

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Call to Order

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

President Eckelberry asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Rita Fletcher, former Executive Director for the Bartlett Park District. Mr. Romejko thanked the Board and offered everyone M&Ms to enjoy in Rita's honor.

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, Jody Fagan and Nathan Botkin.

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.

Maria Blood with Upland Design was also present.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Eckelberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Eckelberry presented the consent agenda and requested a motion to approve. Mr. Eckelberry stated the consent agenda included approval of meeting minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on November 11, 2025, approval of the Monthly Treasurer Report, and approval of the November Bill List. Ms. Kasuba motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. 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.

Public Comments

None

Unfinished or Continuing Business

Approval of Strategic Plan

Mr. Eckelberry reminded the Board; the Strategic Plan was presented at the last Board meeting and commissioners have had the opportunity to review. There being no questions or discussion, Ms. Palmer motioned to approve of the Strategic Plan, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. **Motion Passed.**

New Business

Presentation of Playground Equipment for Happy Trails & Schick Parks

Mr. Romejko explained that Maria Blood, with Upland Design, was here to present options for playground equipment for Happy Trails and Schick Parks. Mr. Romejko further explained that these two parks were initially planned to be included in this fiscal year's capital projects budget but had to be pushed to next fiscal year due to large necessary HVAC improvements needed this year. The reason for selecting playground equipment currently is to lock in 2025 pricing. Mr. Romejko confirmed there is no issue with committing to the playground equipment and bidding for the two park projects in this fiscal year because they will be paid out in next fiscal year. Mr. Romejko stated he wanted to explain this before Ms. Blood presented the equipment options.

Ms. Blood explained both playground layouts will mostly stay the same with some updates to the paths in the parks. Upland Design reached out to several manufacturers, received 6 or 7 proposals for each park and narrowed them down with staff to three options for each park, which will be presented this evening. Ms. Blood began with Happy Trails Park and presented options from Burke, GameTime, and Landscape Structures. All three proposals included swings with one tot swing and one ADA swing as well as a main structure and small independent play pieces. Ms. Blood detailed the play features included in each proposal. Next, Ms. Blood discussed the proposals for Schick Park. The three proposals came from Burke, GameTime, and Playworld. All three proposals included swings with one tot swing and one ADA swing as well as a main play structure. The Burke proposal included a large main play structure with multiple decks and slides connected with climbing features. The GameTime proposal included a main play structure with a 10-foot-high tube slide and separate monkey bar structure. The Playworld proposal included a main play structure with four slides and a separate large rope climbing structure. After all proposals were presented, commissioners had the opportunity to view each proposal more closely. Mr. Eckelberry commented that it was very helpful to have each proposal included in the Board packet as well as the large visuals. Ms. Fagan asked about the parks that were closest to Happy Trails and Schick Parks and the play equipment those parks had. Commissioners continued discussion of the proposals.

Approval of Playground Equipment for Happy Trails Park

Commissioners discussed the three proposals for Happy Trails Park. Commissioners liked the proposal that included monkey bars but requested one of the independent play pieces be switched out for a larger multi-person play piece. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve of the proposal from Landscape Structures for Happy Trails Park, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Playground Equipment for Schick Park

Commissioners discussed the three proposals for Schick Park. Commissioners liked the proposal that included the large rope climbing structure but requested to change one of the smaller independent pieces and change the tube bridge on the main play structure to something that is open. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve of the proposal from Playworld for Schick Park, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion Passed.**

Department Updates

Business Services

Mr. Leninger thanked Mr. Romejko for the opportunity to attend the Joint Review Board Meeting for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Districts. Mr. Leninger discussed the three active TIF Districts within the Village and how they affect the Park District's tax revenue.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien stated next Saturday is the Merry & Bright event at Bartlett Park. The event was moved from Friday to Saturday and will begin with a Holiday Stroll to the North Pole. The Parks Department will participate in the parade to Bartlett Park with one of the new Parks trucks that will be decorated. New this year, the tree lighting will take place earlier and the event will end with a laser light show. Ms. O'Brien included a map of the park and layout of activities which is similar to last year.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach shared some of the upcoming holiday events throughout the Park District. Two canvas painting opportunities will be available for kids and adults to create festive masterpieces. The annual Holiday Shopping Blitz will take place next Friday from 5pm to 9pm and currently has over 100 vendors participating. New this year, there will be food from Jersey Mike's and roaming bar service. Nutcracker All Jazzed Up is in its 21st season and will have 6 performances over the first two weeks in December. Ms. Dasbach also advised people were not supportive of the glitter drinks at the recent adult theater production.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix explained **LIFECENTER** has been busy and has seen an increase in memberships as well as check-ins in October compared to October of last year. Apple Orchard Golf Course was able to remain open until November 16th this season due to warm weather and saw an overall increase in number of rounds this season compared to last season. Ms. Mix also shared upcoming open swim dates for Splash Central and staff training for new and recertifying lifeguards. Ms. Mix also shared that the Christmas elves have been busy decorating at Bartlett Community Center but will be "Respecting the Turkey" this week.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon provided statistics on golf rounds and food and beverage sales for October 2025 compared to October of 2024. Mr. Pierobon explained the chair evacuation training conducted by Bartlett Fire District on November 20th. Because of this training, Bartlett Fire District would be able to assist Villa Olivia Ski Patrol with a chairlift evacuation. Mr. Pierobon then discussed the Midwest Institute of Park Executives (MIPE) Golf Outing. Villa Olivia hosted this year's outing and the outing committee discussed with the MIPE Board plans to establish a consistent home for this outing, rather than rotating to different courses. MIPE decided to commit to host their annual event at Villa Olivia for the next three years. Mr. Pierobon shared reservation numbers for Thanksgiving brunch and plans to start making snow once temperatures provide the opportunity.

Ms. Kasuba asked about the new roof for the Pro Shop at Villa Olivia. Mr. Pierobon explained the weather has not cooperated with plans to replace the roof, but staff will be speaking with the contractor to try to find two days with appropriate temperatures

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko provided an update on the Grasslands Development. Referring to the memo provided to the Board, Mr. Romejko explained developers anticipate turning over the park site to the District sometime next year. The Village of Bartlett is working on a grant for the bike path that would go under Route 59 connecting the park to the East property. The plans for the bike path require approval from Metra and will take time to finalize. Ms. Palmer asked if the developer donation is only land or if there is a cash donation as well. Mr. Romejko responded the donation is land only but would be open to approaching the developer for a donation to help the park to be developed more quickly.

Commissioner Comments

None

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. Kasuba 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, Fagan, Botkin

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Passed at 7:53 PM

Reconvening of Board Meeting

Mr. Eckelberry called the meeting back to regular session at 8:14pm and called for roll. Commissioners answering present were: Stephen Eckelberry, Lori A. Palmer, Diana Gunsteen, Susan Stocks, Dale Ann Kasuba, Jody Fagan 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 Mr. Botkin. **Motion carried at 8:15 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on December 9, 2025.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary