

# BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 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, Diana Gunsteen, Jody Fagan and Nathan Botkin. Commissioners Lori A. Palmer, Susan M. Stocks and Dale Ann Kasuba were 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 presented and asked for a motion to approve of the consent agenda including approval of meeting minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on September 30, 2025. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Fagan.

Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Eckelberry, Gunsteen, Fagan, Botkin

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Palmer, Stocks, Kasuba

**Motion Passed**

## Public Comments

None

## Unfinished or Continuing Business

### **Approval of Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR)**

Mr. Eckelberry stated that the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was presented at the previous Board Meeting and asked if there were any questions for staff. There being none, Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion Passed.**

## New Business

### **Presentation by Andrea Griffin, NWSRA Executive Director**

Mr. Eckelberry introduced Andrea Griffin, Executive Director of Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA). Ms. Griffin stated she is the fourth Executive Director for NWSRA, shared her personal experience and when her career began at NWSRA. Ms. Griffin shared the 2024 Annual Report and discussed how NWSRA works to support children and young adults with disabilities. NWSRA offered 9 weeks of summer camp this summer, through 14 specialty camps that included over 950 registrants. NWSRA also offers inclusion services which allow individuals with disabilities the ability to participate in their home park district's programming.

Ms. Griffin shared a letter from a Bartlett resident about their experience with NWSRA and the support they received for their child this summer. Ms. Griffin also thanked Mr. Romejko for his work with the Special Leisure Services Foundation as treasurer and shared some of the upcoming fundraising events. NWSRA's focus for this year is stability and focusing on fulfilling needs as well as working on strategic planning. Ms. Griffin will return to talk about NWSRA's future goals once strategic planning is completed. Mr. Romejko thanked Ms. Griffin and complimented her team's support for Bartlett Park District programs and participants.

## **Department Updates**

### **Business Services**

Mr. Leninger announced the 2026-27 budget planning season is coming up, and staff are also preparing for open enrollment. Mr. Leninger also shared updates from IT including the migration to Microsoft 365 which is nearly complete.

### **Parks & Planning**

Ms. O'Brien is excited that mowing season is coming to an end, which allows staff to focus on other projects. Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Romejko met with staff from Centennial Elementary School to discuss the proposed fencing around the playground. After meeting on site and discussing potential issues with adding a fence, school staff are going to investigate more options and come back to the Park District with a more detailed proposal.

### **Recreation**

Ms. Dasbach recapped some of the recent special events including Peter and the Star Catcher adult theater show which sold 250 tickets, and the Harvest Craft Fair which included 122 vendors, a new portable bar, and raised over \$1,000 in donations for the Bartlett Parks Foundation. Staff are looking forward to the upcoming Fall Fest at Bartlett Nature Center which will include the last collectable sticker for the 2025 series, hayrides sponsored by Bartlett Parks Foundation, local and eco-friendly vendors, a pumpkin patch, and more.

### **Special Facilities**

Ms. Mix shared two current promotions; **LIFECENTER** is celebrating OctoberFIT with free group classes as well as free dance classes for Dance Month. Staff has received a lot of positive feedback on the new Big Ass Fans recently installed in the **LIFECENTER**. Mr. Romejko further explained the company, Big Ass Fans, offers clients an ass-less option, which the District chose, that does not include the word "ass" on the fan logo.

### **Villa Olivia**

Mr. Pierobon informed the Board that Villa Olivia has welcomed a new Food and Beverage Manager, Iwona Thrasher, who started this past weekend by shadowing a wedding. Villa Olivia will be hosting an inaugural murder mystery dinner on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Pierobon shared the event will have an 80's theme and offer a four-course meal with a cash bar.

## **Executive Director Updates**

Mr. Romejko stated the OSLAD Grant application was submitted at the end of September for Tallgrass Park, and award announcements are typically made at the beginning of the calendar year. Mr. Romejko hopes to find out if the District has been awarded the grant before the IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference. Mr. Romejko reminded commissioners to reach out to Ms. Carter with their plans for the annual conference and dates they wish to attend. Mr. Romejko also reminded the Board of the Special Leisure Services Foundation's Celebrate Ability Gala taking place on November 7th. Anyone that wishes to attend should reach out to Ms. Carter.

**Commissioner Comments**

Ms. Gunsteen asked for an update on the Sunrise Park project. Mr. Romejko shared that most of the pathway paving is completed, and the basketball court needs to be color coated. The contractor is currently focused on completing preparations for the pump track. The most recent schedule provided by the contractor has site furnishing installation and restoration completed by November 14.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Gunsteen moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion carried at 7:22 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on October 28, 2025.

By:   
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary