



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, 2025
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. Vice President Dralle called the meeting to order at 6:00p.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 (arrived at 6:22p.m.), Kyle Cain, and Gary Gillis. Commissioners absent were: Sue McMillan and Steve Sours. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; and Mike Seghetti, Park District Attorney. Staff absent were: Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
5. Public Comments: None.
6. Introduction and Recognition of the Winter Wonderland Committee.

The ED introduced the three Winter Wonderland Committee members in attendance; Amber Wickenhauser., Fred Meyer, and Amanda McNally. He also mentioned other members on the committee who could not attend; Paula Helm, Sherry Fulk, Scott Parker and Deann Day. He thanked the committee for all they do and described to the Board some of the things they do in order for the Winter Wonderland to happen. He also thanked staff/departments that assist the committee on the trees and festival

(Parks and Recreation). The committee members thanked the staff for all their assistance. The Park Board thanked everyone involved for providing this beloved Pekin holiday tradition.

7. Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2025.
- B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 12/1/25 thru 12/14/25 in the amount of \$77,455.09.
- C. Approval of bills to be paid 12/19/25 in the amount of \$34,007.25.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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

8. 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.

9. Pekin Park Foundation Report:

Commissioner Gillis gave an update on the Performing Arts Venue and that the committee continues to get donations and is reducing the amount the Foundation put towards the project to get it completed. He mentioned the Levitt Foundation Grant that Foundation Board Member Green discovered, and that the Supt. of Rec. is working on putting an application together to help fund the Park District concerts/events for this upcoming season. He mentioned that the Foundation will be reviewing/updating their bylaws to allow voting by e-mail, as well as making other needed changes. And they also briefly talked about the need to update their gift catalog.

10. Executive Director's Report: None.

11. Attorney's Report: None.

12. Staff Reports:

The Supt. of IRVSRA said they had to move the Christmas Live show from Saturday to Sunday due to the winter storm. The show went off and was received well but attendance was down due to the weather.

13. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Ranney thanked all the staff for everything that they do throughout the year for the Park District and community. Commissioner Dralle echoed those comments.

14. Unfinished Business:

A. Project Recommendations from the Community Wide Attitude and Interest Survey Results.

The ED reviewed the summary he put together on the results of the survey. Based on the results and that no particular project(s) stood out, the recommendation is to consider a tax rate increase. Our tax rate is just too low for the type of amenities and facilities that we have. A tax rate increase will allow us to make more repairs/improvements to our overall infrastructure overtime and really in perpetuity, rather than just a few projects at one time which is what a bond referendum would do. Going for this type of referendum is much harder but it is also greatly needed. There would be a huge community wide education that would need to be done as part of this type of campaign.

Commissioner Ranney asked how long after a tax rate increase can you do a bond vote? The ED was not sure and would have to check. The ED reminded the Board that our bonds are callable in 2027 which may allow us to do some restructuring and give us an opportunity to have extra funds to get some projects done without increasing taxes. Commissioner Gillis made a comment that the message has to be good in order for voters to see the need of a tax rate increase. He also asked if the max will be enough? The ED said that what we have now is very low and not anywhere near the max rate. Commissioner Dralle asked how are non-profits supposed to fund big ticket items if they are not supposed to hold funds? The ED said that we can hold funds or set aside funds but we need to have a plan in place that these funds are to be used for a specific project and that they will be done at a specific time or within a timeframe down the road. We do this now with our transportation service vehicle replacement. Commissioner Ranney asked why can the City get 4%/year without a vote? The District attorney said it has to do with the different ordinances they are governed under.

The ED indicated that he wants to reach out to Speer Financial and Beyond Your Base with the tax rate increase idea.

B. Discussion regarding contracting with a referendum consultant, Beyond Your Base.

15. New Business:

A. Presentation of the 2026 Recreation Fund and PSC Concessions Budget.

The Supt. of Rec. presented the Recreation Fund budget highlighting major changes to the budget as compared to last year. Also presented was a slight increase (\$5) to the rates for youth sports programming, gym and dance, and adult sports leagues. Summer Day Camp is increasing \$10/week. The ice rates for the ice rink at the Arena has a \$5 increase. DragonLand Water Park entrance fee will be \$9. Capital projects to be done include repairing the water slide steel and recoating the slides again for \$13,500, and replacing the locker room doors in the ice rink for \$5,000. He also reviewed the Department's goals for 2026.

The PSC Concessions budget was reviewed and we are reverting back to only being open during games and tournaments, and not practices. The concessions were not supported during practices, therefore are expenses exceeded are revenues for the year and we lost a substantial amount of money. Other options being considered is trying to find a commercial business to run the concessions, or opening it up to the original sports organizations to see if they have any interest in taking them over and running them for a small rental fee.

Commissioner Gillis mentioned that LaGondola reached out to him about a partnership. The Supt. of Rec. said he does utilize and sell LaGondola's at times. The Supt. of IRVSRA asked if we have tried vendor carts before? We have but they are more trouble than they are worth. Commissioner Walraven asked if we needed an employee there if the sports groups were operating it? No, we would not. It would be there sole responsibility to run it with their volunteers. Commissioner Dralle asked if they would need to get a food operator's license? Yes, they would need to do that. Commissioner Walraven asked if we ever say no to outside food being brought in? Yes, we do that all the time but because of how the complex is set up, it is difficult to police. The Park District and sports groups or tournament operators do police it and enforce it when we see it.

B. Presentation of the 2026 Special Purpose Funds.

The ED went over the Special Purpose Funds that includes the capital improvement fund, health insurance, tort and liability insurance, IMRF, audit, the Park District improvement fund, and the bond funds

C. Approval of Ordinance No. 25-4: "An ordinance for the levy and assessment of taxes for Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois for the year 2025."

Move to approve Ordinance No. 25-4:

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

16. 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) (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 Greg Ranney; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Greg Ranney; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:35 p.m.

17. Move to approve the November 20, 2025 and December 4, 2025 Closed Session Minutes.

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

18. Approval of salary adjustments/annual wage increases.

a. Salary adjustments

- i. Superintendent of IRVSRA
- ii. Asst. Supt. of Parks
- iii. Director of Golf
- iv. Supt. of Marketing and Communications

- b. Full-time employees not receiving an adjustment, to receive 0% to 3% increase starting on the following payroll schedules: January 1 (salaried exempt) and January 3 (hourly), 2026.

A motion was made to accept the salary adjustments as presented and recommended by the ED for the Supt. of IRVSRA (\$46,521 to \$49,777), Asst. Supt of Parks (\$28/hr to \$29.40/hr), Director of Golf (\$79,882 to \$87,870), and Supt of Marketing/Communications (\$55,697.28 to \$58,482); and full-time employees not receiving an adjustment to receive 0% to 3% starting on January's first payroll; and the ED to receive 3% per the Park Board.

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

19. Adjourn

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District