testing with this contract.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

6. Resolution 2026-03

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Resolution 2026-03 approving certain amendments to the Wheaton Park District parks, facilities, trails and open space naming policy. Second by Commissioner Frey.

Commissioner Pecharich asked for a summary. Benard reported that the policy amendment would allow the Executive Director to authorize naming opportunities for Cosley Zoo exhibits and amenities as outlined in the addenda while leaving the naming of Parks and Facilities to the discretion of the Park Board through the established procedures.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

7. Toohey Park Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Frey moved to approve the updated comprehensive plan for Toohey Park. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Kelly asked whether this plan was being developed to apply for a grant. Benard confirmed that it was.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

8. Resolution 2026-04

Commissioner Mee moved to approve Resolution 2026-04 authorizing the submission of an application for the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant program. Second by Commissioner Kelly.

Commissioner Mee asked when staff expected to hear back regarding the grant. Benard stated that the application was due August 31, and ideally, a decision would be received between then and the end of the year. Benard also noted that this is the second attempt to secure a grant for Toohey Park.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

9. Infield Renovations

Commissioner Kelly moved to accept the proposal from Waupaca Sand & Solutions as the sole source provider of Quick Pitch for \$164,272.00 for 1,600 tons of additional material. Second by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Frey asked how the quick pitch held up with all the bad weather. Director of Parks & Planning Kimbrough said it was performing as expected and the results were positive.

Commissioner Kelly asked about project completion timing.

Executive Director Benard stated that the purchase would allow staff to complete the two fields at Atten Park and three fields at Central Athletic Complex. The five fields are scheduled to be completed this fall. The three fields at the Central Athletic Complex could be pushed to Spring 2027 pending permit review timing by the City of Wheaton.

Commissioner Welker asked whether the work would impact the use of the soccer fields at the Central Athletic Complex. Benard confirmed that it would not.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

10. Cosley Zoo

Commissioner Kelly moved to accept a programming, concept development & cost estimating services proposal from Featherstone Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$33,150. Second by Commissioner Mee. No discussion

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

11. Ordinance 2026-06

Update to Wheaton Park District General Use Ordinance for the Regulation of District Property

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Ordinance 2026-06. Second by Commissioner Kelly.

Executive Director Benard provided a summary of the updates and background:

The state of Illinois has legislation pending and the City of Wheaton recently adopted rules related to the operation of motorized e-bikes and micro mobility devices in public places.

The increased number of people operating motorized e-bikes and other micro mobility devices in public places in an unsafe manner has caused community concern. Many of those operating these devices are minors without driver's licenses and therefore no practical training on safe operation or the rules of the road.

The police are responding with enforcement action and public engagement.

A review of current ordinance language and a discussion concerning the topic of e-bike usage in the parks took place at the August 5, 2026 Board Subcommittee meeting. The Park Board achieved consensus that the General Use Ordinance of the Wheaton Park District shall be amended to include the prohibition of the operation of e-bikes and micro mobility devices in the parks which will authorize Wheaton Police to enforce the same.

A public information campaign is being developed jointly by the City, Park District and School District for execution on the subject of ebike safety and related city and park regulations.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Barrett

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Benard acknowledged and commended the entire park district team regarding their actions during and after the recent tornado and subsequent storms. Cleanup continues.

Commissioner Mee thanked the parks and planning crew with the cleanup of the storms. Mee stated that the Ray Morrill Community Center renovations are looking good. He gave the Arrowhead staff kudos for all their hard work this summer in the Food and Beverage Department and with the golf outings that occurred over the summer. Mee recognized that Rams football is offering girls 7 on 7 football, and that we are seeing increased participation this year. He acknowledged another successful year for pool pass and Parks Plus Fitness Center sales over last year. He thought the Memorial Park concerts were well done and well attended. Cosley Classic went well, good participation.

Commissioner Kelly provided an update on the progress of the renovation project at the Ray Morrill Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:26 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Frey Motion passed by voice vote.

