

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Jody Fagan and Nathan Botkin.

Commissioners Susan M. Stocks and Dale Ann Kasuba arrived at 7:01pm.

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 Villa Olivia Bobby Pierobon and Executive Assistant Maureen Carter. Superintendent of Special Facilities Katie Mix was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Eckelberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Eckelberry presented and asked for a motion to approve of the consent agenda including approval of meeting minutes from the Special Board Meeting on August 26, 2025, and the Regular Board Meeting on August 26, 2025. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Palmer.
Motion Passed.

Public Comments

None

Unfinished or Continuing Business

No Report

New Business

Tallgrass Park Improvements Presentation

Ms. O'Brien introduced Maria Blood with Upland Design to discuss plans for Tallgrass Park improvements and share feedback from the recent community input meeting. Ms. Blood explained the timeline for submitting for an OSLAD grant. The grant application will be submitted at the end of the month, grant awards will be announced in early 2026, and if awarded, construction documents would be created for bidding with plans to begin construction in 2027. Ms. Blood reviewed the existing conditions of the park and the focus of the project to expand on current offerings including a picnic shelter, gaga ball pit, and loop trail connecting to The Bartlett Trail. Ms. Blood provided additional details of the plan including a pollinator play space geared towards younger children with a garden, play house, and interpretive educational signs. The proposed picnic shelter is larger enough to accommodate six picnic tables and strategically located next to the existing playground within view of the soccer field. Additional playground climbing pieces, bag toss area, and games painted on the pavement were also included. Ms. Blood reported feedback from the community input meeting which included neighborhood residents, staff and Commissioner Eckelberry. Positive feedback was received for the loop trail and connection to The Bartlett Trail, picnic shelter and additional playground equipment. Residents also requested additional shade trees and benches throughout the park. Different playground pieces were proposed and residents voted on a climbing piece that was

included in the updated plans. The playhouse in the pollinator play space was discussed and residents shared concerns about it being a potential area for bees. Upland Design was able to propose a different playhouse that didn't have a roof on it. The updated plans also included additional trees and benches along the loop trail as requested by residents. Ms. Fagan asked about the population around this park. Ms. O'Brien didn't have population numbers, but discussed the other Park District parks closest to Tallgrass Park. Ms. Gunsteen commented that with the proximity and potential connection to The Bartlett Trail the park could attract residents from other areas of Bartlett. Ms. Gunsteen asked about other requests from the community input meeting that were not included in the project. Ms. Blood shared that residents suggested basketball and pickleball courts, a zipline, and ninja course. Ms. Palmer asked about the overall cost of this project. Ms. Blood stated there were some updates made from the community input meeting and the new overall cost is \$585,500. Ms. Blood feels the cost of the project makes it a strong candidate for an OSLAD grant as well as the inclusion of five elements and a nature element. Ms. Palmer asked about the private donor's contribution and Mr. Romejko responded he believed the donations made over multiple years would cover the District's 50% if the grant is awarded.

Mr. Romejko took the opportunity of having Ms. Blood present to give the Board an update on the Sunrise Park OSLAD Grant project. Staff and Upland Design have been working to resolve an issues with the natural gas pipeline that runs through Sunrise Park. The owner of the pipeline, Kinder Morgan, has required the District to drill on property to determine the depth of the pipes and is now requesting the original agreement for installation of the bike path on the right of way easement. Although the District owns the property, Kinder Morgan has a right of way easement for the pipeline. Upland Design has suggested adding a rider to the right of way easement since currently the original right of way easement Kinder Morgan is referring to cannot be found. Kinder Morgan is requesting the original agreement for installing the bike path which was done by the Village of Bartlett. Mr. Romejko explained it is currently a paperwork issue and staff is waiting on a response from Kinder Morgan on the option of adding a rider to the right of way easement. Ms. Gunsteen asked about the timeline for resolving this issue. Ms. Blood responded once Kinder Morgan responds, the District attorney will need to review. Mr. Romejko stated the Board would typically review and approve of an agreement before it is signed, but with the next Board Meeting three weeks away, it may delay the project further. Ms. Kasuba commented the Board has already approved of this project and could authorize Mr. Romejko to sign the agreement once it has been reviewed by the District attorney. Commissioners agreed Mr. Romejko could sign the agreement on the Board's behalf to avoid further delay.

Approval of Resolution 25-03 Tallgrass Park OSLAD Grant Authorization

Mr. Eckelberry introduced the resolution to approve of the Tallgrass Park OSLAD Grant submission and asked for a motion for approval. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve of Resolution 25-03 Tallgrass Park OSLAD Grant Authorization seconded by Ms. Kasuba. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Motion Passed

Approval of Park District Mission, Vision and Values

Mr. Romejko discussed the Special Board Meeting where Commissioners met with BerryDunn to review a proposal for updating the District's Mission, Vision, and Values. In the meeting, Commissioners approved of the proposed updates and now need to formally approve of the updated Mission, Vision, and Values. Ms. Palmer motioned to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Stocks. There was no further discussion. **Motion Passed.**

M/I Homes Proposed Single Family Development

Mr. Romejko shared a new proposed development from M/I Homes and its relevance to the proposed development discussed in August. Both proposed developments are located near the Amber Grove subdivision. Commissioners discussed the proximity of the newly proposed development to Peregrine Park and the limited space available in the development plans for an additional park site. Staff's recommendation is to request a cash donation and, similar to the previous development discussion, earmark any cash donation for updates to Peregrine Park. Ms. Kasuba commented that with the possibility of two new developments in this area, in addition to the Grasslands development, there is a greater need to accessibility for residents. Bike paths and accessibility to other areas of Bartlett is limited for this area due to the train tracks and seems to be a greater need than additional parks. Ms. Palmer added that extending the bike path on Naperville Road seems to be on the Village's radar. The proposed bike path across Route 59 was also discussed. Commissioners agreed a cash donation would be requested from this developer.

