



## PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of  
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners  
5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building  
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President Dralle 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, Gary Gillis, Kyle Cain and Steve Sours. Commissioners absent were: Kristen Walraven and Sue McMillan. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; and Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management. Staff absent were: Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator and Cory Proehl, Director of Golf.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any.  
The ED mentioned that he forgot to include the approval of the April 28, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes in the Consent Agenda. The minutes were in the Board Packet. This needs to be added to the consent agenda. The ED also mentioned that under Section 120/2 (c) (1) of the Closed Session, the following needs to be added for discussion of: “or specific volunteers of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, or a volunteer of the public body to determine its validity.” A motion was made to approve these additions to the Consent Agenda and Closed Session by Greg Ranney; Second by Gary Gillis: All ayes by a roll call vote; Motion carried.
5. Public Comments: None.

6. Consent Agenda:
  - A. Approval of April 23, 2026 meeting minutes.
  - B. Approval of the bills and payroll for 4/21/26 thru 5/07/26 in the amount of \$45,584.65.
  - C. Approval of bills to be paid 5/15/26 in the amount of \$25,129.30.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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

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 Kyle Cain; Second Greg Ranney.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

7. Executive Director's Report:

The ED mentioned that he and the Business Manager met with Terry Fischer to go over some of the items he had brought up at the last Board meeting during public comment. The financial reports were given to him also. The discussion mainly involved the referendum questions he had, and the intergovernmental agreement with District 303.

The ED also mentioned the Ford Transit Van that was recently purchased by Dale and Lela Sandrock for the IRVSRA and also to be used by the Miller Center, and thanked the Sandrock's for their generous donation.

8. Staff Reports:

The Supt. of Rec. reminded everyone that there is a soft opening of DragonLand on May 21 from 6 to 8 pm for employees and commissioners. This helps the lifeguards get some real life training prior to the pool opening Memorial Day weekend.
9. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Gillis mentioned he heard from someone that thought the podcast on the IRVSRA with the Supt. was great. He also thanked and recognized the Parkside Manager for getting the garden planted.

Commissioner Ranney mentioned he was talking to someone who told him that she recently pulled a child out of the lagoon who was supposed to be at the playground but the parent was not watching the child.

Commissioner Dralle mentioned that he was talking to someone who recently tested the lagoon, and though the numbers were elevated they were still in the safe range for ecoli. This person was wondering, as is Commissioner Dralle, why we do not pump water into the lagoon anymore from the well by Diamond #4. Staff indicated that there is going to be ecoli in bodies of water because of the animal droppings and there really is nothing that can be done about it. The thing to worry about is fecal coliform (which is what occurs when beaches are closed). The ED and Supt. of Parks mentioned that the well pump has not been operational for years and that it was looked into at one time to see how much it would cost to get it running again. It is not exactly sure what is wrong with it; the impeller motor, if it's dried up and needs to be drilled further down, etc. The costs for investigation and potential repair was over \$100,000 from what they could recall. They will look back to see what they can find. The ED said from his understanding the purpose of pumping the water into the lagoon had more to do with water levels rather than pumping fresh water into it. It was asked if there was any way to treat the lagoon or should we? The ED and Supt. of Parks will also check with the company that treats the pond for algae to see if there are other possible treatments to use.

Commissioner Cain said she took her class to the park the other day to pick up garbage and they could not find any.

10. Unfinished Business:

- A. Approval of the intergovernmental agreement with PCHS District 303.

Commissioner Ranney mentioned that there was some misinterpretation of what was told to them regarding 303's answer to the agreement. We thought they were in agreement to the new proposed agreement, and as it turned out, they meant that they agree to finish out the current agreement that is up in three years and that their issue with paying for tennis and golf still needs to be discussed and negotiated. Discussion ensued and it came to the conclusion that even with staying with the current agreement, it still needs to be amended because some things operationally have already changed (i.e. Coal Miners' Park). The ED and Commissioner Ranney will get together to discuss and figure the best way to present this to 303.

A motion was made to table approving the agreement by Greg Ranney; Second by Gary Gillis: All ayes by a roll call vote; Motion carried.

11. New Business:

- A. Discussion of Parks Tour on Thursday, June 11, 2026.  
The ED mentioned that the majority of the tour will be at the stables and Dead Broke Ranch will be giving a tour of what all has been

done and what is planned to be done with the renovations. He also mentioned that they'll probably stop at James Field to look at the Eagle Scout project, and to possibly have Lynette Steger there to talk about the spheres that were recently removed and the purpose of such amenities/displays in the parks. Commissioner Dralle said that he will not be able to attend this meeting.

- B. Discussion of scheduling Saturday morning special meeting(s).  
The ED asked the Board to look at their calendars to see what Saturday mornings they may have available to meet and discuss the future of and potential changes to consider for the Park District.

12. 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: 6:21 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.  
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Steve Sours.  
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.  
Time: 6:40 p.m.

- 13. Move to approve the March 12, April 9 and April 28, 2026 Closed Session Minutes.  
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney.  
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

- 14. Adjourn.  
Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.  
All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.  
Time: 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.  
Chip Hill  
Board Secretary, Pekin Park District