



Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2026
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President Dralle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. All stood to recite the pledge of allegiance.
3. Roll call.
The following Commissioners were present: Mike Dralle, Kristen Walraven, Gary Gillis, Greg Ranney, Sue McMillan, and Kyle Cain. Commissioners absent were: Steve Sours. Also in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; and Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; and Albi Almandinger, new Executive Director. Staff absent were: Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; and Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
5. Public Input:
 - A. Motion to open the Public Hearing concerning the State of Illinois Paratransit Vehicle Grant for the purpose of considering a project for the Pekin Park District's senior transportation service for which financial assistance is being sought from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Move Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried

Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator, explained the grant application process to the Park Board and what the grant entailed which is acquiring an accessible van. Commissioner Ranney

asked if this was a state grant? Yes, it is through IDOT.
Commissioner Walraven asked when we will hear back? It could be 3 months to 6 months before we are notified, and if awarded, possibly a year before we receive the van.

- B. Motion to close the Public Hearing concerning the State of Illinois Paratransit Vehicle Grant for the purpose of considering a project for the Pekin Park District's senior transportation service for which financial assistance is being sought from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Move Greg Ranney; Second Gary Gillis.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried

6. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2026.
- B. Approval of the July Treasurer's Report.
- C. Approval of bills paid from 08/25/2026 through 09/04/2026 in the amount of \$130,986.99
- D. Approval of bills to be paid 09/11/2026 in the amount of \$73,437.27

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 Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote - Motion carried.

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

Move Kristen Walraven; Second Gary Gillis.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried.

- 8. Budget Performance Summary Report: (through the end of July)
The ED handed out the report to the Board and told them this report reflected property tax and replacement tax received in July, therefore the report will be more reflective as to where we are at. He said to look it over and bring any questions to the next meeting.

- 9. Executive Director's Report:
The ED welcomed Abi Almandinger, new Executive Director and mentioned she has met all staff and others from government agencies whom we work with on a regular basis. They also starting going through all kinds of information related to the position. The ED mentioned the

City's fire station proposal for out at the PSC at Koch and Fifth. He reminded the Board that this location meets the ISO insurance requirements regarding response time and having overlap with station number 2. If the station is located elsewhere, it will creating gaps in the response time zones. He asked if there were specific reasons why some of the Board thinks the corner of Hanna and Fifth is better? Commissioner Ranney said they came to us originally regarding that corner and we also may have an opportunity to build on the corner at 5th and Koch. The ED said that if the City took the corner of 5th and Koch, we would still have an opportunity to build on the other property and possibly bigger with more parking. The other property gives us more flexibility. Commissioner Cain asked if the City could just take it? No, they cannot. Commissioner McMillan asked what the distance was between the two corners? The ED was not for sure, maybe a 1/2mile. Commissioner Cain asked why we should be hesitant with going back to the donor. The ED said he thinks the City and Park District need to be on the same page and come to an agreement before going back to the donor, rather than any possible back and forth.

10. Staff Reports:
The Miller Center Administrator reminded the Board of the Walk for a Ride fundraiser occurring on Tuesday, September 15, and handed out registration forms. The Parkside Manager mentioned the cancellations by PCHS tennis for their invite this past weekend. Parkside was not notified until the morning of, therefore we will be invoicing them for the rental reservation per the agreement because they did not cancel prior to 24 hours before the reservation.
11. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Gillis thanked the other Commissioners for their time and effort with the ED hiring process and welcomed Abi. Commissioner Dralle asked about parking for the Tom Elliott sign dedication? He said a former employee called him and he needs to be able to park close. The Supt. of Parks said to have him call him when he is on his way and he can park in the maintenance yard. Commissioner Ranney thanked staff again for all their hard work and their detailed reports outlining what they do on a monthly basis.
12. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Resolution Honoring Executive Director. Commissioner Dralle read a Resolution the Board drafting recognizing Cameron Bettin for his twelve years as Executive Director. Cameron thanked the Board and mentioned someone once asked him what was his biggest accomplishment and he said that it was the Administrative staff that he has hired.

13. New Business:

- A. Approval of Ordinance No. 26-8: An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing the Sale of Certain Excess Personal Property of the District.

Motion made by Gary Gillis to approve Ordinance No. 26-8. Second by Kyle Cain. All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

14. Closed Session:

- A. Move to convene into closed session under Open Meetings Act Section 120/2 (c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees; and Section 120/2 (c) (5) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real property or Section 120/2 (c) (6) the selling or rental price of real estate owned by the public body; 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 Kristen Walraven.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried.
Time: 6:18 p.m

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Sue McMillan.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried.
Time: 6:45 p.m

15. Move to approve the August 27, 2026 Closed Session Minutes.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney.
All ayes by a roll call vote - Motion carried.

16. Adjourn:

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote - Motion carried.
Time: 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Chip Hill

Board Secretary, Pekin Park District