



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of
The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners
6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 24, 2025
Robert N. Blackwell Admin Building
Pekin, IL 61554

1. Call to order. President McMillan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Roll call.

The following Commissioners were present: Sue McMillan, Greg Ranney, Mike Dralle, Gary Gillis, Kyle Cain and Kristen Walraven. Commissioners absent were: Steve Sours. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; Cory Proehl, Director of Golf; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; and Michael Seghetti, Park District Attorney. Staff absent were: Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation.

4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. None
5. Public Comments: None
6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of meeting minutes from July 24, 2025 and August 7, 2025.
 - B. Approval of the Bills and Payroll for 7/22/25 to 8/18/25 in the amount of \$140,989.81.

C. Approval of Bills to paid 8/22/2025 in the amount \$71,073.44.

Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented or to accept all items in the Consent Agenda except the item withdrawn.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

All ayes by a voice call vote- Motion carried.

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

Motion Greg Ranney; Second Gary Gillis.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

7. Park Foundation Representative Report: None. Meeting was canceled.

8. Executive Director's Update:

The ED mentioned that the Miller Center put in for a grant through the County Clerk's Office to improve polling locations accessibility. The submissions included improvements to the building's doors, as well as improvements to the parking lot and an accessible route into the building. Fehr Graham was hired to assist in the outside design and cost estimates. The total submitted was over \$275,000. Commissioner Walraven asked when we would hear back? The ED was not for sure but figures fairly quickly as the project needs to be done by the end of June, 2026. Commissioner Gillis asked if we would have to match if we only are approved for partial funding? The ED said he was not for sure as they did not provide a whole lot of information, even when we asked for more details. He did not think there was a match and that we would just have to scale back the project. He said we probably would not do if we only receive partial funding.

The ED updated the Board on the solar project. He mentioned that they are hitting the large concrete footings/structures from the railroad yard and are going to have to make some adjustments further to the west, but will not know how far until they see how far they get starting from the east and heading west. Commissioner McMillan asked if the rows can be shifted to the south? The ED said no because of how the system is designed and to be constructed. Commissioner Ranney asked how big was the problem area? The ED was not for sure, maybe 60 feet by 60 feet. Commissioner Cain asked why they did not check this first (disappointed). The ED said that there was not any indication of what was where, if anything was even there, and it would have been a lot of soil borings to try and find, and that would not have been guaranteed. The ED indicated that we will have two fenced in areas now. Commissioners Ranney thinks it should still be one

fence in area instead of two. The ED said he would talk to them about that.

The ED mentioned the e-mail from a skate park user regarding concerns at the skate park. The concerns are about kids vaping and causing mischief. The ED said he talked with the Park Police Chief and they plan to increase their presence first to see if that alleviates the concerns. Security lights would be a challenge to do and costly. Commissioner Dralle asked if we could just put up property under surveillance signs? The ED said that we cannot do that because if something were to occur there, then we could get into a situation for saying we had cameras. Commissioner Walraven asked if we thought it will get better with school in session again? The ED said it might and hopefully it does. We really have not had any problems out there this year.

The ED mentioned that he and the Supt. of Parks met with Outdoor Solutions regarding the ballfields at PSC. This is the company that staff met with last fall and they gave us a general proposal on the work they do and price ranges. They are now going to give us a more detailed quote on improving diamonds #4 and #7. Our goal is to hopefully get these fields done this fall, then another two in the spring of 2026, another two in the fall of 2026, and then the final two in the spring of 2027. They are also going to give us a price on doing some staff training on how to take care of ballfields. Commissioner Walraven asked if the donor would get updates on the plans? The ED said he could reach out. The ED also mentioned that the City Manager met with him and brought up the fire station again. This may be an opportunity to maybe get this figured out and possibly get some monies to put towards these improvements or cover it completely. Commissioner Ranney asked about the well and if that was taken care of with the City? The ED thought it was when they approved the development to the south. He will check with the City.

