



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
6:00 p.m. Thursday, November 6, 2025
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President McMillan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call.
The following Commissioners were present: Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Kristen Walraven and Steve Sours.
Commissioners absent were: Kyle Cain. Also, in attendance were:
Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications
Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management;
Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; and Shawn Powers,
Superintendent of Recreation; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police;
Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; and Michael Seghetti, Park District Attorney.
3. Pledge of Allegiance. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
5. Public Comments:
6. Presentation by and Discussion with City of Pekin regarding proposed locations for a new Fire Station on the southwest side of the City.

John Dossey, City Manager, Josh Wray, Director of Economic Development, Trent Reese, Fire Chief, and Tony Rendleman, Deputy Fire Chief presented their proposal for a new fire station on the southwest side of the City and the reasons why the preferred location was chosen over other potential locations. The reason being is mainly due to coverage and

response time in relation to the locations of the other current and proposed fire stations. The preferred location on the south west side is at the corner of 5th Street and Koch Street.

Commissioner Sours mentioned that he thinks the Park District should enter into a long term lease with the City rather than selling or land swapping the property. A 70 or 100 year lease.

Commissioner Gillis asked the ED if there was any issues with the donor agreement? The ED does not believe there is because that property was originally supposed to go to the Union Mission. The ED said he would check the agreement to make sure there are no issues.

Commissioner Ranney asked City staff if they knew the order all the proposed fire stations would be built? Fire Station 3 (the one being presented tonight) would be first because of the condition the current fire station is in. Fire Stations 2 and 4 would need to be done together in order to provide the proper coverage and response times in those areas.

Commissioner Walraven asked what the current ISO Rating is? The City said that it was a three. She then asked how does a lower rating help the community? The City said that the savings are passed on to the residences/businesses through their insurance.

Commissioner Dralle asked how much property they would need? The City said 3 acres.

Commissioner Gillis asked what their timetable is? The City said probably around 18 months for Fire Station 3 because of studies and engineering and design that needs to be done.

Commissioner Walraven asked about Deerfield and 5th Street? The City said that was the location that was originally talked about. The ED reminded the Board that originally we were looking at a land swap for the entire area along 5th Street with property along the south edge of the sports complex. Property the City owned. The donor was not behind that and that is when we were proposed the corner of Hanna Drive and 5th Street.

The ED asked what their process was for getting community input? The City said they would probably do public town hall type meetings with studies and plans to get input.

Commissioner Walraven asked if Deerfield and 5th could be a consideration? The ED said the problem with Deerfield and 5th now is we cannot do a land swap, plus it would divide the sports complex.

Commissioner Dralle asked how much time before you need a decision from us? The City said within the next 6 to 9 months, preferably 6.

7. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2025 and Reconvened October 16 meeting on October 22, 2025
- B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 10/14/25 thru 10/31/25 in the amount of \$474,654.71
- C. Approval of the bills to paid 11/07/25 in the amount of \$28,857.48

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.

Move to accept all items in the Consent Agenda as presented:
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.

8. Motion to pass all items of business listed in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

Move Steve Sours; Second Kristen Walraven.
All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

9. Pekin Park Foundation Representative Report:

Commissioner Gillis mentioned the Parkside loan was approved for \$88,000. He also mentioned the Foundation will now be overseeing the Learning Garden with the Parkside Fitness Manager overseeing it along with the ED. The new location will be by the Train Depot which provides a lot of space for expansion, future community garden plots, and the possibility of renovating the depot for use by the learning garden for programs, a pantry or co-op. etc.

10. Illinois River Valley SRA Representative Report:

Commissioner Ranney went over the report SRA staff provides the SRA Board. The brochure is now digital. Several programs had waitlists. Sunshine Camp exceeded budgeted revenue. Sports requirements were updated regarding parents/guardians being there for practices, tournaments/games, and overnights. They applied for an American Camp Association grant with the Recreation Department. Volleyball made it to State. Softball competed in State and received gold medals.

11. Executive Director's Report:

The ED read an acknowledgement and thank you for the renovation of the men's restroom at the Arena. He also mentioned that Epic Pharma Solutions proposed site plan for phase one on the property south of the

sports complex will be on the agenda of the Zoning Board of Appeals November 12 and he plans to attend. He asked the Board who plans to attend the Winter Wonderland parade and pass out candy. All Board members said they should be able to attend. Staff will provide the candy and golf carts.

12. Attorney's Report: None.

13. Staff Reports: None.

14. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gillis mentioned he attended the legal symposium and that IPARKS is changing administrators. He mentioned that there was discussion on Park Police liability issues and e-bike legislation. He also mentioned that if anyone is interested, IAPD is looking for Board member's south of I-80 to be involved.

Commissioner Walraven said that the parks are beautiful this year.

Commissioner Ranney thanked all staff for their hard work and dedication.

15. Unfinished Business:

A. Discussion of Community Wide Attitude and Interest Survey.

Commissioner McMillan thought the beginning was too wordy and provided some recommendations. Commissioner Walraven also provided a rewording from ChatGPT. The ED said he would make some adjustments. The Board was good with the rest of it and agreed with the ED that it is ready to go out. The ED said they were sending it out to those on the e-mail lists received from the departments. It is an extensive list and should give us good representation of the community. The hope is to have the results for the December 4 meeting.

B. Discussion of the intergovernmental agreement with PCHS District 303; review of District 303 suggested changes and PPD changes.

The ED asked Commissioners McMillan and Ranney if they were able to meet with the PCHS District 303 President and one of their board members? They have not been able to set something up yet. The ED reviewed the Park District's suggested changes, comments, additions, suggestions, etc. based on District 303's last response of the draft agreement. He said that he would get together with the Park District Attorney to clean it up. He also said that nothing would be done further until after the board members of each agency meets.

16. New Business: None

17. Closed Session:

- A. Move to convene into closed session under Open Meetings Act Section 120/2 (c) (1) to discuss the performance of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park or recreational setting; and Section 120/2 (c) (1), to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; and Section 120/2 (c) (11) to discuss litigation, when action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed or when the public body finds that an action is probably or imminent; and Section 120/2 (c) (21) discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:50 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Kristen Walraven; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 8:36 p.m.

18. Move to approve the August 21, 2025 and October 2, 2025 Closed Session Minutes.

Motion Mike Dralle; Second Sue McMillan.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

19. Adjourn.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney
All ayes by a voice call vote – Motion carried.
Time: 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District