

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

Call to order President Schulz called the February 19, 2025, meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance President Schulz led the Board, Staff, and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call President Schulz directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Kraemer, Fischer, Ott and President Schulz.

Also in Attendance Executive Director Greg Lewis, Attorney Angelo Vitiritti, Director of Parks and Maintenance Ken Stephens, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Recreation Lea Pipiras, Deputy Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath

Treasurer's Report Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for January 31, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer's Report for January 31, 2025. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for January 31, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills Commissioner Kraemer quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for January 31, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for January 31, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Communications IAPD 2025-2026 Legislative Platform
President Schulz noted there was correspondence from IAPD addressing some of the most pressing concerns and needs of member park districts, forest preserves, conservation districts, municipal recreation agencies and special recreation associations.

IAPD 2024 Legislative Year in Review
President Schulz stated there was correspondence from IAPD highlighting the Legislative Year in Review.

IPRF Thank You
President Schulz stated that there was a Thank You Letter from IPRF for our donation basket for the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Annual Conference.

Consent Agenda Approval of the Regular Minutes of January 15, 2025
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Minutes of January 15, 2025. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee & Staff Reports

Business Services

Commissioner Ott congratulated Ernesto Lopez Munoz for accepting a full-time position as the Food and Beverage Manager at the Sanctuary Golf Course. Commissioner Ott spoke about the IAPD Conference that was held in Chicago in January, and he thanked the staff and other commissioners that attended the classes and workshops that are offered to bring back great tools to the park district.

President Schulz agreed with Commissioner Ott regarding the IAPD Conference and thanked Executive Director Lewis and the entire staff that attended and happy on how well New Lenox Park District was represented.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported that there has been a lot of general maintenance being done during the winter months. He noted that the Sports Complex is moving along with the construction, but it has had some weather delays and once the weather turns the work will continue.

Golf Course

Commissioner Kraemer reported that January was a decent month, even with the cold weather. He stated that the Penguin Open was held in January with 67 participants donating just over 200 items for the New Lenox Food Pantry. Commissioner Kraemer stated that they are down to the final drawings for the new golf shop counter, which is a much-needed upgrade since it is 26 years old. He noted that the Perm Letters went out in January, and it appears that all are planning to return for the 2025 season.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that Food and Beverage had a good month with just over 40% over last January sales. He noted that the expansion of the gaming room is almost complete, and the kitchen has been painted and some touching up around the bar area will take place in February.

Commissioner Kraemer stated the course has been doing with the winter weather with just some minor damage to the grass turf and will be addressed once the growing season starts again. The equipment work is moving along with no big surprises, just some minor issues we are addressing while parts are available. Commissioner Kraemer noted that the greens mowers have been pushed back to sometime in May. We must understand that they will come when they come. If the ground stays frozen, we will get some pruning/tree removal done in February and chemical prices are up, but we will reflect that in our next budget.

Director of Golf Schulz thanked everyone that came out to the Penguin Open and the generosity of the donations for the New Lenox Food Pantry.

Parks/Development

Development Update

Hibernia Park Phase II

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that final reimbursement payment was received.

Sharon's Bay Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens stated that there was a kick-off meeting to review the concept plan, schedule, budget and OSLAD items. He noted that he and Director of Recreation Pipiras attended the meeting with PRI.

Water Chase Park

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that Com Ed has installed a meter and power to the shelter. He did note that 1% retainage is being held for the ground needing reprofiled behind the wiffleball backstops.

Commissioner Fischer asked if George's Landscaping has been paid out for this project. Deputy Director of Business Services Braglia stated that the final payout was picked up and all that is being held is the 1% retention. He noted that the paperwork is being prepared for the audit to be sent to IDNR to receive final reimbursement from the state.

Athletic Associations

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that spring meetings will start in March with Baseball, Softball and Soccer to begin obtaining the required documents.

Fleet & Equipment

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens stated that 6-month safety lane checks have taken place

Out in the Parks

Director of Parks-Maintenance Stephens reported that Haines Ice Rink was open for 23 days, which is the longest number of days we have had for the past 4 years. He noted that Water Chase stop sign, and handicapped signs were stolen, and police reports have been filed. He stated that Bristol Park and Aerohaven Park had their little libraries reconstructed.

Commissioner Fischer asked for clarification with the reimbursements for Hibernia and Water Chase Parks from the state. Deputy Director of Business Services stated that we have been completely paid out for Hibernia Park and are working on the final documents to send to the state for the final payout for Water Chase. Executive Director Lewis noted that the timeline for Sharon's Bay Park Redevelopment is to be completed by the end of the year.

Executive Director Lewis urged the residents that if you see something and know of something that is being damaged and/or vandalized out in the parks to report it either to the Park District or the Police Department. We do not want to have more cost to the residents because of this.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis reported that the Audit presentation was given, and it shows that LWSRA is getting high marks. It is not much of an audit but more of a review by a CPA of their annual budget. The auditors recommended looking at their reserve policies every 3 months instead of every 6 months. Executive Director Lewis is happy with their fund balance and the accrual of their money. He noted that they are programming in all 8 communities.

Commissioner Fischer stated that the group programming at LWSRA is something to be proud of and congratulations to their sports teams.

Commissioner Fischer congratulated Deputy Director of Recreation Olga Viano for being named the treasurer of the Francis Field Foundation Board. She will be a good addition to the foundation board.

Commissioner Fischer reported our Recreation Department attended this year's IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference and attended 54 classes totaling 55 hours. This is a great opportunity for staff to not only learn but to network as well with other districts from around the state. Commissioner Fischer reported that the Adult Pickleball League began in January with a total of 17 teams and participated for 8 weeks concluding with a tournament in March. Commissioner Fischer mentioned we have 491 participants enrolled in our ACES program. Our Beyond the Bell is a great program for working parents when school is not in session and is an extension of our Before/After Care program ACES. During the winter holidays we had approximately 125 participants attend. Our Kiddie Kampus program showed how to properly take care of their teeth by dental hygienist Nancy Doran. Our Ignite Cheerleading program has a total of 50 participants and there are 81 participants in the Dynamic Dancers 9 programs offered.

Commissioner Fischer thanked Recreation Supervisor Amy Maher and staff for continuing to work on the documents for the upcoming Accreditation Award.

Commissioner Fischer reported on some of our upcoming events such as, Flashlight Clover Hunt will be Friday, March 7th at Firefighter's Park and the Friends of the Park have a 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, April 26th at The Sanctuary Golf Course. There will be a Garden Party Fashion Show sponsored by New Lenox Lions Club on Sunday, March 30th at the VFW. Tickets can be purchased at Moody Blue Jean Boutique or Mainstreet Boutique.

Director of Recreation Pipiras thanked partner sponsors for the generous donations, TR Miller – Gold Sponsor, Burns Photography – Silver Sponsor, and Berkots – Summer Camp Sponsor. These dollars are used towards our programs and helps us with our expenses.

New Business

Resolution #25-01- Authorizing the Execution of Agreement with Planning Resources, Inc. (Sharon's Bay Park Site Re-Development)

President Schulz asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding Resolution #25-01. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #25-01 Authorizing the Execution of Agreement with Planning Resources, Inc. (Sharon's Bay Park Site Redevelopment). Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Events

President Schulz reported that the West Craft and Vendor Fair with over 150 crafters and vendors will take place on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Lincoln-Way West High School and is sponsored by Lincoln-Way West Music Boosters

**Adjourn to
Executive Session**

President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn to a closed Executive Session for any lawful purpose including but not limited to Section 2(c) 1 Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees. Motion was made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Resume to
Regular Meeting**

President Schulz requested a motion to resume to the Regular Monthly Meeting of February 19, 2025, from Executive Session. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Motion passes.

President Schulz requested a motion to Accept the Conclusions of Grievance Investigation Submitted by Attorney William Gleason. Motion was made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon the roll call vote all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

At approximately 7:38pm, President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the February 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Recording Secretary – Melissa McGrath