



Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners SUBCOMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday June 32026, 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 Kelly, Commissioner Mee Commission Pecharich, and were present.

Commissioner Welker was absent

Staff Present included: Executive Director Benard, Executive Assistant Siciliano, Director of Parks and Planning Kimbrough, Assistant Director of Parks & Planning Pickett, Superintendent of Planning Hinchee, Director of Arrowhead Operations Novak, Superintendent of Recreation Martinson, Director of Finance Simpson, Assistant Director of Finance Meger, Golf Director Nations, Golf Course Superintendent Kirtland

Guests: Courtney Mohr Lauterbach & Amen

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance and Administration

1. 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Wheaton Park District – Presentation by Lauterbach & Amen

Courtney Mohr Lauterbach & Amen gave the board a summary of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Mohr thanked Finance Director Simpson, Assistant Finance Director Meger and finance team for all their hard work. The district was provided an unmodified opinion, also known as “clean” which is the highest they can give. She congratulated the park district for receiving the GFOA COA award for the 38th consecutive year. She pointed out that on page 15, the MD&A – best way to gain an understanding of the financial statements as a whole. She stated that all major governmental funds reported increases in fund balance, excepting the Cosley Zoo fund which allocated fund reserves for capital projects and that the Golf Course fund also reported an increase. There are no true

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management letter comments, only 2 “fyi” comments – one of them related to continuing monitoring IT risks and the other being an upcoming GASB standard.

President Vires asked about cyber security training. Benard stated that the district has a formal cyber threat awareness and security training program in place and that the district contracts for a penetration test every year.

Commissioner Pecharich asked Mohr how long it takes to complete the audit. Mohr replied approximately 2 months.

Commissioner Kelly asked if the Cosley Zoo fund consistently provides transfers to capital. Benard stated that it typically does. If annual Zoo operating revenues exceed expenses and the Zoo fund balance exceeds the Board approved fund balance reserve level, a transfer to a Zoo capital projects fund is made for future use on a Zoo project.

2. **Arrowhead Golf Club – Review of Golf Course Chemical Purchase**
No discussion.

3. **Safety Policy and Procedures Manual & Crises Management Plan – Review of Proposed Amendments**
Benard reviewed the policy and plan amendments which included protocols related to the new Perry Weather lighting detection system and changes to the chain of command. Staff also added references in the threat of violence section, regarding mass causality or swatting and teen takeovers. No further discussion.

4. **Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity Grant – Review of \$250,000 Grant for General Infrastructure and Capital Improvement (verbal report)**

Benard reported that the district had multiple grants identified in the last capital bill. With assistance from Government Navigations Group, these grants have again been reappropriated into the new State Budget. When funds are available to be released, the district will receive notification from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) through a grant agreement.

Through the state budget approval process, the district has secured a new \$250,000 grant outside of the original capital bill. These funds are designated for general infrastructure and may be used for any project within the district. This particular grant is ready to be released by DCEO.

Benard recommended assigning the \$250,000 grant to the Northside Park Settling Basin Dredging Project which is scheduled to begin the week of June 15. The project will provide both aesthetic improvements and significant stormwater management benefits. The grant would fund approximately 50% of the project's cost as currently approved.

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Commissioner Kelly suggested using the grant to increase the dredging depth and therefore extending the time period that the project would remain viable until dredging is again needed. By applying the grant funds to the current project, the district could dredge an additional 2,000 cubic yards now rather than paying potentially higher costs in the future. This could extend the dredging schedule by approximately seven years. The additional work could be approved through a change order with the contractor.

Consensus was to apply grant funding toward the dredging project and bring a proposal to the regular meeting for Board approval for the additional dredging.

5. National Recreation and Parks Association Educational Conference and Exposition
Review of Possible Commissioner Attendance: Sept. 29 - Oct 1, 2026, Philadelphia, PA

Commissioner Barrett said he would like to attend. No further discussion.

Buildings and Grounds

1. Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project – Review of Construction Schedule and Date of Driving Range Closure

Benard requested board consensus to close the driving range beginning September 8 to accommodate the planned construction project. He explained that if the closure is delayed until mid-October, an insufficient amount of work would be completed by Winter to allow the new facility open by February. In particular, the fall closing of asphalt plants and the ability to construct to the Cover the Tees aspect of the project by early November were cited as critical path items.

Staff noted that there are eight golf outings scheduled in September that would be affected by the driving range closure. Plans also include rerouting access to the east and south courses of the property. The project schedule and operational impacts were reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Mee asked whether temporary practice areas could be provided during the closure period. Benard indicated staff has presented a plan to utilize temporary netting areas, including a location near Hole 3 West on the blue tee box. Commissioner Frey stated that he did not believe temporary netting would be necessary during September and October.

Commissioner Pecharich asked whether outing organizers would be notified if the Board agreed to close the range in early September. Benard responded that outing organizers would be informed of the closure and that related accommodations would be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The Board expressed consensus to proceed with the planned September 8 driving range closure to maintain the project schedule.

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2. **Arrowhead Golf Club Driving Range Project** – Review of Top Tracer Lease and Installation Agreement

President Vires asked why staff is recommending Top Tracer over Track Man technology. Director of Golf Nations stated that the majority of our golfer demographic would like this system better as it is more game and entertainment focused while still providing basic golf swing data for those that want it.

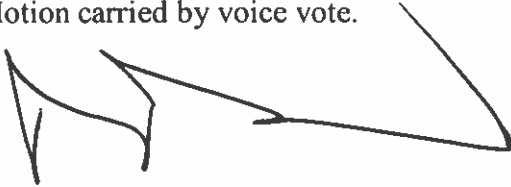
3. **City of Wheaton** – Review of Permanent Easement Agreement for Prairie Avenue Sidewalk

It was noted that the work had already been completed. The remaining requirement is to provide the City of Wheaton with documentation confirming that a portion of the property was placed under a permanent easement for their purposes.

Board members discussed installing signage recognizing that the parking project was funded by the Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:35 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Frey Motion carried by voice vote.

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

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