

Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
February 17, 2026

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 and Sarah Beckmann. Commissioners Absent: Liz Nelson. Also present: Mike Szpylman, Executive Director; Kraig Owens, Director of Parks and Planning; Melissa Marsh, Director of Recreation; Sumitra Potharazu, Director of Business Services and Jennifer Gilbert, Marketing and Community Relations Manager. Liz Nelson arrived at 7:01pm.

A motion was made by Popper to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 20, 2026. The motion was seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Popper to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting held on January 20, 2026. The motion was seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$736,597.72 presented on January 20, 2026, was made by Popper and was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The financial report and treasurer's report were reviewed and discussed.

The Board President opened the floor to visitors; there were no visitors present.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve Libertyville Bank and Trust to issue the bonds at an interest rate of 2.98% was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Ordinance #25/26-5 for the issuance of \$783,020.00 in general obligation limited park bonds series 2026A of the Gurnee Park District and for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest of said bonds was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mike Szpylman then introduced Mark Jeretina from Speer Financial who explained the details of the bond sale and recommended proceeding with Libertyville Bank and Trust.

Department Directors reviewed their written reports with the Board.

Director of Parks and Planning Kraig Owens reviewed the parks report. Kraig shared that curb installation is underway at HCPCC. Additionally, the tree and brush sightline located on the former Markus property has been improved.

Director of Recreation Melissa Marsh reviewed the recreation report. Melissa shared that camp registration went well.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu reviewed the business report. Sumitra shared that we have begun the transition to our new bank, Gurnee Community Bank.

Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the marketing report. Jennifer shared that one of the action items for this evening is to update our privacy app and reviewed those details.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman reviewed his report. Mike reminded the board of the upcoming registration for the IAPD Legislative Conference. The start time of the Hunt Club Park Rededication Ceremony has been set for 11:30am on Saturday May 16, 2026. Additionally, Lake County will be sending out the annual Economic Interest Filing emails sometime before March 1, 2026. All Board members and Administrative Team members are required to file as representatives of Gurnee Park District.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve the Gurnee Park District's new App Privacy Policy was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Salary Table for FY 2026-27 as presented was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Updated App Privacy Policy was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the sale of fitness equipment to Second Round Fitness Equipment was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the equipment purchase for FitNation at HCPCC including trade-in of existing cardio fitness equipment was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution #25/26-2 was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Amendment to the Employment Agreement for Executive Director was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Popper, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Popper to enter into executive session at 8:02pm to discuss:

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

A motion was made by Popper to return to open session at 8:25pm. Motion seconded by Nelson. On voice vote, all voted aye and the Board returned to open session.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nelson and seconded by Dalzot. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Gerry Crews, President

Aaron Dalzot, Secretary