



Wheaton Park District

**Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners
SUBCOMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday August 5, 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 Frey, Commissioner Kelly, Commissioner Mee Commission Pecharich, were present.

Absent: Barrett, Welker,

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, Director of Finance Simpson, Assistant Director of Finance Meger, Director of Athletics Lewandowski, Human Resources Manager Jay, HR Intern Sofia Tamayo. Director of Marketing Muto; Director of Golf Nations.

Guests: Wintrust - Jason Nagel, SVP, Regional Manager of Business & Community Banking
Wintrust - Jon Young, VP, Business Banking
PTMA – Ben Carney, Associate Relationship Manager – Investment Services
PTMA – Greg Sotiros, Investment Advisor

COMMUNITY INPUT

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance and Administration

1. **Investment of Wheaton Park District Funds** – Presentations by Wheaton Bank & Trust and PMA

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Wheaton Bank & Trust

Presenters Jason Nagel & John Young

Wintrust – MaxSafe Accounts

- **MaxSafe Money Market Account:** Wintrust highlighted its MaxSafe money market account, which offers up to \$4million in FDIC insurance coverage through its unique structure.
- **Competitive Returns:** The account is designed to provide returns that are competitive with the Illinois Funds rate while offering greater FDIC protection than a traditional money market account.
- **Local Banking Benefits:** Representatives emphasized that deposits remain with a local bank, allowing funds to be reinvested into small businesses and the local community.
- **Fraud Prevention:** Wintrust discussed its ongoing investments in fraud prevention, including ACH controls, Positive Pay, enhanced online banking platforms, and other security technologies. Representatives noted that fraud prevention has become one of the fastest-growing areas of investment for financial institutions and shared examples of current techniques used to reduce fraud risk.
- **Community Partnership:** Wintrust highlighted its long-standing relationship with the Wheaton Park District, including sponsorships of concerts and the zoo, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the local community.
- **Board Discussion:**
 - President Vires commented that the MaxSafe account appears to be a strong fit for the district, noting the benefits of keeping taxpayer funds local while providing a secure, low-risk investment option.
 - Executive Director Benard noted the value of maintaining full liquidity while earning a higher rate of interest.

PMTA (Formerly PMA)

Presenters: Ben Carney and Greg Sotiros

- **PMTA provides investment services** to approximately 13,000 units of local government across multiple states. The organization was formerly known as PMA.
- **Investment Pools:** The district maintains full discretion over its investment accounts. PMTA currently works with approximately 180 Illinois municipalities, including 80 special districts, and manages approximately \$2.4 billion in Illinois municipal assets.
- **PMTA's iPRIME investment pool** is triple rated by S&P.
- **Reporting:** Monthly investment reports are provided to allow staff to monitor account performance and activity.
- **Policy Support:** PMTA offers investment policy reviews to assist agencies in maintaining current investment practices.
- **Investment Strategy:** Representatives discussed using a disciplined, laddered investment approach designed to balance liquidity, safety, and returns. Historical performance of two-year Treasury notes was presented as part of the discussion.
- **Asset/Liability Matching:** President Vires noted that PMTA's asset-liability matching strategy compliments the Wintrust MaxSafe accounts.

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- Finance Director Simpson said that the current cash-flow process is working well for staff but could benefit from further refinement.
- 2. **Memo regarding sales tax rate changes affecting Wheaton Park District facilities** – Executive Director Benard stated that Finance Director Simpson provided the report to illustrate what costs the district will need to pass on to consumers due to the tax rate changes from the state. The report was presented for informational purposes only, and no action will be requested of the Board.
- 3. **Cream of Wheaton Payment to the City of Wheaton** – Review of payment to the City of Wheaton for special event support services for the Cream of Wheaton not to exceed \$40,402.32

Executive Director Benard explained that Marketing Director Muto and her team provided an outline of the City's costs associated with the Cream of Wheaton event. The report shows that event-related expenses have continued to increase. Due to the size of the expenditure, Board approval is required to authorize payment of the invoice.

