

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025

Call to Order

President Eckelberry called the Board Meeting to order at **7:00 pm**.

Roll Call

President Eckelberry called for the roll. Commissioners answering present were: Stephen M. Eckelberry, Lori A. Palmer, Diana Gunsteen, Susan M. Stocks, Dale Ann Kasuba and Nathan Botkin. Commissioner Jody Fagan was absent.

Staff members present were Executive Director Kevin Romejko, Superintendent of Recreation Kimberly Dasbach, Superintendent of Parks and Planning Kelly O'Brien, Superintendent of Business Services Eric Leninger, Superintendent of Special Facilities Katie Mix, Superintendent of Villa Olivia Bobby Pierobon and Executive Assistant Maureen Carter.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Eckelberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Eckelberry requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Eckelberry, Palmer, Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Botkin

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Fagan

Motion Passed

Public Comments

None

Unfinished or Continuing Business

None

New Business

Approval of Rough Mower for Villa Olivia Golf Course

Mr. Pierobon explained Villa Olivia allocated \$95,000 in this year's capital projects budget for a new rough mower. This mower is a much-needed addition to the Villa Olivia grounds fleet. Staff obtained competitive pricing through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, from Reinders, but the mower did come in slightly over budget. Staff is requesting approval to purchase a Toro Groundsmaster 4500 rough mower for \$97,297.76. Ms. Gunsteen asked what the lifecycle of this mower is. Mr. Pierobon responded that based on the age of the current mower used by Villa Olivia, it seems the mowers last forever. Ms. O'Brien added the typical replacement cycle for mowers is 10 to 15 years depending on mileage use. Mr. Botkin asked how many mowers Villa Olivia currently has. Mr. Pierobon stated there are two mowers and grounds crew also uses a zero-turn pull-behind mower. Mr. Botkin motioned to approve the purchase of a Toro Groundsmaster 4500 rough mower for \$97,297.76. Ms. Gunsteen seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Bartlett Aquatic Center Rebranding

Ms. Mix shared staff has identified Bartlett Aquatic Center would categorize more as a water park than simply a community pool, based on the many unique amenities. Staff have discussed the benefits of rebranding the facility as a water park with a new name. Several names were considered and staff is looking for consensus from Commissioners on changing the name to Barracuda Bay Water Park. Staff would like to start putting plans together to open the 2026 outdoor pool season with the new name and marketing plan. Mr. Eckelberry asked if any Commissioners had issues with the proposed new name for the Bartlett Aquatic Center. Ms. Palmer asked if staff has investigated available domains for the new name, Ms. Mix responded staff has confirmed the necessary domains are available. Commissioners gave consensus to change Bartlett Aquatic Center to Barracuda Bay Water Park for the 2026 season.

Department Updates

Business Services

Mr. Leninger directed Commissioners to the information provided in the Business Services written report and shared a congratulations to part-time IT Assistant, Michael Casalino, who recently earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Technology from Lewis University. Michael has been with the District since October of 2022 and was recently promoted to full-time Assistant IT Manager. Commissioners shared congratulations for Michael.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien informed the Board the boat play feature at Leiseberg Park was removed for safety concerns due to deterioration of the wood. Ms. O'Brien also added to the information provided in her written report, announcing the completion of the permitting process for the Sunrise Park OSLAD Grant project and remediation of the irrigation system at Apple Orchard Golf Course.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach invited Commissioners to attend the first of three Pack the Park events this summer at Riley's Run Park on June 17th. The Pack the Park events will include the new 2025 collectable sticker series which are custom stickers available only at 2025 District events. In addition to the three Pack the Park events, the sticker series will also include Movie in the Park and Fall Fest at Bartlett Nature Center. Each event will have a unique sticker that is only available at the event. Ms. Dasbach touched on the 300 campers expected to attend camps this summer and staff training that is taking place next week. Ms. Dasbach provided additional information and updates in her written report.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix provided information on current BAC pass sales compared to previous years and the delayed opening of Bartlett Aquatic Center due to weather. The pool and staff are ready to open for the season as soon as the temperature warms up. Ms. Mix also provided additional updates and information in her written report.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon presented the Villa Olivia Winter Sports Recap for the 2024-2025 season. Mr. Pierobon shared some of the successes of the past season including opening snow tubing early, running all scheduled programs and lessons, remaining open until March, and welcoming over 24,500 visitors throughout the season. Mr. Pierobon detailed revenue and expenses compared to the previous two years as well as total participants and revenue for programs and lessons. Total net revenue for the 2024-2025 winter sports season totaled \$507,320.69, which is more than doubled net revenue for the past two years. Mr. Leninger added this past season earned more revenue than any other year since the District took ownership. Mr. Pierobon concluded with plans for next season to continue to grow winter sports at Villa Olivia.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko shared compliments for the Villa Olivia staff for any amazing season due to all of their hard work. Mr. Romejko informed Commissioners of the upcoming Joint Taxing District Meeting on June 11th and plans to shared updates and upcoming projects. Mr. Romejko also reminded Commissioners Turtle Race tickets are currently on sale and shared the Foundation's fundraising goals.

Commissioner Comments

Ms. Kasuba asked about the five events that would be included in the 2025 Sticker Series, Ms. Dasbach responded. Ms. Kasuba also shared compliments for the improvements to the raingarden located next to the pickleball courts.

Closed Session

Mr. Eckelberry moved to adjourn into Closed Session under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act, for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the District. Ms. Palmer made a motion, Ms. Gunsteen seconded. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote to adjourn into Closed Session

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Eckelberry, Palmer, Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Botkin

Nays: None

Absent: Fagan

Abstain: None

Motion Passed at 7:32 PM

Reconvening of Board Meeting

Mr. Eckelberry called the meeting back to regular session at 7:41pm and called for roll. Commissioners answering present were: Stephen Eckelberry, Lori A. Palmer, Diana Gunsteen, Susan Stocks, Dale Ann Kasuba, and Nathan Botkin. Executive Director, Kevin Romejko, was also present.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

No action resulting from closed session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Palmer moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. **Motion carried at 7:42 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on June 10, 2025.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary