Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2026
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President Dralle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.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, Gary Gillis, Sue McMillan, Kristen Walraven, Kyle Cain and Steve Sours. Also in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police (arrived 5:45); Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; and Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management. Staff absent were: Cory Proehl, Director of Golf.

4. Additions to and/or deletions from the Agenda, if any. None.

5. Public Comments: None.

6. Presentation by Pekin Marigold Festival Committee members of new activities being considered/planned for the 2026 Festival.

   Amy McCoy of the Chamber and Marigold Committee thanked the Board and staff for working with the committee on this year's festival. She mentioned the activities that were taking place. Friday, September 11 is the Dragon Jam Concert at the Avanti's Dome. Commissioner Gillis asked if they were doing a recognition that evening of the 25th anniversary of 9/11? Amy said they were going to be doing something. They are having the 3 on 3 b-ball tournament again, as well as the cardboard boat races.

They are not sure yet about the water skiers. New events include a skate boarding event at the skate park and a rodeo in the LRB.

7. Discussion with aQity Research on the voter survey results.

   Jeff Andreasen of aQity Research presented the voter survey results to the Board. He reviewed the process they went through and the feedback they received. In the end, the spread between those that would probably vote in favor versus those opposed was too far apart. The difference was between 7 to 10 percentage points and that is an uphill battle to make up that difference when going through the educational campaign. Those opposed weren't against the Park District, just against paying more in taxes, especially during these hard economic times. Commissioner Sours summed it up by saying "it is not a good time for a referendum but everybody loves us." Commissioner Gillis commented that parks are usually "first in people's hearts, but last in their pocketbooks." He also said that 55% "for" would have been a "go." We have 55% against." Commissioner Walraven asked if we would have done more education would it have turned out better? Jeff said maybe, but people would think you had already decided to go for the referendum. Commissioner Gillis said that this justifies the PPD to make some of the difficult decisions coming. He also said it sounds to him like no "specific project" bond referendum funding would go through either? Jeff said that would be correct. Commissioner Gillis asked if it was true that you don not want to show a defeat first? Jeff said that it depends on the situation, especially if the dollar amount is lower the second time. He has seen and worked with agencies that failed the first time, but then got something approved the second time after making adjustments and listening to the voters. Commissioner Walraven asked would you recommend we share this with the public. Jeff said yes, but after the Board votes on whether or not going for a referendum and this case it seems like we will not be. The ED said yes, we should let the public know we are not going for a referendum and why and that we are listening based on the voter survey results.

8. Consent Agenda:

   A. Approval of the June 25, 2026 meeting Minutes

   B. Approval of the Bills and Payroll for 06/23/2026 thru 07/06/2026 in the amount of $296,341.71.

   C. Approval of bills paid 7/10/26 in the amount of $101,759.67.

   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 Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a voice call vote - Motion carried.

Motion to pass all items of business listed in the Consent Agenda by omnibus vote.

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

9. Executive Director’s Report: None.

10. Staff Reports: None.

11. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Gillis asked if there were any updates on the solar field? The ED said they have a walkthrough tomorrow with CEDG to go over what needs to be done to get this completed and to create a punch list. He indicated that they have been having issues with Ameren. Commissioner Walraven asked who mows it? The ED said that is CEDG’s responsibility and that they will be talking about that too.

12. Unfinished Business:

A. Discussion and Approval of the intergovernmental agreement with PCHS District 303.
There was not discussion and a motion was made by Greg Ranney to approve the intergovernmental agreement with PCHS District 303. Second by Gary Gillis. Roll call vote: Five (5) Ayes, Zero (0) Nays, and Two (2) Abstains (Kyle Cain and Kristen Walraven). Motion carried.

13. New Business: None.

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) (6) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real property or the selling or rental price of real estate owned by the public body; 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 Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 6:35 p.m

B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Mike Dralle; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
Time: 8:15 p.m

15. Move to approve the June 25, 2026 Closed Session Minutes.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

16. Adjourn.

Motion Kyle Cain; Second Gary Gillis.
All ayes by a voice call vote - Motion carried.
Time: 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary, Pekin Park District