



# Wheaton Park District

## Minutes

### Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners SUBCOMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday March 4, 2026,

DuPage County Historical  
Museum

102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL 60187

5:00 pm

### CALL TO ORDER

President Vires called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., Commissioner Barrett, Commissioner Mee, Commissioner Pecharich, and Commissioner Welker were present.

Commissioners Frey and Kelly were absent.

Staff Present included: Executive Director Benard, Executive Assistant Siciliano, Director of Parks and Planning Kimbrough, Director of Marketing Wilhelmi, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak, Director of Athletics Lewandowski, Superintendent of Recreation Martinson, and Assistant Director of Parks and Planning Pickett.

Guests: Dan Nichols- FGMA

### COMMUNITY INPUT

None

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Buildings and Grounds

- 1. Graf Park Synthetic Turf Replacement Project** – Review of Joint Purchasing Program Pricing

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Benard stated that Sourcewell completed the bidding process on behalf of the district. The pre-bid item was included in the budget. Final pricing came in close to the estimate provided by Sourcewell earlier in the year. Sourcewell serves as a purchasing consortium that conducts competitive bidding for participating entities.

Commissioner Pecharich asked why the items were not shown as a total budget amount if they use the same account number. It was explained that the items appear separately because they were bid separately. Benard noted the explanation will be presented more clearly in the future.

Commissioner Welker asked whether the project would change the footprint of the soccer fields. Benard confirmed there will be no changes to the existing soccer/football field footprint.

## **2. Graf Park Batting Cage, Bleachers and Track Improvement Project – Review of Bid Results**

Benard stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary, and this is under the budget amount. Staff is timing construction around the programming schedule and fireworks. No further discussion.

## **3. Seven Gables & Atten Parks Backsop Painting Project – Review of Bid Results**

Benard noted prior experience working with Muskat and expressed satisfaction with their past performance.

Commissioner Pecharich asked why we received only 5 responses out of 45 outreach attempts.

Superintendent of Planning Hinchee indicated that the district maintains a substantial list of painting contractors that were invited to bid.

## **4. Atten Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts Color Coating Project – Review of Bid Results**

Benard noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary with his bid, there was a small number of bidders. Benard stated that there is a small number of contractors who do this work.

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**5. Contractual Mowing Services – Review of Contract renewal**

Benard stated that the parks south of Butterfield Road will continue to be handled by a contractor. Siebert has been performing the work and has done a good job to date.

Staff will follow up and conduct inspections to ensure the work is completed properly and meets expected standards.

**6. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project – Review of Bid Results**

Benard stated that the bid results from the pre-fabricated portion of the project were received in advance of the rest of the project to manage the long lead time on fabrication. This contract will be assigned to the general contractor selected at a later date

President Vires stated that the pricing appears to be reasonable related to the budget and construction estimate.

Benard stated that staff researched projects with a similar number of bays and comparable setup to evaluate pricing. It was noted that New Lenox paid approximately the same amount in 2023 for a similar project.

**7. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project – Review of Additional Services Proposal from FGMA Architects**

Benard stated that several items were intentionally left out of the initial concept and cost contract with FGMA. It was noted that it is typical practice to address these types of items later and incorporate them through an update to the existing contract.

Commissioner Mee asked whether this would cover the alternate related to the chipping area. Benard confirmed that the alternate is included in the updated contract scope.

**8. Natural Areas Maintenance Services – Review of Proposals from Bedrock Earthscapes**

Items are being added to the scope of the current contract which is up for year two approval of a three year term. The reason for adding scope is to complete work that was previously completed by our conservation manager. That position is vacant and will not be filled in 2026 or 2027. Contract modifications reflect the shift in responsibilities from staff to contractors. Renewal will include the updated scope to ensure continuity an improvement of required work.

**9. Burglar Alarm Monitoring and Maintenance Services – Review of Quotes**

Benard stated that staff is satisfied with ADS, and that this is a contract renewal.

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## **10. Portable Irrigation Equipment Purchase – Review of Quotes**

Benard stated that as part of turf management and improvement program, we are proposing to add three additional water wheels/cannons, which would bring our total to five.

Commissioner Pecharich asked if we are planning to install irrigation in the future, should we delay this purchase. Benard said that the decision to install irrigation is far enough off that making these purchases now is critical. If we end up not needing one or more of the additional pieces of equipment in the future, we can always sell it. Director of Parks & Planning Kimbrough also mentioned that the additional water cannons would be needed on non-irrigated practice fields. The board was agreed.

## **11. Turf Management Supplies Purchase – Review of Quotes**

Benard stated that staff are planning to implement a more robust seeding and fertilizing program for the athletic fields, similar to how we handle bulk approvals for the golf course. There is \$150,000 allocated in the budget for athletic fields. With the board's approval, Benard would like to move forward with ordering the necessary materials now so we can stay ahead of the spring season and avoid any delays.

Kimbrough noted that this order would be for the spring season only. We will evaluate how the program performs before making any decisions about additional orders for the summer and fall. The board was agreed.

## **12. Rice Pool and Waterpark Renovation – Review of Concept Design and Cost Proposals**

Benard said he would like more time to review the proposals and provide a recommendation at the regular meeting. Benard added that by July, if the board is to have the appropriate information at their disposal to determine whether or not to place a pool related referendum question on the ballot, they will need concept drawings and cost construction cost estimates. President Vires asked if this would lock the board into a specific design. Benard said no, explaining that the concepts are to help determine what the board might want to present to the public. Pecharich questioned whether the district would be paying an architect to prepare concepts before knowing if a referendum will even happen. Benard replied that the board will first need to decide whether they want to pursue a referendum, and to make that decision they need concept information and more detailed cost estimates for renovation or replacement of the facility. Commissioner Mee stated that the board needs the financial numbers to decide whether moving forward with a referendum is appropriate. Commissioner Welker asked whether the concept work would be completed in time for polling. Benard said that polling will begin earlier and involve gross dollar amounts and a distinction between renovation and a new facility as opposed to full concept drafts.

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### **13. Kelly / Edison Park – Review of Construction Easement Agreement with CUSD 200**

Benard stated that the school district passed a referendum in 2024, which includes plans for construction at Edison Middle School that will require the use of adjacent park land owned by the park district. Because the school district property lines are tight against the school building, the district has requested to use a portion of park district land for construction staging and parking for approximately one year.

Staff have been working with the athletics department regarding the potential use of the land and how it may affect park and athletic operations.

Planning staff also provided specifications for the restoration of the areas that will be impacted by the construction staging. The school district will be committing to the restoration as part of the easement agreement.

It was noted that the planned enlargement of the school gymnasium would also benefit the park district, as it would provide improved facilities and opportunities for shared or community use.

### **14. Memorial Park Sound & Light – Review of quotes**

Pecharich asked if there had been any consideration given to purchasing equipment rather than continuing to rent it. Benard responded that the district does not have a sound and lighting professional on staff and believes continuing to rent the equipment is the better option at this time.

## **Finance and Administration**

### **1. Ordinance 2026-02 – Review of an Ordinance Approving the Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District.**

Benard said this is a housekeeping item. The items will be auctioned off or disposed of.

### **2. General Obligation Limited Park Bonds Series 2025 – Review of Post Issuance Compliance Report**

This is a housekeeping item, anytime we issue debt, it is a vigorous process for transparency. We are required that the board review this document in a public forum.

### **3. Independent Contractor Services for Recreation and Athletic Programming – Review of Vendors and Cost Estimates Exceeding \$19,999 in 2026**

Benard said that this action maintains compliance with our finance policy. Benard said that program fees pay the costs for these vendors.

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**4. Communications Consulting Services – Review of Proposal from Public Communications Inc.**

Benard presented a proposal from the firm that previously completed the Cosley Zoo strategic plan. He stated that the firm is well regarded in municipal and park district communities. Benard explained that if the district moves toward pursuing a referendum, communication consulting assistance will be needed. The proposal includes a not-to-exceed amount for services.

Pecharich asked if it was necessary to engage the firm at this time. Benard responded that he would prefer to engage a firm now to avoid losing them to another agency. If it is determined that a referendum will not occur, we can suspend work on the contract.

**5. Survey Consulting Services – Review of Proposal from AQuity Inc.**

Benard said that the board will approve the final instrument before it is released. With the boards approval, we will ask questions around 4 topics. Rice Pool will have a two-pronged approach, renovation vs a new facility. It could also include a field house, irrigation and bathrooms.

**OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED**

Discussion was held regarding the Xerox equipment replacement. Eight out of ten devices will be replaced. Benard noted that a proposal will be on the regular March meeting agenda reflecting a slight price difference over what was reviewed in February but still resulting in significant savings compared to the 2015 lease.

Pecharich asked when the traffic light by Cosley would be operational. Hinchee responded that work is scheduled to begin this week, with utilities identified as the source of the delay.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:42 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Barrett Motion carried by voice vote.

Handwritten signature and date: 3/18/12

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