

Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
April 21, 2026

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

A motion was made by Nelson to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 16, 2026. The motion was seconded by Popper. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, 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 March 16, 2026. The motion was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts and payroll in the amount of \$916,685.91 presented on April 21, 2026, was made by Popper and was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, 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.

Department Directors reviewed their written reports with the Board.

Director of Parks and Planning Kraig Owens reviewed the parks report. Kraig introduced Gage from Wight & Company, which is the contracting company for the Betty Russell Master Plan. He shared that we had 400+ respondents to our online Master Plan survey relating to this project. Gage brought large photo renderings to display and reviewed the Conceptual Plan with the Board.

Kraig Owens then introduced Chris Marzano, Risk Manager who presented an update on the District's Risk Management Program. The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of recent accomplishments, outlined upcoming initiatives, and reviewed the district's loss premium ratios as reported by the Park District Risk Management Association (PDRMA).

Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the marketing report. Jennifer shared that the department is close to being fully staffed again.

Director of Recreation Melissa Marsh reviewed the recreation report. Melissa shared that the HCPAC season pass sales have been very strong. Commissioner Crews inquired about Lifeguard staffing. Melissa shared that there are no current concerns with the recruitment and retention of lifeguards or other aquatic center staff.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu reviewed the business report. Sumitra shared that the preliminary meeting has taken place for our annual audit. The audit fieldwork will take place in June.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman reviewed his report. Mike requested that any other board members are interested in attending the NRPA conference, to please let him know by May 11th.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Budget was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Five-Year Capital Project Plan was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Annual Goals was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

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

A motion to approve the Resolution #25/26-3 Authorizing the Trade-in of Park District Vehicles P-18 and P-20 was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Vehicle Purchases from Landmark Ford, Inc. was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Approval of Agreement with Trane US, Inc. for FitNation Indoor Pool HVAC Systems Improvements was made by Popper and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Tennis Court Surface Repair and Color Coating at Betty Russell Community Park was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Popper, Beckmann, Nelson and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Renaming Hunt Club Park Neighborhood Playground and Wooded Walking Trails area as Jim Goshorn Park was made by Dalzot and seconded by Beckmann. Roll

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

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

A motion was made by Popper to enter into executive session at 8:40pm 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 Dalzot. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Dalzot, Beckmann, Nelson, Popper and Crews. Nays: None. Absent: none. Motion carried.

A motion to exit the executive session was made by Popper and seconded by Dalzot at 8:56pm. On voice vote, all voted aye.

A motion to adjourn was made by Popper and seconded by Nelson. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

Gerry Crews, President

Aaron Dalzot, Secretary