PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Special Board of Commissioners
Meeting 3:00 p.m. Friday, July 10, 2026
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President Dralle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance. All stood to recite the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll call.

   The following Commissioners were present: Greg Ranney, Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Kristen Walraven, Kyle Cain (arrived at 3:05 p.m.) and Steve Sours. Also in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary

4. Public Comment: None

5. Discussion of Potential/Future Revenue/Expense Decisions/Ideas:

   Commissioner Dralle asked a follow up question from the June 20 special meeting, why did TCRC leave the MC kitchen? The ED said they expanded to a larger space and they were focusing on their food truck downtown.

   The ED, Business Manager and Park Board picked up on the discussion regarding the memo entitled Tough Decisions for the Park District.

   Topics discussed during this special meeting included the follow:

   Payroll – structure for starting pay and increases; thresholds/maximums for hourly and salaried; reducing hours at facilities. Commissioner Walraven asked if all departments use the same clock-in system? Yes, they do.

   Fees – increase of programs, facility use, rentals, concessions; do we eventually reach a maximum/threshold?

   Utility costs – looking at ways to reduce even more; look at eliminating amenities/luxuries that really do not need (such as drinking fountains, irrigation in parks, etc.); removing restrooms such as the Miller Center parking lot and Blenkiron; stop putting port-potties out.

PSC Concessions – Look at us getting out of the concession business at the sports complex; employee costs are just to high; have sports groups run?; get a business vendor to run them? Have food trucks out there instead?

Sunken Garden Fountain – Commissioner Sours says he can fix it for a minimal cost; Commissioner Cain said we should have done something with the fountain 5 to 10 years ago; Approach Carle Hospital about sponsoring to bring it back to life; need to find a way to fix it with no or minimal cost to the park district because of so many other higher priority needs that affect operations and park users; discuss with Foundation again doing a campaign.

Park Foundation – can't keep paying them back, is helpful but then again, it is not; Foundation needs to raise money beyond just receiving it through trusts/donations; Shares of stocks from potential donors is an avenue the Foundation needs to pursue.

Staffing – do we look at eliminating/reducing staffing? Not sure can really do as we are already at bare bones; reduce the number of seasonal staff that use; already do with Parks and PSC staff; other facilities need to look at; bring on more counsellor's in training for camp.

Capital Improvements/Replacements – Railsplitters Park, consider not replacing the playground to save money; look at other assets where could do the same – eliminate rather than replace.

Leases – need to look at a way to create a replacement fund and start purchasing instead of leasing where can; Park vehicles particularly; golf maintenance equipment?

6. Adjourn.

Motion Kyle Cain; Second Gary Gillis.
All ayes by a voice call vote - Motion carried.
Time: 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary, Pekin Park District