



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 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 (arrived at 5:38 pm), Mike Dralle, Kristen Walraven (arrived at 5:42p.m.), Kyle Cain, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan and Steve Sours. 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; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; and Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police. Staff absent were: Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None.
5. Public Comments: None.
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025.
 - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 12/15/25 thru 1/05/26 in the amount of \$68,070.86.
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid 1/09/26 in the amount of \$21,742.26.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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

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 Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report:

The ED mentioned to the Board that the Park District will be hosting an IAPD Legislative Breakfast on Monday, March 2 at 8:00 or 8:30 (TBD) to be held at the Pavilion, and asked the Board to put it on their calendars to attend.

9. Staff Reports: None/

10. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gillis mentioned that he noticed many new members at Parkside and potential members coming in for info and tours.

11. Unfinished Business:

- A. Discussion regarding contracting with a referendum consultant.

The ED mentioned that Beyond Your Base is now booked because we did not sign the engagement letter back in September that we could have canceled if we decided to not go with them. They are not an option for this upcoming election year. The ED said he would contact aQity Research to see if they still might be interested and available. He reminded them that they only do the needs assessment survey which we did and the voter survey. They do not do any of the educational/promotional type materials and work. We would have to contract that out with someone else if we feel we need it or do it ourselves. We could look at doing it all ourselves, but that would basically be all that the ED would be focusing on, along with our Supt. of Marketing and Communications, the Business Manager and staff gathering information. The ED will reach out to aQity first.

Commissioner Cain mentioned that we need to consider what we would be taking away from doing it ourselves. The ED said he can put a list of things together that needs attention. Two things that came to mind are the Strategic Plan and Government Efficiency Act Report that need to be reviewed and addressed since they were not last year. Commissioner Gillis asked when the last time Districts 108 and 303 did a referendum? It was the sales tax referendum for buildings and grounds. Commissioner Cain asked if U of I (who did our survey in 2017) does referendum work? The ED said he would check.

12. New Business:
 - A. Presentation of the 2026 General Fund Budget.

The ED went over the Administration portion of the General Fund highlighting adjustments and changes to the budget. Salaries - Admin is down due to only budgeting for the ED through the end of September. It still needs to be decided whether or not the new ED starts in September/October or wait until the new fiscal year to save some money. Other expenses that are less than last year is Dues, Subscriptions and Conferences (less staff and no commissioners going to state conference), Marketing (doing more in-house), Grant Expenditures – State (no grant projects), Lease License Payments (reduced truck fleet and have credit from the sale of last year's trucks), and Transfers Out (reduced budgets that transferred funds to last year). The ED indicated that the big goals this year are to address the Strategic Plan and Government Efficiency Act Report.

The Supt. of Parks reviewed the Parks Department and Pekin Park Sports Complex budgets. The main changes for the Parks Dept. are a reduction in part-time salaries due to the electrician retiring, and less expense on equipment repair and replacement due to having new or newer used maintenance equipment. The main changes for the sports complex is a reduction in start-up/shut-down for the irrigation system because our new manager has experience with this, reducing the starting wage for part-time employees from \$17 back to minimum wage, a reduction in general repairs/maintenance due to the fire hydrant being done last year, and less expense on equipment repair and replacement due to having new or newer used maintenance equipment. There main goals are to keep things running and fix what is broken, and doing as much of it in-house as possible.

- B. Discussion and approval of contracting with IAPD to conduct the Executive Director search.

The ED asked the Board if they have any questions on the Director Search Proposal from IAPD for \$7,000. They pretty much do all the leg work in getting the opening out, collecting, reviewing and vetting all the candidates, recommending the candidates for the Board to interview, and helping the Board with the interview process in regard to the questions to ask. The Board does the interviewing and makes the decision on who to hire. Commissioner Sours does not think we need to spend the \$7,000 and the Board should take it upon themselves and put it on LinkedIn and Indeed. There was discussion on this and Commissioner Gillis said it is critical that we do this process right. Commissioner Dralle indicated that this is too important and we need to have the professionals guide us and handle the process.

Commissioner Ranney made a motion to accept IAPD's Director Search Proposal in the amount of \$7,000 and to enter into a contract with IAPD. Second Steve Sours. A roll call vote was done with six (6) commissioners voting aye and Commissioner Sours voting Nay. Motion carried, 6 ayes to 1 nay.

13. Announcement of time and place to reconvene meeting.

The ED asked the Board if they were available on Wednesday, January 14 to reconvene. The Board checked their calendars and all but one was available.

14. Motion to adjourn to reconvene on the date and time specified at the January 8, 2026 Board of Commissioners meeting for the discussion of the Line of Credit with Pekin Community Bank.

I move that we adjourn to Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:00 pm in the Board Room at 1701 Court St, Pekin, IL.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District