

# **BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025**

## **Call to Order**

Treasurer Gunsteen called the Board Meeting to order at **7:00 pm**.

## **Roll Call**

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

Ms. Gunsteen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Consent Agenda**

Ms. Gunsteen presented and asked for a motion to approve of the consent agenda including approval of meeting minutes from the Regular Board Meeting on November 25, 2025, and Closed Session on November 25, 2025. Ms. Fagan motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Stocks. Ms. Gunsteen asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Fagan

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Eckelberry, Palmer, Botkin

**Motion Passed**

## **Public Comments**

### **Joseph Olsen, 1117 Independence Drive**

Mr. Olsen stated he is a 48-year resident of Bartlett and his home backs up to Sunrise Park. Mr. Olsen stated he is here this evening because the Bartlett Park District is not being a good neighbor to him. This is because the Park District has allowed weeds to grow along the property line of his home and his neighbors. Mr. Olsen stated he wanted to have his lawn care company spray the areas for weeds but they requested written permission from the Park District. Mr. Olsen said he stopped by the Park District in August and wasn't able to speak with anyone, so he left his information. Mr. Olsen received a call from the Parks Manager and he explained the issues with the weeds and was told staff would follow up. Mr. Olsen stated he did not receive a call back and spoke to the Parks Manager again in September. Mr. Olsen said he was given excuses as to why he didn't receive a call back and stated that he expects public servants to follow up. The Parks Manager scheduled a meeting with Mr. Olsen at his property to discuss the weeds. Mr. Olsen stated he was told the weeds would be addressed in October and stated that did not happen. Mr. Olsen does not find that acceptable as a taxpayer. Mr. Olsen stated this is inexcusable and expected the Board to direct that this be taken care of. Mr. Olsen again stated he offered to have his own lawn care company to take care of the issues, but the company insisted on getting permission from the Park District. Ms. Gunsteen asked staff to investigate and follow up with Mr. Olsen.

## **Unfinished or Continuing Business**

**No Report**

**New Business****Presentation of Ordinance 25-06 Annual Tax Levy**

Mr. Leninger presented the Annual Tax Levy and stated there were no changes from the Estimate of Taxes to Be Levied, presented in November. Mr. Leninger explained the Ordinance included breakdowns of each fund and totals being levied and offered to answer any questions the Board had. Ordinance 25-06 will be presented for approval at the next Board Meeting.

**Department Updates****Business Services**

Mr. Leninger reminded the Board there is a two-year deadline to complete work relating to the OSLAD Grant for Sunrise Park. This deadline is March of 2026, but there is still some work that was not completed before the weather turned for the season. Mr. Leninger reached out to our grant manager and requested a 6-month extension. It is anticipated the extension will be granted and remaining work can be completed next spring.

**Parks & Planning**

Ms. O'Brien stated the Parks Department is busy keeping up with all of the snow. For many staff members this is their first snow season and remembering where paths lead and where parking lots end when covered in snow can be difficult. Staff are reviewing snow removal plans and areas the Park District is responsible for. With limited snowfall in recent years, staff is finding this year there is a lot of area to cover. Staff are working hard and coming in on weekends to keep up with all of the recent snow.

**Recreation**

Ms. Dasbach provided an update on the Preschool program which is wrapping up the semester with their winter concert this month. Preschoolers are busy practicing for their upcoming performance in the Oak Room. December Intro to Preschool class has continued to show strong interest. Young 3s program begins in January and is doing well with 14 enrolled and some space still available. Nutcracker All Jazzed Up performances continue through next weekend and tickets have been selling quickly. Bar service will be offered during performances, but the edible glitter specialty drinks aren't seeing a lot of interest. Last Friday the Community Center hosted the annual Holiday Shopping Blitz with over 100 vendors and raised over \$800 in donations to the Bartlett Parks Foundation.

**Special Facilities**

Ms. Mix informed the Board Santa has waited until after Thanksgiving to visit Bartlett but will be at Villa Olivia for Breakfast with Santa next weekend. Unfortunately, registration numbers have declined in recent years, and staff is looking into that, taking into consideration the event is being hosted later in December than previous years.

**Villa Olivia**

Mr. Pierobon shared Villa Olivia is very happy with the recent snow, but it has brought some confusion for guests. There were some guests that showed up to Villa Olivia, expecting to be able to tube and ski as soon as the first snow fell. Mr. Pierobon explained the process of getting the hills ready for guests, which includes creating a 2ft base of snow by pushing out the piles of snow that have been created and grooming the individual lanes. With the low temperatures, staff are currently making as much snow as possible in large piles and hope to be able to push out the snow and start grooming later this week. Staff are hoping to be able to open the tubing hill early if the incoming rain doesn't do too much damage to the snow that's been made. Mr. Romejko commented the hope is to be able to open this coming Saturday. Mr. Pierobon confirmed the goal is to open on Saturday, but with near zero temperatures hours may be limited to daytime. Mr. Pierobon shared additional fun facts about what goes into making snow including measuring the wind to accurately place snow guns.

**Executive Director Updates**

Mr. Romejko briefly spoke about the Merry & Bright event at Bartlett Park last weekend and support provided by staff, manning the fire pits and assisting with electrical issues. Mr. Romejko shared Mr. Pierobon's excitement about the recent snow and hopes to open the tube hill early. Mr. Romejko gifted the commissioners extra custom puzzles from the recent Family Puzzle Palooza and reminded Commissioners the last Board Meeting of 2025 will be next Tuesday.

**Commissioner Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Stocks moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Kasuba. **Motion carried at 7:20 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on December 16, 2025.

By:   
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary