



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2026
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President McMillan called the meeting to order at 5:30p.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, Kristen Walraven, Kyle Cain, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan. Commissioners absent were: Steve Sours. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary (left at 5:50); Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA (left at 5:50); Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; and Michael Seghetti, Park District Attorney. Staff absent were: Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator;
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
5. Public Comments:
Representatives from the JFL/Pekin You Football Board (Andrew Osbourne and Joey Richardson) spoke about their concerns with the fees for the use of the sports complex and the impact it will have on their participants. They already do a lot of fundraising and are not sure they will be able to sustain the program if they have to pay an additional \$10,000 to \$12,000 annually in fees. They would like to be able to sit down with the Park District to discuss the fees and the possibility of doing a long term agreement. They thanked the Board for listening and their time.

6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2026
 - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 03/11/2026 thru 03/23/2026 in the amount of \$188,408.94
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid 3/27/2026 in the amount of \$26,803.26
 - D. Approval of the Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2025

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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 Greg Ranney; Second Gary Gillis.

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 Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

8. New Business:

- A. Discussion and Approval of Term Sheet and switching over to Regions Bank.

There was a brief discussion on the need to make this switch and it was asked by Commissioner Gillis if this will get us in a place where we can begin to work our way through the cash flow concerns and issues. Yes, it will. Commissioner Dralle made a motion that we accept the term sheet and authorize staff to begin the process of switching over to Regions Bank. Second Gary Gillis. All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

9. Pekin Park Foundation Report:

Commissioner Gillis gave a report on the Foundation. They had discussion on the MC phase one improvements taking place in front of the building. They approved an additional \$2,300. They had some discussion on the bylaws regarding voting and funds/investments. They discussed a proposed Eagle Scout project at James Field consisting of mulching the beds/trees and a possible construction/reconstruction of a bed. They approved purchasing the mulch out of the James Field funds. And they discussed America's 250 anniversary plans.

10. Fair Board Representative Report:
Commissioner McMillan gave a report on the Fair Board. They discussed a board member vacancy and potential candidates to fill it. They reviewed the Treasurer's report; still have not received money from the State yet, and we are eligible for the Compeer Grant again this year. They discussed working with the County on what family farms have been in the County for 125 years or more and recognizing them at the Fair. The Secretary got the Bylaws to the those on the committee to review them for any updates/changes to bring back to the Board. The Fair dates are July 27-29.
11. Executive Director's Report:
The ED mentioned receiving a thank you from Greg Ranney and family, and he passed it around. He mentioned that the Recreation Department received the IAPD Power Play Grant again for \$1,000. He discussed the Eagle Scout project and the construction part of the project which would be removing the spheres by Parks staff, and the Eagle Scout relaying the brick border closer to the flag poles and landscaping. Commissioner Walraven asked if we were going to let any members of the Save James Field committee know we are doing this so they are aware. The ED said he can do that.
12. Attorney's Report: None.
13. Staff Reports:
The Supt. of Recreation mentioned that Sela, the Pool Manager/Recreation Program Supervisor, put in her two weeks. Her last day is March 31. Derek Beech will go through the Certified Pool Operators course/training to receive his certificate so he can be a back up to Shawn when he is not available. Shawn will be running and managing the pool this year and we will look for Sela's replacement after the season.
14. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Ranney requested that we meet with JFL. The ED said he will set that up. He also thanked Scott for the new ramp and handrail at the Miller Center. Commissioner Gillis said he agrees with Greg on the meeting with JFL. He also mentioned the upcoming podcast episodes with Jason for the Learning Garden, Keith for the solar array, and Shawna for the IRVSRA. Commissioner Dralle said he received a call from someone requesting trash cans along the trail. There are trash cans along the trail. He also mentioned that he heard Tom Elliott was not doing well health wise.
15. Unfinished Business: None.

16. New Business:

A. Update on the referendum voter survey.
The ED mentioned this probably should have been under unfinished business. The ED, Supt. of Rec., Business Mgr., Supt. of Marketing and Communications, and Commissioners McMillan and Gillis met with aQity to discuss prioritizing the projects to highlight, and the arguments for and against. Aqity is working on the draft of the survey and the ED said he should have that tomorrow for the group to review next week.

B. Discussion regarding the reorganization of the Board in April.

The ED went through his memo regarding the reorganization of the Board. They discussed the Treasurer's position, Vice President, Foundation seat, IRVSRA seat and Fair Board seat.

C. Discussion of Executive Director search timeline options.

The ED mentioned that IAPD will be at the April 9th meeting to discuss the search in closed session. They will have a brochure draft for the Board to review. They will also go over the questions they will want the Board to answer regarding what they are looking for in an ED. There was then discussion regarding the two timeline options; having the new ED start the end of August/beginning of September, or January 4. Some Board members thought the first option was better due to the potential of going for a referendum and the budgeting process. There was some concern with the second option because of interviewing during a referendum campaign if that does occur. It was asked if we should check with aQity on the optics with a referendum and if they had any insight. The ED said he would do that. Because the Board was not able to come to a consensus on which option to go with, the ED suggested they table any decision tonight and talk with IAPD when they meet with them on April 9 to get their insight and direction.

17. Adjourn.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Mike Dralle.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District