Staff noted that relocating the carnival this year resulted in additional costs for police and other City services.

Due the increased expenses, staff reported that the district is realizing approximately half the net revenue generated from the event compared to last year. The event's approximately \$36,000 net proceeds are shared equally with the Chamber of Commerce. Benard stated that the team continue to closely monitor both revenue-generating opportunities while maintaining a commitment to providing free community events and will work to identify ways to address escalating event costs in future years.

Commissioner Mee asked whether the Police Department is required to provide a minimum number of officers at the event. Staff explained that the City's liquor code establishes staffing thresholds that require a certain level of police presence. Commissioner Mee then asked whether there is flexibility to reduce staffing during lower-attendance periods. Benard responded that there is flexibility.

Commissioner Pecharich asked whether the carnival would return to its previous location once nearby construction is completed. Benard responded that he hopes it will, but no decision has been made. He noted that the carnival is the event's primary profit generator.

Commissioner Pecharich also asked what responsibilities the Chamber assumes in the partnership. Benard explained that Park District staff manage the event logistics, while the Chamber is responsible for securing 50% of sponsorships, recruiting and coordinating all event volunteers, and organizing the business expo. He stated that if both organizations fulfill their respective responsibilities, the current revenue-sharing arrangement is appropriate.

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Board members shared that that the event is a valuable community tradition and provides significant benefit to residents.

4. **Personnel Policy Manual** – Review of proposed amendments

Benard stated that the Board periodically reviews the Personnel Policy Manual. He recognized the hard work of Human Resource Manager Jay and Human Resource Intern Tomayo in preparing the revisions.

The revisions were recommended by HR Source and reviewed by the District's legal counsel. Benard noted that the recommended changes are primarily driven by recent legislation and evolving employment law requirements.

5. **Approval of Payment exceeding \$19,999.99** – Review of cheerleading expenditures not to exceed \$50,000

Benard reported that participation in the Sideline Cheer program has grown significantly, resulting in increased demand and related program expenses. Due to the amount of expenditure, Board approval is required to authorize the purchase.

Buildings and Grounds

1. **Arrowhead Golf Club** - Review of driving range bid results

Executive Director Benard recognized the hard work of Arrowhead staff and FGMA throughout the planning and bidding process. Staff announced that the groundbreaking is scheduled for September 8. Benard also expressed his appreciation to everyone in the Parks & Planning Department involved in preparing for the project.

Benard reported that EP Doyle submitted the lowest responsive base bid and recommended awarding the base bid. He did not recommend the approval of the short game area alternates due to the high cost. He recommended proceeding with the remaining alternates, including the upgraded heating system.

Board Discussion – Bid Alternates

Patio Heaters: Commissioner Kelly explained that Arrowhead Building Engineer DalCerro had identified issues with the tube heaters rusting and had researched replacement options. Staff recommended Bromic heaters based on their performance and durability.

Commissioner Frey asked why the heater alternate was nearly double the anticipated cost. Commissioner Kelly explained that pricing can vary depending on how individual contractors prepare their bids. Board members expressed support for including the heater alternate.

Commissioner Pecharich questioned the overall project cost, stating that she had expected the project to be closer to \$3 million rather than \$4 million.

Benard noted that the original \$2 million budget figure was an preliminary estimate prepared prior to the completion of the concept and cost analysis phase of planning.

Commissioner Kelly added that costs for items such as irrigation, electrical work, and upgraded site improvements exceeded original expectations but would result in a higher-quality facility.

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Service Yard Gate: Commissioner Kelly and Commissioner Mee agreed that the service yard gate should match the architectural design of the new building.

The Board reached consensus to approve the base bid and Alternates 1 and 3, while not approving Alternates 2A, 2B, 4, and 5.

Commissioner Frey asked whether the new sidewalk would resemble the golf cart paths. Staff responded that the sidewalk would be constructed using brick pavers.