Department Updates

Business Services

Mr. Leninger stated plans to present the FY2024-25 annual audit report to the Board at the next meeting with a representative from Seldon Fox. Mr. Leninger also shared the upcoming migration to Office 365.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien announced the new rooftop unit for **LIFECENTER** arrives tomorrow and will be craned onto the roof. The crane will also remove the existing rooftop unit. The HVAC unit to be removed is shutdown in preparation and staff has brought in temporary cooling units in case they are needed. The project is currently on schedule with plans to have the new HVAC unit up and running in early October. Ms. O'Brien also informed the Board of an issue that is being addressed before the new unit is put in place. Contractors discovered the rooftop units at the Community Center don't have individual gas shut off valves and these will need to be installed as the units are replaced. Ms. Gunsteen asked about the areas affected by the removal of the existing rooftop unit. Ms. O'Brien explained the rooftop unit for **LIFECENTER** also supplies the lower Splash Central lobby, Party Place, Dance Studio, and Splash Central locker rooms. Staff has brought in temporary cooling units but hopes fall weather will bring cooler temperatures and the units won't be needed for long.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach stated the upcoming Harvest Craft Fair has sold out all vendor booths and is scheduled for the first weekend in October. Nature Center recently hosted a fishing event at Beaver Pond with IDNR fishing instructors that attracted 30 participants. Nature Center and IDNR will be hosting another event this coming weekend. Ms. Dasbach stated DuPage County Division of Transportation will be hosting a public information session at the Community Center to share information with the public and get feedback from the community. DuPage County Division of Transportation and other organizations are working together on plans to add a bike path along Stearns Road from Munger Road to the Nature Center. Representatives spoke with staff about the proposed plans as well as shared information and flyers. Commissioners discussed the plans and their support for the plans for the new bike path.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix reiterated the **LIFECENTER** closure starting this week. **LIFECENTER** will be closed for two weeks while members will have access to Streamwood Park District fitness center. Staff will continue hosting fitness classes. Ms. Mix also shared an update to Splash Central hours, changing the open swim closing time from 6pm to 5pm which will allow for private rentals to start earlier.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon informed the Board a company will be coming out to address a trailer that broke at Villa Olivia and staff has begun to look ahead to prepare for inspections for the upcoming winter sports season. Mr. Pierobon also shared information on the Murder Mystery Dinner coming up in October. The event will include a four-course dinner with cash bar and is 80's themed.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko discussed plans for the upcoming NRPA Conference and plans for transportation to the airport on Monday. Commissioners attending the conference were provided information packets and instructed to meet at the Administration Building on Monday morning at 8:00am for transportation to the airport.

Mr. Romejko shared a recent request from U-46 School District regarding the playground at Centennial Elementary School. School District representatives would like to install a fence along the edge of the playground that faces the street and parking lot and are sighting concerns of students running into the street and parking lot. Mr. Romejko discussed the history of the playground at Centennial Park. Before the school was built, the Park District owned the land and it was known as Appomattox Park. At the time, it was the only neighborhood park in the area and included a playground and basketball court. When plans for the elementary school were put together, the Park District proposed enlarging the gymnasium and allowing the Park District to use the school gym for programs. At the time, the only indoor gymnasium the Park District owned was Schrade Gymnasium. The School District agreed and the Park District paid for the cost of additions to the school including enlarging the gymnasium, creating a separate entrance for the gym, and additional storage space for Park District programs. An intergovernmental agreement was created and included the playground at the school. It was agreed that the School District would provide access to the gymnasium and custodial services, while the Park District would be responsible for mowing the property and maintaining the playground. Moving forward to today, it is important to the Park District that the playground still be accessible to the neighborhood. Mr. Romejko and Ms. O'Brien discussed the concerns about installing a fence around the park, specifically accessibility for mowing and maintaining the playground as a neighborhood playground. Commissioners agreed, the addition of the fencing would limit the neighborhood's access and make mowing the area more difficult. Discussion ensued about the current playground and proximity to Prospect Avenue, the sloped landscape currently separating the playground from the street, and other options the School District could consider for safety. Commissioners agreed that adding the fence would compromise the Park District's ability to maintain the playground as a neighborhood park and questioned if the agreement needs to be renegotiated. Mr. Romejko asked for direction on how to respond to the School District's request, suggesting inviting the School District to attend a Board Meeting. Mr. Eckelberry stated it appears the Commissioners agreed the proposed fencing would not work for the Park District and the School District should be aware the Board would be looking for alternative options. Mr. Eckelberry asked if the principal of the school was in contact with the Park District. Mr. Romejko responded the principal for Centennial Elementary was new this school year and he had not been in contact. Mr. Eckelberry asked Mr. Romejko to reach out to the principal and share the Board's concerns and stated further conversation would be more beneficial than bringing the School District to a Park District Board Meeting at this time.

Commissioner Comments

Ms. Gunsteen asked about any recent discussion or timeline on the Grasslands Development, when the District will receive the donated property, and any discussion on the plans for a path across Route 59. Mr. Romejko stated there has been no recent communication from that development.

Ms. Fagan asked if the Midwest Raiders organization had yet responded about practice field rentals. Mr. Romejko responded they had not and his understanding is the organization will not be using the District's fields this season for practices.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Stocks moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Palmer. **Motion carried at 8:03 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on September 30, 2025.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary