

Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
August 19, 2025

Board President Crews called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for roll call. Commissioners present: Gerry Crews, Chrissie Popper, Aaron Dalzot, Liz Nelson and Sarah Beckmann. Commissioners Absent: None. Also present: Mike Szpylman, Executive Director; Director of Recreation; Kraig Owens, Director of Parks; Sumitra Potharazu, Director of Business Services; Jennifer Gilbert, Director of Marketing and Community Relations and Christina Richmond, Accounting Manager.

A motion was made by Popper to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$1,400,093.71 presented on August 19, 2025, was made by Popper and was seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The financial report and treasurer's report were reviewed.

The President opened the floor to visitors; there were no comments provided.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Audit as presented was made by Popper and was seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Sumitra Potharazu then thanked Mike for his guidance in completing the audit this year and thanked Hannah Cullerton from Lauterbach & Amen, LLP. Hannah congratulated Gurnee Park District on receiving the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, for the 25th Year in a row. Hannah then reviewed the Audit Report.

Department Directors reviewed their written reports with the Board.

Director of Parks and Planning Kraig Owens reviewed the parks report. Kraig thanked his staff for their tremendous efforts with Gurnee Days with day-of minor challenges and weather shifts. Commissioner Popper thanked the Gurnee Park District Staff for all their efforts in a successful Gurnee Days. Village of Gurnee Board Meeting, 3 total parcels (Annex House, Maintenance Shop and North Property at Hunt Club) were officially annexed into the Village of Gurnee yesterday. Additionally, Kids Around the World, a non-profit based out of Rockford, came in last week and dismantled the 5–12-year-old section of the Community Playground. They will repurpose the playground equipment for a community in need.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman offered to answer any questions regarding the recreation report as Melissa Marsh is out of the office.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu reviewed the business report. Sumitra offered to provide additional resources regarding the Audit findings as previously requested by Board

President Crews earlier in the meeting. Crews requested a cover page or summation of items to focus on, specifically areas of financial improvement, or opportunity for Gurnee Park District.

Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the Marketing and Community Relations report.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman reviewed his report. Mike expressed his gratitude to everyone on the Gurnee Park District team who made Gurnee Days a great success. The feedback we received from the community has been positive.

There is a Tree Dedication on Sunday, October 5, 2025. The Park Tour is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2025. The Intergovernmental Picnic date and hosting district is still being determined and will be shared with the group later. As a reminder, next month's board meeting will be held on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

ACTION ITEM

A motion to approve the lowest responsible bid from M & O Environmental Co. Mokena, IL to complete the project of asbestos and lead abatement at 35006 and 35010 N. Hunt Club Rd, Gurnee, IL at a cost of \$88,400 was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Popper to enter into executive session at 8:08pm to discuss:

- a. Semi Annual Review of Executive Session Minutes- Sec. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)
- b. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity. – Sec. 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1)

Motion seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Popper to return to open session at 8:35pm. Motion seconded by Nelson. On voice vote, all voted aye and the Board returned to open session.

A motion was made by Popper to erase executive session tapes from August 2023 – January 2024 and was seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Crews, Nelson and Beckmann. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Gerry Crews, President

Aaron Dalzot, Secretary