2. **Arrowhead Golf Club** – Review of driving range project materials testing proposal. This testing is required by code. No discussion.
3. **Resolution 2026-03** – Review of Resolution 2026-03 approving certain amendments to the Wheaton Park District parks, facilities, trails and open space naming policy
Benard handed out burrows to branches cost sheet.
Benard presented proposed revisions to the district's 2007 Naming Policy, including a resolution and addendum related to the Burrows to Branches campaign at Cosley Zoo. Staff explained that the updated policy would also serve as a framework for future capital campaigns. The purpose of the addendum is to reserve naming decisions for parks and major facilities to the Board, while granting the Executive Director discretion to approve naming opportunities within District facilities. Benard noted that this approach would allow him and the Cosley Zoo Foundation to finalize donor recognition opportunities in a timely manner without requiring donors to wait for Board approval for routine naming opportunities. The Board expressed consensus in support of the proposed policy revisions and addendum.
4. **Toohey Park** – Review of revisions to the Wheaton Park District comprehensive plan
Benard reported that the district plans to reapply during the next grant application cycle. Following the previous application, staff researched the factors that may have contributed to the application not being selected and will use that feedback to strengthen the next submission. Staff noted that, as part of the grant evaluation process, agencies with an updated Comprehensive Plan are viewed more favorably. Accordingly, staff will continue updating the District's Comprehensive Plan to improve the competitiveness of future grant applications.
5. **Resolution 2026-04** – Review of Resolution 2026-04 OSLAD grant application
Benard stated that we are required to pass a resolution for this grant application. No further discussion.
6. **Infield Renovations** – Review of purchase of additional Quick Pitch material
Benard reminded the Board that, when the project was previously approved, there was a commitment to return with an update as the project progressed. Benard explained that this purchase will complete the planned improvements at Atten Park and the Central Athletic

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Complex. Due to the timing of the City permit review process, renovations on the fields at the CAC may not begin until next year.

7. **Cosley Zoo** - Review of programming, concept development & cost estimating services proposal with Featherstone for the Burrows to Branches exhibit concept.

Benard stated that the Zoo will reimburse the Park District for these professional services through a grant agreement. Benard noted that additional professional services will need to be contracted in the near future including civil engineering and architecture. The goal of these engagements is to achieve a higher level of confidence in total budgeting and fundraising needs for the exhibits contemplated.

8. **Wheaton Park District General Park Use Ordinance** - Review and discussion concerning park use ordinance amendments related to e-bike and micro mobility motorized devices in the parks

Benard stated that e-bikes and other micromobility devices being used unsafely and irresponsibly have become a community concern. He noted that the district's current vehicle and bicycle ordinance includes provisions that can be updated to address these issues. Benard proposed revising Section 5 of the ordinance to specifically address e-bikes and micromobility devices, including a prohibition on their use in the parks. Enforcement would be handled by the Police Department through the revised ordinance.

Staff are developing a public information campaign in coordination with the schools, city, and Police Department to educate the community about the updated regulations.

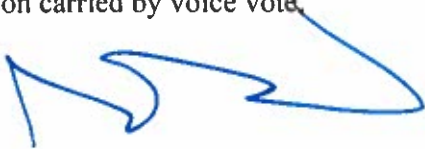
Commissioner Mee stated that he has discussed the issue with the Police Chief and Mayor and emphasized the importance of enforcement. He noted that the educational campaign should include outreach to parents and suggested that fines be issued to parents of minors when appropriate to reinforce accountability.

Commissioner Pecharich asked whether the ordinance specifically provides that parents are responsible for violations committed by minor children. Benard said that the ordinance revision will include that provision.

The Board agreed that the General Use Ordinance should be amended to include a prohibition on the use of e-bikes and micromobility devices in the parks.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:17 p.m. Commissioner Mee moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, by Commissioner Kelly Motion carried by voice vote.



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