9. Attorney's Report: None
10. Staff Reports:
The Supt. of HR and Risk Mgt. mentioned that we are advertising for the PSC Site Manager position but have only received two in-house candidates. We have checked with three other Park Districts up north who are looking for similar type positions. Two of them said they are not having any luck either with outside candidates, and are looking to go with internal candidates.
11. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Gillis that social media is pushing back on the PAV committee's fundraising efforts. They are also asking who Steve Skinner

is. He plans to do a podcast about the PAV and is working with the committee on a write-up to be put out there on various platforms.

Commissioner Walraven asked about the Court Street constructions and the potential effect it may have on the Marigold Festival? The ED said that they are supposed to have the water main work along Mineral Springs Park done by the festival. It really is up to the committee to work with the City. All the work is being done on the street and not in the park. If it is not done or there are still barricades up, it may help with slowing down traffic.

Commissioner McMillan asked why we are hiring a Gym and Dance person when our Aquatics Manager could probably be doing it? The ED said he will check with Supt. of Rec. but we have always had a Gym and Dance Instructor position. Commissioner McMillan did not agree and said the past Rec. Program Supervisor took lessons and training and ran the program. Commissioner Cain asked Commissioner McMillan if she felt like the people in management positions are not helping out enough? Commissioner McMillan was saying that they should be able to do more as in the past and it seems as if we are hiring more staff than we need. Commissioner Gillis mentioned that maybe we need to look at a Department every year to determine if it needs to be stripped down or organized differently.

12. Unfinished Business:

A. Discussion of the intergovernmental agreement with PCHS District 303.

The ED reviewed the suggested changes to the intergovernmental agreement with District 303. Commissioner Cain asked if the request form can be filled out on-line? The copies the ED had were handwritten but he believes they can be, and if not, he does not see why they cannot be. Commissioner Cain asked if the golf and tennis fees are the same for the other schools? For Parkside, they are. For golf, they are not. She also asked what is the timeline for District 303 requesting Park Police? Typically, there is not and most often we are approaching them of their need for graduation and homecoming. It is usually the same every year. She also asked if we will ever use their pool for swim lessons? We use it for lifeguard training and swim lessons in the summer. We will not be able to use it for swim lessons, as of right now, during the school year because of some changes and others using their pool.

B. Discussion of referendum options and process, and consultants.

The ED reviewed and the Board discussed the presentations from August 7. The Board likes both but feels Beyond Your Base and their approach will help educate and market to the voters more. There still is

concern with the cost and whether or not we will need to pay the full amount if we get to the point where this is just not going to be a possibility of passing. The ED will discuss this further with Beyond Your Base. Commissioner Dralle asked what their success rate is? He is curious to know how many they have done that have failed. The ED said he can look into this also. Commissioner Gillis said that we need to talk with Speer Financial. The ED said that will happen once we know the potential projects and their costs. Commissioner Ranney asked about the timeframe? The ED reminded the Board that they had a timeline in their presentation/proposal. Their work would begin after the first of the year. It was decided that after the ED got some clarification on a few items, that the Board would make their final decision at the next meeting.

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 performance of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park or recreational setting; and Section 120/2 (c) (5) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real property or Section 120/2 (c) (6) the selling or rental price of real estate owned by the public body; and Section 120/2 (c) (1), to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, or a volunteer of the public body to determine its validity; 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 Kristen Walraven; Second Gary Gillis.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

Time: 7:32 p.m.

- B. Move to reconvene into open session.

Motion Kyle Cain; Second Kristen Walraven.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

Time: 7:54 p.m.

15. Move to approve the July 24, 2025 Closed Session Minutes.

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Mike Dralle.

All ayes by a roll call vote – Motion carried.

16. Adjourn:

Motion Mike Dralle; Second Gary Gillis.

All ayes by a voice call vote – Motion carried.

Time: 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.

Chip Hill

Board Secretary

Pekin Park District