

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
CLARENDON HILLS PARK DISTRICT BOARD  
COMMUNITY CENTER – 325 CHICAGO AVENUE  
March 23, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02p.m. by Secretary Kathleen Forzley

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Austin, Barcelos, Draudt, and Fetzer  
Absent: Sink

Other Officials Present: Donald Scheltens, Executive Director  
Katie Gock, Assistant Director  
Blake McMahon, Superintendent of Parks  
Lee Howard, Treasurer  
Kathleen A. Forzley, Secretary

Addresses from the Audience

Hosek Park resident, Phil Ordway, addressed the Board to inform them that with the last two rains, his home did not have any flooding. He wanted to thank the Board and Benito's Landscaping for the construction of the swale.

President Austin acknowledged the parents and girls' Little League Softball players. She stated that she had a statement to read before hearing from the residents. President Austin stated that the mission statement of the Park District is to serve everyone in the Community within the budget constraints of the Park District.

She further explained that Little League pays for the operational needs during the season, including equipment and game day field maintenance. She informed the residents that the Park District staff meets with Little League and asks for suggested field improvements based on needs, and which improvements were a priority. This is done on an as needed basis.

After reading her statement she asked the residents to come forward and address the Board. The resident parents and the girls who participate in the Little League Softball teams all agreed that the referendum monies that were spent on one field were excessive and were not equitable to the improvements they believe are needed for Eccles and Norfolk fields, which primarily serve the Girls' Little League softball teams.

Specifically, they were requesting permanent homerun fences, covers on the dugouts, backstop fencing repairs, a permanent scoreboard, and lights, which will allow them to play night games. They felt that the inequities in the fields made the girls feel as if they are not viewed as equals.

President Austin and Executive Director Scheltens explained that based on the current population of Clarendon Hills, required park acreage is short by about thirty acres. This is the reason that the Park District must share fields between different age groups. This makes a permanent homerun fence impossible at Eccles because the field is used by multiple age groups requiring the fence to be moveable. Our preliminary quote for a proposal was just under \$500,000 for lights and materials. That does not include the soil borings and concrete foundations for the light poles, as well as the labor to install the lights. Those additions could bring the cost of lights approximately close to \$1 million for this project. Also, the residents near the park have in the past expressed concerns about the additional lights. The Park District does not have the funds currently to make all the requested improvements.

The Board and the staff agreed that safety issues will be addressed immediately, but other improvements should be made through the Little League Board. The improvements should be addressed to a specific field, and not to those who are using the field. These priority improvements will be discussed with the Little League Board and within budget constraints and considered for the 2027 budget.

President Austin thanked the Girls Little League Softball players and the parents for attending the meeting and making the Board aware of their needs. She encouraged them to bring these concerns to the Little League Board and to prioritize the needs of each field.

The residents exited the meeting at 7:56p.m.

#### Approval of consent agenda

President Austin asked the Board if they had any questions or comments. There being none, she requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Whereupon, on motion by Commissioner Draudt, seconded by Commissioner Fetzer, the consent agenda was approved. The roll call was as follows:

Ayes:	Draudt, Fetzer, Austin, and Barcelos
Nays:	None
Absent:	Sink

#### President's Report

President Austin asked Jim Leppert, IHC to present the updates on the Lions Park Pool Renovation. He reported that this month's progress includes the waterslide balance tank walls which have been framed, reinforced, and poured; the tank lid has also been framed and reinforced. The waterslide tower has been started, and stair components are being assembled. The new mechanical room has the filtration piping completed, and the chlorine pumps are installed. In addition, the existing mechanical room filters have been installed.

The Admissions Window renovation is underway with the new window opening created and protected until the new window arrives and is installed. The concrete in front of the building is being replaced along with plans to pour the remaining new walkways, weather depending.

Jim Leppert, IHC, exited the meeting at 8:12p.m.

President Austin informed the Board that staff are seeking proposals for an updated comprehensive master plan for the Park District and will discuss at the April Board meeting.

### Committee Reports

#### Finance/Personnel Committee

Commissioner Draudt, Treasurer Lee Howard, and Executive Director Scheltens will be working on the Tentative Combined Budget/Appropriation Ordinance which will be brought to the Board at the April Board meeting.

#### Aquatics Committee

Nicole Interrante, Superintendent of Recreation, has hired 90 pool employees and would require 5 - 8 more lifeguards before beginning training. She has also hired a diving coach. As of this date 179 resident family pool passes have been sold.

#### Recreation Committee

Commissioner Fetzer informed the Board that March 16<sup>th</sup> began resident registrations. Registrations are going very well for all summer programs. Current registrations for Camp Imagination are at 78 and Camp Discovery at 31. The staff is looking at a new 2-year-old camp called Camp Wonder to accommodate the needs of the youngest campers.

The Pickleball and Tennis Courts are open, and staff are creating a schedule for the levels of players on the courts. The staff is ready to launch the RecTrack app which will also allow families to access family pool memberships for easy check in at the pool. Marketing postcards for the pool and the app will be going out in the next two months, and the summer brochure will be mailed to residents.

Upcoming events include the Egg Hunt on March 28<sup>th</sup> and the Color Run on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### Maintenance/Safety Committee

Commissioner Barcelos informed the Board that the staff were preparing the parks for spring and summer activities. Spring clean-up and mulching would again be outsourced, as well as the cleaning of the pavilion and permanent restrooms in both the pavilion and the maintenance building. The pond bubblers will be installed in the next two to three weeks.

Blake McMahon informed the Board that he has hired two seasonal staff for the summer and has two additional interviews coming up. He stated that he is receiving many applications for summer positions.

He has received the parts for the homerun fence in Eccles Field and will be making the repairs immediately.

President's Report

President Austin read a statement by resident Savannah Wickland, participant of Little League Girls Softball. This statement is made as a part of these minutes.

There being no further business to come before this meeting, it was, motion by Commissioner Barcelos, seconded by Commissioner Draudt, adjourned at 8:36 p.m. by voice vote.

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Park Board Secretary

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