



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 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, Kyle Cain, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Steve Sours and Kristen Walraven. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; 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; Staff absent were: Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; and Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any.
The Treasurer's Report is not done, therefore need to be withdrawn from the consent agenda.
5. Public Comments:
 - A. Presentation by Pekin Marigold Festival Committee members of the 2025 Pekin Marigold Festival park gift, and request for permission to use the park facilities and presentation of new activities being considered/planned for the 2026 Festival.
Val Springborn and Meghan Innis from the Marigold Festival Committee thanked the Park Board and Park District staff for their partnership and assistance with everything regarding the 2025 Festival. They presented to the Board that the District will be receiving a \$12,000 donation for use of the park. They also

indicated the committee is already in full swing planning for 2026 and that they will be back to present and get permission for any new planned events, similar to what they did for the water skiing last year. They also asked the Board for permission to use the park again the weekend of September 11-13. Mike Dralle made a motion to approve the Marigold Festival Committee use of Mineral Springs Park for the 2026 Marigold Festival the weekend of September 11-13. Greg Ranney second the motion. All ayes by a roll call vote. Motion Carried.

6. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2026
- B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 02/07/2026 thru 3/10/2026 in the amount of \$70,590.63
- C. Approval of bills to be paid 03/13/2026 in the amount of \$24,767.07
- 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 except the item withdrawn: Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.
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 Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

8. Pekin Park Foundation Report: Commissioner Gillis gave the report on the Foundation. They are moving the Foundation's assets to MCB for collateral. MCB will be the active fiduciary. They also had some discussion on the bylaws and their need to review and propose new changes/updates for future safeguards. Gary also gave an update to the Board on the progress of the Learning Garden and upcoming classes being offered.

9. Executive Director's Report: The ED mentioned a thank you card received from Caroline Campbell for her husband's (David) passing. Commissioner McMillan, knowing the Campbell's for a long time, sent flowers. The ED also mentioned that the IRVSRA staff did a very nice remembrance and recognition of David at the Sports Banquet. He was a long time coach and

volunteer. The ED has been working on putting together info to send to Jeff Andreasen of aQity Research for the voter survey. The ED has also been working on the fire station #3 proposal and will bring that forth when all the information is gathered. He mentioned that with the April meetings coming up, the Board needs to be thinking about the re-organization and we also need to be thinking about nominating a new Treasurer to replace Art Krile who has been Treasurer for more than 40 years.

10. Staff Reports: None.
11. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Gillis mentioned that he wanted to pass along his sympathy to Greg Ranney and his family for the passing his of wife, Gloria. Commissioner Ranney thanked everybody for their support and to those who attended the visitation. Commissioner Gillis mentioned his upcoming podcasts coming up which include talking about the Learning Garden, the solar array project and IRVSRA, as well as the life and times of Gloria Ranney and her impact on the community.
12. Unfinished Business:
 - A. Review and Discussion of draft agreement with PCHS District 303. Commissioners Ranney and McMillan updated the Board on the agreement. A draft has been completed and was reviewed by staff which it effects and the ED. They are still working through the use of the pool and trying to trade costs for use of Parkside. Conclusion of the discussion is that Parkside needs to be compensated for the use of tennis, and our swim programs can only happen if use of their pool is at no cost. Lifeguard training should also be at no cost. There was discussion on the use and times of Diamond #2, particularly the length of time once our softball season starts and our staff having to be paid overtime to accommodate the school's use of the field. The Supt. of Parks was going to draft what he suggested to the Board and get that to Commissioner McMillan. In short, it would be that they cannot use Diamond #2 on the days we have softball because our program would take precedence. There was also discussion on the snow plowing and our policy of plowing at 1" rather than 2". That is going to be put back into the agreement. There was also discussion on the use cost for the golf courses. The Director of Golf will get what the actual cost would be as a lump sum so that can be presented to the school, along with what is currently in the agreement.

13. New Business:

A. Discussion of Data Centers.

Though the City at this time has dropped the proposed data center, the Board thought it was still pertinent to discuss it because it may come back or some other development may be proposed that could have an impact on the park. The consensus was that more factual information is needed on its potential benefits and impacts to truly make any kind of stance on it, if we even want to make a stance. The ED said he reached out to our administrator from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the IDNR is still researching and looking into it more to make any kind of statement or policy on data centers. What we can do, no matter what the development is, is to make sure that we work with the City and developer to provide buffers from the park potentially impacted and possibly have the developer provide improvements to the park or provide funding to the District to use at our discretion for improvements.

14. Closed Session:

A. Move to convene into closed session under Open Meetings

Act 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 Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

Time: 6:38 p.m.

B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

Time: 6:44 p.m.

15. Move to approve the December 18, 2025, January 22, 2026 and February 5, 2026 Closed Session Minutes.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

16. Motion that the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of the minutes listed in the memo dated March 12, 2026, and that these minutes are not recommended for release.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Mike Dralle.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

17. Adjourn.

Motion Mike Dralle; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District