



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 22, 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; 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; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; and Michael Seghettin, Park District Attorney.
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 January 8, 2026 and the reconvened meeting of January 8 on January 14, 2026.
 - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 01/06/26 thru 01/16/26 in the amount of \$153,956.54.
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid 01/23/26 in the amount of \$14,603.35.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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 Kristen Walraven.
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 Greg Ranney; Second Gary Gillis.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

8. IRVSRA Report:
Commissioner Ranney gave the report on the IRVSRA. He mentioned that the Sports Banquet is on February 7 at Fondulac. Tickets are available for purchase. They discussed the stipend for coaches now and the budgetary reasons for the change. He asked the ED if we were at the levy maximum for SRA? The ED said yes. We try to keep the cost low for those participating in sports otherwise our numbers will probably decrease if they become too much. We just can't afford to pay coaches at \$15 an hour anymore. Commissioner Ranney went on to mention that SRA staff applied for an ACA Grant with Recreation staff for camp. We did not get it but will try again next year. He mentioned that the Christmas Show was a huge success. And he mentioned the Camp Connections flyer. This camp will allow those without disabilities to come to camp so that they can get a better understanding of those with disabilities and vice versa.

9. Fair Board Report:
Commissioner McMillan gave the report of the Fair Board. She mentioned that there is a vacancy that needs to be filled on the Board. The fair dates are July 27 through 29. Some of the Fair Board attended the conference in Springfield to get ideas for the fair. There was some discussion on projects this coming year with the focus being on new equipment/supplies for the fair, and to see if the exhaust/ventilation fans can be repaired in the LRB and possibly with the ones from Parkside (Cultural Exhibits Building) that are no longer being utilized.

10. Park Foundation Report:
Commissioner Gillis gave the report of the Pekin Park Foundation. The Foundation is changing website vendors to be in line with the upcoming Park District changes, and there will be no cost to the Foundation. The PAV committee continues to raise funds and the amount is now down to approximately \$170,000. The by-laws are being reviewed for possible changes/updates to them. The Parkside Fitness Manager provided and update on the Learning Garden and upcoming class program. The Foundation Board had a long discussion on the decision to approve a letter of collateral for the Park District regarding the Promissory Note. Their next meeting is February 18.

11. Executive Director's Report:
The ED mentioned that he and the Supt. of Parks have been talking with the San Juan Pools owner about them removing the trees along the property line and putting concrete barricades up like you see along road construction projects. They are also going to help us get rid of some of the junk along this area. The barricades will also help reduce people from cutting through their property. And the barricades will allow us to create storage areas eventually for mulch, soil, and other materials.

The ED asked the Board where we are at with the intergovernmental agreement with District 303? Commissioner McMillan said they talked with Shawn, Cory and Keith regarding their needs/wants with reimbursements/fees, scheduling, etc. from the School District and are heading in the right direction. The Park District will not have to pay any fees.

12. Attorney's Report: None.

13. Staff Reports: None.

14. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Gillis mentioned that the State Conference will be his last round of IAPD meetings. Commissioner Dralle asked if anybody was able to get in contact with the donor? The ED said, no, not yet.

15. Unfinished Business:

1. Discussion and approval of contracting with a referendum consultant, aQity Research, in the amount of \$24,875 to conduct a voter survey.
Commissioner Ranney asked if they will advise us to stop/go forward based on the voter survey results? The ED said yes, they would, but will verify with them. Commissioner Cain asked if we chose not to do this internally, correct? The ED said we need to have someone do the voter survey. We do not have the expertise or experience to do it ourselves. She then asked do we really need to spend this money right now? The ED said that is up to the Board but if we do not, then our chances to pass a referendum diminishes. Commissioner McMillan asked if we can afford it? The ED said that we can make it work. Commissioner Cain asked what other things should we be adjusting? The ED said they are always adjusting the budget through the budget process to be able to get things done. Commissioner Cain mentioned that eight years ago we spent \$30K for a lady from Boston to come, and we never got results of that. The ED said we did but the timing was bad due to the pandemic and we have not been able to get back to inputting

the information into the software once we were through the pandemic and change in fiscal year. Commissioner Ranney asked what is our plan if we do not hire someone to help us? The ED said we will have to skip the voter survey and handle the education/campaigning part ourselves, but it will be a challenge not having the voter survey information to work off of. Commissioner Dralle asked if Jeff was the President of aQity and if he would allow installment payments? The ED said he would check. It was decided to hold off on making a decision so that the ED and Commissioner Gillis can meet with aQity at the State Conference. The discussion will continue at the February 5 meeting. The ED indicated that a decision to move forward or not needs to be made at this meeting as we do not meet again until March 12.

17. New Business:

1. Approval of the Annual Abatement Ordinance, Ordinance No. 26-2, abating the tax hereto levied for the year 2025 to pay the principal of and interest on General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2020A, of the Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois.

Kristen Walraven made a motion to approve the Annual Abatement Ordinance, Ordinance No. 26-2. Second Greg Ranney.
All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

18. 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 Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:27 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Sue McMillan.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:44 p.m.

19. Adjourn.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District