



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, February 5, 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, and Sue McMillan. Commissioners Absent were: 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; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; 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. Discussion with aQity Research on conducting a voter survey.
Commissioner Gillis opened the discussion by summarizing the discussion that he and the ED had with aQity at the State Conference. The main point that arose from the discussion is that we need to work with a consultant and get this voter survey done in order for us to make appropriate decisions as to whether or not to move forward with a referendum. aQity will let us know if it is or is not a good idea based on the voter survey outcome.

Commissioner Ranney mentioned that the schools are going for a 1 cent referendum. The same as they have done before. This would be a County wide tax increase. He asked if this will hurt us? AQity said it was good info to have and that they would survey that through their testing to see what

kind of impact it will have. Commissioner Ranney asked if two referendums makes it more difficult? Yes, it does.

Commissioner Gillis asked how a data center advisory referendum would effect us? aQity said that because it is a controversial issue it would create a higher voter turnout.

Commissioner Cain asked which comes first? Data points or education. aQity said that due to the timing, we may have to do both now. Doing education first may require more work on the back end. It also could have a negative effect in the sense that if change direction based on the voter survey, then would have to reeducate.

aQity explained the survey process. First is the message, second is the priorities, and third is the demographic of the voters.

Commissioner Dralle asked if they are recommending we survey 300 people? Yes, they are.

Commissioner Cain asked what if we do not get 150 responses? aQity will keep going until get 300 responses.

Commissioner Cain asked what it is that we get? A summary, excel file, report? Yes, you will get all of that.

aQity summarized again what it is they do and their process. The Board thanked them for their time.

6. Public Comments:

- A. Motion to open the Public Hearing concerning the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

Move to open the Public Hearing concerning the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain. All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

No public; no comments.

- B. Motion to close the Public Hearing concerning the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Pekin Park District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026.

Move to close the Public Hearing concerning the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain. All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

7. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026
 - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 01/17/2026 thru 02/06/2026 in the amount of \$7,052.73
 - C. Approval of bills to be paid 2/06/2026 in the amount of \$12,286.83

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. Executive Director's Report:
The ED reminded the Board of the Legislative Breakfast we are hosting on Monday, March 2 at 8:30 at the Pavilion. The ED mentioned he heard from TERRA Engineering for the City regarding the Broadway Project they are planning which will be occurring in 2027. It will be from 14th Street to the Pekin Bike Path crossing. The ED also mentioned that he met with a resident who is interested in seeing a bicycle safety town constructed somewhere in Pekin. The ED went through several options where one could maybe be placed and other entities to maybe reach out to and for her to do more research on it. He indicated to her that we are open to it but it is something that we will not fund due to other priorities we have.

10. Staff Reports:
The Miller Center Administrator mentioned that the Miller Melodies group is disbanding.

11. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Gillis attended a session on bonds and an ED evaluation process session at conference. Commissioner Ranney reminded the Board that the IRVSRA Sports Banquet Dinner is this Saturday night in Fondulac. Commissioner McMillan said her and Commissioner Ranney met with the high school. There will be no charges for the use of the pool and track. She mentioned to Shawn about reaching out to Ryan Wrigley

with their schedule needs for bussing and that the School District is hoping to be able to accommodate but they are still figuring things out with the bussing. The high school wants to only cover 35% for the tennis courts and not 50%. Commissioner Dralle asked what's with the LED Digital Marquee sign on Court Street. The ED said this was part of the agreement with the City for the Court Street project that we are putting up a new sign to replace the one at Red Bud and the City paid us \$43,000 for the sign. Commissioner McMillan asked if we have any money budgeted for interior repairs/upgrades of the Pavilion. The ED said no but if the Board wants to eliminate a project we have budgeted, we can do so.

12. Unfinished Business:

- A. Approval of contracting with a referendum consultant, aQity Research, in the amount of \$24,875 to conduct a voter survey. There was continued discussion on whether or not we should spend the money to do this. Commissioner Cain said we need a starting point for the education process. After much back and forth on the subject, a motion was made by Gary Gillis to approve the contract with aQity in the amount of \$24,875. Greg Ranney second the motion. Four ayes and one nay (Kyle Cain) by a roll call vote, motion passed.
- B. Update of/Changes to Budget Funds Presented: Special Purpose Funds, Recreation Fund, Police Fund, Special Populations Fund, Golf Fund, Racquet and Health Fund, and General Fund. The ED went through updates and changes made to the budget since presented to the Board.

13. New Business:

- A. Discussion of National Fitness Campaign. The ED and Parkside Fitness Manager presented the idea of providing a fitness and studio court outside of Parkside Fitness with partial funding from the National Fitness Campaign. The remaining funding would need to be raised through donations, sponsorships and partnerships with other agencies that could utilize it. If we receive the grant, we can back out of it if the monies are not raised. The question is do we go for the grant funding now or wait and talk with potential interested parties on commitment first, then apply at a later date. Commissioner Ranney said he liked the concept but this probably is not the right time. Commissioner Dralle said it was a good idea down the road. It was decided to hold off on this for now.
- B. Approval of Ordinance 26-3 "An Ordinance Adopting the Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation of Funds for the Pekin Park

District, Tazewell and Peoria Counties, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the First (1st) Day of January 2026 and Ending on the Thirty-First (31st) Day of December 2026.”

Motion to approve Ordinance 26-3 made by Kyle Cain, second by Gary Gillis. All ayes by a roll call vote. Motion carried.

14. 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: 7:19 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Mike Dralle; Second Sue McMillan.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

15. Move to approve the January 22, 2026 Closed Session Minutes. Minutes were not completed or provided so this was tabled until the next closed session meeting.

16. Adjourn.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney.
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District