



# Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners  
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
Wednesday April 8, 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 Frey, Commissioner Mee Commission Pecharich, and were present.

Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Welker were absent

Staff Present included: Executive Assistant Siciliano, Director of Parks and Planning Kimbrough, Assistant Director of Parks & Planning Pickett Director of Marketing Wilhelmi, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak, Director of Recreation Beyer, Director of Finance Simpson, Assistant Director of Finance Meger

Executive Director Benard, was absent

Guests: Dan Nicholas and Zach Kile- FGMA

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

None

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **PRESENTATION**

- **Arrowhead Driving Range Project** - Dan Nicholas, Principal FGMA – Progress report on design development

Dan Nicholas stated that the project is ready to move into design development. The “Cover the Tees” contract has been awarded.

---

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)

He noted that a revised budget was received from EP Doyle that morning, showing the portion of the project that is about to be bid (everything except the “Cover the Tees” structure) is approximately \$200,000 over budget. This estimate still includes a reduction from 10% to 7.5% design contingency.

Nicholas explained that the team has begun breaking the project into components, especially since some work may be handled with in-house resources. At this stage, they are focusing specifically on the construction portion. Doyle has indicated comfort with the overall schedule and suggested that construction could potentially begin in September instead of October. Staff are currently evaluating what a September start would look like, though no decisions have been made.

Staff added that the three-year average for the driving range during the month of September generates approximately \$30,000 in revenue. Arrowhead currently has 8 golf outings booked for September 2026. While starting earlier could impact operations, the team is exploring alternatives that can take place, like temporary hitting bays to avoid any weather-related issues if the schedule is accelerated.

Commissioner Pecharich asked whether any work could begin in the area while still allowing the driving range to remain open during outings. Nicholas responded that this would not be possible, as the area must be fully demolished before construction begins.

Nicholas clarified that this area includes the short game practice area. The alternate design will require approximately 3,000 cubic yards of material and will be issued as a separate bid package alternate. A decision on this alternate component will need to be made with the construction bid as well.

During the design development phase, several additions were made, including a second studio bay, larger entrance area for traffic flow in conjunction with the concession area, washrooms, and a ball wash/storage area, increasing the total square footage. There is also a proposal to add lighting to the short game area—not for nighttime play, but to create ambiance from the clubhouse.

Additionally, \$100,000 had been allocated for stormwater management best practices. This could potentially be addressed north of the existing drainage swale or through permeable pavers. That allocation has been reduced to \$50,000, with hopes of lowering it further.

Hinchee noted that a similar budgeting refinement process was followed with the community center project and expects that bids will come in tighter as the project moves forward.

No questions were raised by the board.

---

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Buildings and Grounds

#### 1. **Temporary Construction Easement and Perpetual Access and Maintenance Easement Agreement with Community Unit School District 200** – Review of easement agreement and exhibits

Superintendent of Planning Hinchee explained that the board granted the school district a temporary agreement last month. The district has now returned with a new easement agreement for a watermain and underground stormwater detention, similar to Memorial Park and the Ray Morrill Community Center parking lot. The purpose is to formally document infrastructure that crosses the district's property.

Commissioner Pecharich asked whether the infrastructure is located on district property. Hinchee clarified that only a portion of it is. She then asked what would happen if there were ever an issue with the vault. Hinchee responded that the district would be notified at least seven days in advance before any work is done, unless it is an emergency. He also noted that the area in question is located beneath the basketball court.

Pecharich asked whether the district has other properties with similar arrangements. Steve confirmed that it does, noting that the City of Wheaton has stormwater and sewer lines running through various properties. When Pecharich asked if this type of agreement is common, Steve replied that it is.

#### 2. **Atten Park and Central Athletic Complex Baseball & Softball Infield Renovation Project** – Review of bid results

Assistant Director of Parks & Planning Pickett reported on the bid opening held on March 17. Only one bid was received, and it covered work in five fields at a cost of approximately \$90,000 per field. He noted that the contractor was non-committal and requested flexibility in the project schedule.

Based on this, Pickett recommended completing the work in-house. He stated that staff have the experience and capability to complete at least eight fields, which would provide better value and cost savings.

The plan is to maintain the original timeline and coordinate closely with the Baseball/Softball (BB/SB) Board of Control. Each field is expected to take approximately three to four days to complete. The BB/SB Board of Control has indicated its support for this approach.

---

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)

Pickett also noted that both he and Director of Parks & Planning Kimbrough have prior experience performing this type of work, further supporting the decision to proceed in-house. Overall, staff believe this approach is more cost-effective and operationally feasible.

**3. Atten Park and Central Athletic Complex Baseball & Softball Infield Renovation Material Purchase – Review of bid results**

Pickett and Kimbrough discussed the specialized material mix previously referenced from a quarry in Wisconsin that produces it. Due to the proprietary nature of this product, staff are recommending that the district not go out to bid and instead purchase the material directly from the supplier.

They noted that if the project were bid out, contractors would likely source the same product and include a markup, resulting in higher costs. Purchasing directly is therefore viewed as the more cost-effective approach.

**4. Ray Morrill Community Center Furniture Purchase – Review of bid results**

Hinchee reported that earlier this year, furniture and furnishings were purchased for the front office and front desk areas. The current request is to complete the remaining portions of the community center, including preschool rooms and lounge areas, particularly near the new space by the gym.

He noted that the only remaining items to be purchased are smaller items, such as kitchen toys for the preschool rooms.

Hinchee also mentioned that a few material deliveries have been delayed, pushing some timelines back to early May. Pecharich asked what specifically had been delayed, and Hinchee responded that the front desk components, doors, and ceiling materials are the primary items affected.

**5. Cosley Zoo Duck Pond Fencing and Brick Paver Replacement Project Review of bid results**

President Vires reported that Commissioner Kelly expressed concerns that the bid process for the individual bricks may not have been handled optimally. He plans to follow up directly with Hinchee to discuss this further. Hinchee clarified that the current pricing includes salvaging any usable bricks.

Pecharich referenced prior work completed during the construction of the new pavilion, specifically near the bridge area and the rope fencing around the duck pond. She asked how that work would integrate with the current project.

---

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)

Hinchee responded that the fencing would terminate at each of the bridges. Pecharich then asked whether the current fencing setup presents any issues. Steve confirmed that it does, noting that animals frequently chew through the rope, and much of it is currently being held together with zip ties.

#### **6. Arrowhead Golf Club Entrance Sign Façade Update Project – Review of quotes**

Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak explained that, in celebration of Arrowhead's 100-year anniversary, staff is proposing updates to signage to reflect the new logo. The goal is to create a fresh, updated look that clearly identifies the facility as part of the park district and communicates that it is welcoming to the community while retaining a fresh brand recognition that reflects growth.

He noted that the same builder who created the original sign will be used, and the design will remain largely the same, with the primary change being a color update from red to blue.

Pecharich raised concerns, stating that in July of last year, new colors and logos were presented, and she had requested cost information related to implementing the logo change but never received it. She further noted that at a recent mixer, the new logo was already being used on staff uniforms. She expressed concern that the board was not formally notified of the logo change cost at Arrowhead and believes that, while the district can afford the sign, there are higher-priority needs. She stated that the board was not happy with the community center situation, where the sign cost approximately \$60,000. She is concerned this same thing could happen with the Arrowhead sign.

Commissioner Mee responded that this project has been in development for some time, and is a staff recommendation, and represents a relatively minimal cost. He expressed his support for moving forward, which was echoed by Commissioner Frey.

Novak added that the parks department has been completing a significant amount of signage work in-house to help manage costs with the operation budget.

Frey asked whether the wording at the bottom of the sign would be removed as part of the update. Novak responded that everything from the digital sign and below would remain the same.

Vires stated that he is not in favor of the proposal, referencing concerns stemming from the community center sign project.

Pecharich reiterated her concern that the proposal was not brought back to the board for discussion and expressed dissatisfaction with the overall process.

---

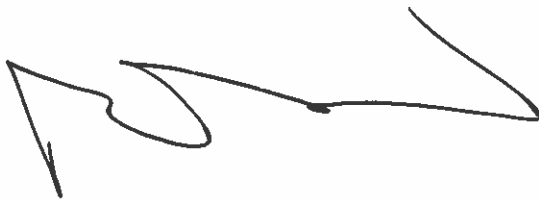
Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)

## **Finance and Administration**

- 1. Ordinance 2026-03** – Review of an Ordinance Approving the Disposal and Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Wheaton Park District.  
No questions or discussion.
- 2. Illinois Association of Park Districts Legislative Conference May 5-6** – Review of Commissioner Attendance  
Commissioner Barrett expressed interest in going. There were no questions from the board
- 3. National Restaurant Show May 18-19** – Review of Commissioner attendance  
Commissioner Mee expressed interest in going. There were no questions from the board
- 4. Cream of Wheaton Purchases** – Review of purchase from Euclid Beverage  
Novak stated that this is housekeeping because of dollar amount. Anything we don't use gets returned and 100% refunded. There were no questions from the board.
- 5. 2026 Staff Leadership Training Program** – Review of proposal from Corporate Learning Institute  
Director of Recreation Beyer stated that this was a proposal from Corporate Learning Institute. Training will begin in May 2026, which will include 5 workshops, for approximately 120 staff. Beyer stated that some of the new workshops this year will be based on surveys from the 2025 sessions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Barrett Motion carried by voice vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Mee', written in a cursive style.

---

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the park district's ADA Compliance Officer, Michael Benard, at the park district's Administrative Office, 102 E. Wesley Street, Wheaton, IL Monday through Friday from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for a qualified ASL interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice. Telephone number 630.945-7726; fax number 630.665.5880; email [dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org](mailto:dsiciliano@wheatonparks.org)