



PEKIN PARK DISTRICT

Minutes of

The Regular Board Meeting of Park Commissioners

6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 4, 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, Kristen Walraven and Steve Sours. Also, in attendance were: Cameron Bettin, Executive Director; Chip Hill, Business Manager/Board Secretary; Casey Smith, Superintendent of Marketing & Communications; Ericka Davis, Superintendent of Human Resources & Risk Management; Keith Knox, Parkside Fitness Manager; Scott Clausen, Superintendent of Parks; and Shawn Powers, Superintendent of Recreation. Staff absent were: Tony Maxison, Chief of Park Police; Alisha Dault, Miller Center Administrator; Shawna Burnice, Superintendent of IRVSRA; and Cory Proehl, Director of Golf.
4. Additions to and/or deletions from the agenda, if any. The ED indicated that he did not have any updates for Closed Session, therefore there is no need to go into Closed Session this evening. Motion to delete Closed Session from the agenda. Move to eliminate Closed Session from agenda: Motion Gary Gillis; Second Greg Ranney. All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.
5. Public Input:
 - A. Presentation/Discussion by Pat Taphorn of Unland Insurance and Benefits regarding health insurance, liability insurance and worker's compensation insurance.

Pat Taphorn from Unland went over all the current coverages the Park District currently has and went over what market considerations are out there. Currently Unland reviews Health

Insurance options on an annual basis. For Liability insurance we would have to give a 60-day notice if we wanted to test the market. For Worker's Comp. you would need to give a 90-day notice. Because of our current MOD and open claims, he does not see this as being the best time to test the market. Plus, if no one wanted to take us on, our current carrier could possibly not take us back or because we gave notice we were testing the market, they would treat us as a new business. The ED asked for clarification purposes, that anything open (liability claims) would be taken on by the Park District if they were to switch to another carrier from IPARKS? Pat said yes we would be responsible. Commissioner Ranney asked if that would be the case for Work Comp too? Pat said, no, that is not the case for that. Commissioner Sours asked what the Director/Officer (D&O) liability/claim is? Pat indicated that this is coverage for if the Board and/or Director gets sued or is named in a lawsuit. He gave some possible examples of where this could take place. Commissioner Sours then asked how Unland makes their money? Pat indicated that they get a percentage of the premium. Pat indicated that he has talked with another carrier for Property Liability to see if they would have any interest. The ED asked if this carrier also does Worker's Comp.? Pat said they do. Commissioner Walraven asked if there was anything we can do as a Board to help the ratio for Worker's Comp. Pat said no. We just need another year of no major injuries/claims. The ED said that Admin. staff meets monthly to discuss safety and training and having a Risk Manager should help with all of this. Commissioner Ranney asked if the Park District was named as insured for the Marigold Festival? Pat said yes. He then asked how much liability does the Park District have? Pat said that he also requests waivers of subrogation from the Chamber, vendors, carnival, etc. to protect the Park District even more. Commissioner Sours asked how the IPARKS premium tripled in five years. Pat indicated that what he was seeing on the sheet handed out shows the first year as a partial year, so that is why it appears that way. It has not increased that much over five years.

6. Consent Agenda:
 - A. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2025.
 - B. Approval of the July Treasurer's Report.
 - C. Approval of bills paid from 8/19/25 through 9/2/25 in the amount of \$140,005.96
 - D. Approval of bills to be paid 9/5/25 in the amount of \$26,579.01

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 Mike Dralle.
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. Budget Performance Summary Report: (through the end of July)
The ED said that the report is still being cleaned up in regard to some miscoding of expenses into the wrong accounts, as well as adjustments to salary expenses into the correct accounts due to either employee's clocking into the wrong location or not paying attention to their default setting when clocking in. Also, this report still does not reflect all the property tax revenues yet to be received, along with replacement tax. There was some discussion as to some changes in the budget summary report to reflect expected revenues and expenses better. The ED and Business Manager said they would look at making these changes for the 2026 reports. Commissioner McMillan had some questions on certain accounts and those being asked about were accounts needing to be adjusted. She told the Business Manager she would give him her report she marked up for him to review. Other than the adjustments, the budget summary is looking okay. The ED said that at the November 6 meeting, there will be a cleaned up version of the budget summary through the end of September.

9. Executive Director's Report:
The ED said that he will be gone on vacation September 17 through the 27th, and will be back in the office on the 29th. He mentioned that Alisha's rowing for cancer team going to Boston in October and her website link that was sent out that has more information on their team and efforts and if one wants to make a donation.

10. Staff Reports:
The Parkside Manager mentioned the loan the Park Foundation approved in order to purchase new equipment for the fitness facility.

The Supt. of Marketing and Communications mentioned that the finale for the Kiss Me in the Park contest is Thursday, September 18.

11. Commissioner Comments:
Commissioner Gillis recognized Keith Knox for his 25-year anniversary at Parkside. He also asked if there is another metric we can use to measure PPD success? i.e. new members, rounds played, etc. And he mentioned that we should consider putting in for the IAPD Best of the Best

Award for next year. Not enough downstate or central Illinois districts do these.

Commissioner Ranney asked if there was an update regarding the PAV donation? There were really no donations in August and there are no updates as to the large donor giving more. He also thanked staff for everything they do and for a successful summer.

Commissioner Walraven congratulated Commissioner Gillis on another successful Medallion Hunt.

12. Unfinished Business:

- A. Approval of contracting with a referendum consultant, Beyond Your Base, for the not to exceed amount of \$65,865.

The ED mentioned to the Board that Beyond Your Base has had 96% success rate the last 5 years. Also, there is not a "Go/No Go" line. It is going to cost the full amount. It is very rear to get a "No Go." Commissioner Sours mentioned that he is going to vote "No" to spending the money for this. He believes we should just put a question on the ballot and see what happens. The Board decided to table any decision until the next meeting.

Move to table the approval of contracting with a referendum consultant, Beyond Your Base, for the not to exceed amount of \$65,865:

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kyle Cain.

All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

13. New Business:

- A. Discussion and Approval of Intergovernmental License Agreement Among Pekin Park District, Tazewell County Veteran's Memorial Fair Association and Pekin Community Softball Association from November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2030.

The ED reviewed the license agreement between the PPD, Fair Association and PCSA, and highlighted the following minor changes:

- The layout of the batting cages and pitching areas.
- Scheduling with District 303, and clarification of who owns what.
- Fee Schedule change

Move to approve the Intergovernmental License Agreement Among Pekin Park District, Tazewell County Veteran's Memorial Fair Association and Pekin Community Softball Association from November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2030:

Motion Greg Ranney; Second Steve Sours.
All ayes by a roll call vote- Motion carried.

14. Closed Session: Deleted from Agenda
- 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.~~

B. ~~Move to reconvene into open session.~~

15. ~~Move to approve the August 21, 2025 Closed Session Minutes. Deleted from Agenda~~

16. Adjourn:

Motion Gary Gillis; Second Kristen Walraven.
All ayes by a voice call vote – Motion carried.
Time: 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted.
Chip Hill
Board Secretary
Pekin Park District