

Special Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
March 16, 2026

Board President Crews called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00pm and asked for roll call. Commissioners present: Gerry Crews, Aaron Dalzot, Sarah Beckmann and Liz Nelson. Commissioners absent: Chrissie Popper. Also present: Mike Szpylman, Executive Director and Kari Hagen, Accounting Manager.

Board President Crews called for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Dalzot to enter into executive session at 6:02pm 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)

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

A motion to exit the executive session was made by Dalzot and seconded by Nelson at 6:48pm. On voice vote, all voted aye.

Board President Crews led the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00pm. Joining the meeting at 7:00pm were 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.

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 17, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: Popper. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the minutes of the Executive Session meeting held on February 17, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: Popper. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$801,274.17 presented on March 16, 2026, was made by Nelson and was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: Popper. 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.

Board President Crews requested permission to move to Action Item A regarding the bond ordinance. Mike Szpylman shared the details of the bond sale with the group.

A motion to approve Ordinance #25/26-6 providing for the issue of \$5,400,000 General Obligation Refunding Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), Series 2026B was made by Beckmann and

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

Department Directors reviewed their written reports with the Board.

Director of Parks and Planning Kraig Owens reviewed the parks report. Kraig expressed gratitude to the parks team for the recent, late-season snow removal. The group discussed winter salt storage for the district.

Director of Recreation Melissa Marsh reviewed the recreation report. Melissa discussed our recent participation at School District 56's Black History Month event. The board inquired about the staffing chart presented in Melissa's report. The group discussed FOIA and First Amendment audits.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu reviewed the business report.

Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the marketing report. Jennifer provided an update in the hiring process for the department. They are currently hiring for the Marketing Coordinator and Sponsorship Sales Coordinator positions and hope both roles will be filled in the coming weeks.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman reviewed his report.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 preliminary budget report.

Director of Parks and Planning Kraig Owens reviewed the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 5-Year Capital Plan.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve the agreement with Gurnee Youth Baseball for use of Vicki Paddock Park baseball Fields and other fields operated by the district was made by Beckmann and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: Popper. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the agreement with Gurnee Youth Baseball for maintenance of the baseball Fields at the American Legion was made by Dalzot and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: Popper. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nelson and seconded by Dalzot. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Gerry Crews, President

Aaron Dalzot, Secretary