



Wheaton Park District

Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Wednesday September 24, 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 were present.

Commissioner Welker was absent

PRESENTATIONS

Lincoln Marsh Program Manager, Terra Johnson, gave a presentation on upcoming Recreation Department Programs & Events.

Johnson stated she was at the meeting representing the Recreation department to give the board a sneak peek at our fall lineup of programs and events.

Coming up is our annual **Halloween Happening**

- Friday, October 10 5:30-7:30P @ Ray Morrill Community Center
- We expect approximately 1,000 guests to attend and participate in games, activities and crafts, there will be a bounce house, food truck, touch a truck with over 15 trucks to visit and our, candyland trick or treat trail.
- We are able to host this event thanks to our park district staff who volunteer and approx. 60 volunteers from local high schools.

Songs of Vietnam will be hosted for free at the DuPage County Historical Museum

- 10/16 7-8P in the Museum Auditorium
- The History Singers will discuss music in support of, and in opposition to, the Vietnam War. This music was heard on the radio, at protest rallies, and in Vietnam where American soldiers accessed music as their own version of protest.

Lincoln Marsh is hosting a “not so spooky” **Spooky Geocache Hunt**

- 10/24 & 10/25
- Unique opportunity for families to explore Lincoln Marsh in the evening and hunt for pumpkins using GPS units

On Wednesday, November 5th from 5:30-7:30 at the Ray Morrill Community Center staff will be hosting a **Boys Night Out with Mom**

- This is a fun night out for boys ages 4-11 and their moms or other special lady in their life with pizza & reptile show.

On November 12 we host **Pages & Palettes: A Family Art Show and Children’s Book fair** at the Ray Morrill Community Center from 5:30-7P.

- The whole family can browse artwork created by Park District participants, purchase children's books and listen to singers from our performing arts program.

The Children's Playhouse present: **Disney's Lion King Jr.** this year the weekend of November 20-23rd at the Ray Morrill Community Center.

- This family-friendly performance celebrates the circle of life in the timeless story of courage, friendship and destiny.
- The production features 62 cast members and 2 backstage crew
- With approximately 1,200 tickets sold over 4 the performances it's a production you won't want to miss.

As the fall season wraps up, we shift into holiday mode with the Mary Lubko Center hosting several holiday events at the Ray Morrill Community Center for all ages.

The **Silvertones Chorus** will present It Feels like Christmas on December 6th at 2P and **Beyond Glee** will present Reflections of Christmas on December 7th at 3P.

- Over 500 patrons will enjoy the 50 singers that participate on those choirs. And last but not least, the **Holiday Gala** for those 18 and over at the Mary Lubko Center will be on December 11th from 12-2P.

- The event includes lunch and performance featuring Christmas Classics for 65 guests.

Commissioner Mee asked how many events are new, Johnson stated that there is a new production of the Lion King, but the others are older.

Commissioner Pecharich asked if other park districts provide these types of programs, Johnson stated that she believes many are unique to Wheaton. Executive Director Benard said that DuPage County is fortunate to have so many strong park districts that add to the residents' quality of life.

COMMUNITY INPUT

John Patterson 1849 Cherry Street, Wheaton, IL

Patterson was concerned with the changes to the Board General Practices Manual that limited public comment time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$2,368,746.69 for the period beginning July 9, 2025, and ending August 12, 2025
- Approval of the Disbursements totaling \$2,252,230.51 for the period beginning August 12, 2025, and ending September 9, 2025
- Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes July 2, 2025
- Approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes July 2, 2025
- Approval of Subcommittee Meeting Minutes September 3, 2025
- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 2025
- Approval of Amendments to the Board Meeting Schedule of the Wheaton Park District

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
Seconded by Commissioner Frey. 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. Cream of Wheaton Payment to the City of Wheaton-

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve payment to the City of Wheaton for special event support services for the Cream of Wheaton not to exceed \$33,658.58.
Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Mee expressed gratitude for the support the park district receives from the City of Wheaton. President Vires noted that this payment is higher than last years. Benard stated that the fees for police services fluctuate depending on the rank of the officers that accept the extraordinary service assignments related to the Cream of Wheaton. The 2025 fees are also higher than the 2024 fees due to a rain out day in 2024.

Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, Vires
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Welker

2. Wheaton Park District Policy Review and Update

Commissioner Mee moved to Approve Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners General Practices & Policies. Seconded by Commissioner Frey.

Commissioner Kelly stated that he does not think the proposed changes are necessary. The Park Board President has the discretion to extend public comment time, if he/she deems it appropriate. President Vires stated that staff reviewed public comment times for other local government entities and that the proposed changes are in line with them. Vires suggested we add a statement to the policy that clarifies that the board president can increase public comment time at their discretion.

Commissioners Mee and Frey agreed to amend their motion and second to reflect the addition suggested by President Vires.

Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, Vires
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Welker

3. DuPage County Historical Museum Grant Funded Building Improvement Projects

Commissioner Frey moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of DuPage Illinois and the Wheaton Park District for DuPage County Historical Museum Doorways Project. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Benard thanked DuPage County Board Member Grant Eckoff for this grant.

Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, Vires
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Welker

4. Cosley Zoo Staff and Overflow Parking Area Construction Project

Commissioner Pecharich moved to approve Change Order #7 & #9 resulting in a contract increase of \$10,044.02 with E.P. Doyle Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Mee. No discussion.

Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Cosley Zoo Education Pavilion & Duck Enclosure Project

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve Change Orders #8 & #9 resulting in a contract increase of \$3,363 with E.P. Doyle Construction. Seconded by Commissioner Frey

Commissioner Kelly said this is for undercuts, unsuitable soil. No further discussion.
Motion passed by voice vote.

6. Briar Patch Park Batting Cage Project

Commissioner Mee moved to reject bids and allow staff to rebid. Seconded by Commissioner Pecharich

Commissioner Kelly asked who was paying for this. Benard said Briarcliffe Baseball is paying 100%. The public will be allowed to use this as well as Briarcliffe.

Motion passed by roll call vote.
Ayes: Barrett, Frey, Kelly, Mee, Pecharich, Vires
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Welker

7. Arrowhead Golf Club Parking Lot Replacement Project Phase 1

Commissioner Barrett moved to approve the base bid and alternate bid from Chicagoland in the total amount of \$211,000 along with a 10% contingency of \$21,100. Seconded by Commissioner Mee.

Commissioner Kelly requested the details related to the cart path replacement portion of this project. He also verified that the replacement of Arrowhead's parking lot will take place over four years.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

8. Northside Park Lagoon Settling Basin Engineering –

Commissioner Mee moved to approve the proposal from Burke LLC in the amount not to exceed \$38,000 for the engineering and permitting related to Northside Park Pond Dredging. Seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Mee asked when the last time was that the settling basin was dredged. Benard stated that the settling basin was created 12 years ago.

Motion passed by roll call vote.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Welker

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Benard Reported:

- Overflow Parking Area: Work will conclude mid-October.
- Hale Family Pavilion: Most punch list items will be completed next week, with a few remaining due to material delays. Commissioner Pecharich asked about the Hale Family Pavilion usage. Benard responded that the pavilion will be used primarily during the daytime, with occasional special events. Several events are already scheduled in October and November.

Commissioner Pecharich Comments:

- Golf: Arrowhead had the highest number of rounds in 20 years.
- Soccer: Noted an increase in in-house and travel participation. With growing numbers, there's a concern about having enough practice spaces.
 - Director of Athletics Lewandowski has been creative using school facilities.
 - The number of Wheaton United teams will not increase.

Commissioner Mee Comments:

- Arrowhead golf course has received numerous accolades.
- Positive feedback on banquets and restaurant operations.
- Pools showed an increase in both attendance and revenue in 2025.
- Summer concert series saw strong attendance.
- Kudos to staff, police, and CERT for excellent execution. Benard added congratulations to Director of Marketing Wilhelmi and the parks staff for their outstanding work.

Commissioner Kelly Comments:

- The 2023 zoo annual report retail revenue figure appears to be a typo. Requested correction before website publication.
- Cosley Zoo Christmas Tree Sales: Down last year. He asked what happened to the surplus trees. Director of Cosley Zoo Bockheim said the Surplus trees are sometimes used in animal exhibits but are usually mulched.

Commissioner Pecharich:

- Commented that she was impressed with the zoo annual report.

BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS / DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:35 p.m., Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barrett seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mee', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.