

Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Gurnee Park District Board of Commissioners
June 16, 2026

Board President Popper called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for roll call. Commissioners present: Christine Popper, Gerry Crews, and Sarah Beckmann. Commissioners absent: Aaron Dalzot and 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; Jennifer Gilbert, Marketing and Community Relations Manager; Kari Hagen, Accounting Manager; Omayra Shofner, Membership Services Supervisor; Rachel Laren Supervisor of Community Programming and Events; Tristan Ortiz Business Services Specialist; Michael Michaelangelo Recreation Intern; Ashley Scanlon Recreation Intern; Tristan Starzec Marketing Intern; Katie Cook, Grounds Maintenance III and David Hartshorne, Customer Service Representative II. Liz Nelson arrived at 7:01pm.

A motion was made by Crews to approve the minutes of the regular session held on May 19, 2026. The motion was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Beckmann, and Popper. Nays: None. Absent: Dalzot and Nelson. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the total bills, payouts, and payroll in the amount of \$1,032,652.43 presented on June 16, 2026, was made by Crews and was seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Beckmann, Nelson, and Popper. Nays: None. Absent: Dalzot. 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.

Director of Recreation Melissa Marsh reviewed the recreation report. Melissa also introduced Rachel Laren, Supervisor of Community Programming and Events and Recreation Interns Ashley Scanlon and Michael Michaelangelo.

Director of Business Services Sumitra Potharazu reviewed the business report and presented a PowerPoint overview of the pre-audit, including information on the 2025-2026 Fiscal Budget and expenditures. Sumitra invited Kari Hagen to introduce Tristan Ortiz, who joined the Business Services team on May 18th.

Director of Marketing and Community Relations Jennifer Gilbert reviewed the marketing report and provided additional insight into current marketing trends, including the use of AI in marketing and algorithms of social media content. Jennifer introduced Marketing Intern Tristan Starzec.

Executive Director Mike Szpylman reviewed his report. Mike introduced the SOFIE Fulltime Employee of the Year, Katie Cook Grounds Maintenance III. Katie has received recognition for her extensive knowledge and contribution specifically to the wide variety of plants and flowers throughout the grounds as well as her willingness to thoroughly orient and train new members in the

department. Mike also introduced SOFIE Part time Employee of the Year David Hartshorne Customer Service Representative II. David has received recognition for his knowledge and friendly customer service while assigned to the Front Desk at the Hunt Club location.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve the Betty Russell Community Park Master Plan was made by Nelson and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Crews, Beckmann, Nelson, and Popper. Nays: None. Absent: Dalzot. Motion carried.

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

A motion to approve the Gurnee Park District FitNation Spa Resurfacing was made by Nelson and seconded by Beckmann. Roll call vote taken. Ayes: Beckmann, Nelson, Crews and Popper. Nays: None. Absent: Dalzot. Motion carried.

Other Business discussed Mike Szpylman discussed potential dates for the Parks Tour, which are to be determined.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nelson and seconded by Crews. On voice vote, all voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Christine Popper, President

Kari Hagen, Secretary