

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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, 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 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 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 December 9, 2025, approval of the Monthly Treasurer Report, approval of the December Bill List, and approval of Purchase Orders between \$10,000 and \$30,000. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve, 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.

Public Comments

None

Unfinished or Continuing Business

Approval of Ordinance 25-06 Annual Tax Levy

Mr. Eckelberry reminded the Board the Annual Tax Levy was presented at the previous Board Meeting and asked if there were any questions or further discussion. There being no questions or discussion, Ms. Palmer motioned to approve of Ordinance 25-06 Annual Tax Levy, 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.

New Business

None

Department Updates

Business Services

Mr. Leninger confirmed the District's IMRF employer contribution rate for 2026 is 8.52%, which is a slight increase from the 2025 rate of 7.00%. Mr. Leninger explained the new rate is still historically low and provided a chart of the previous 10 years of rates.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien stated the new electronic scoreboards and basketball hoop winches are working well. Staff worked with the contractor to resolve some initial challenges and are now very happy with the ability to raise and lower the hoops without the use of a hand crank. Ms. O'Brien also shared photos of the Parks Department truck that was decorated to participate in the Merry and Bright 'Stroll to the North Pole' parade.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach shared the new tag line and statement for Bartlett Nature Center, to help strengthen the identity and visibility. "Discover Learn Explore" will be rolling out with the winter program guide and will be seen more in promotions for Bartlett Nature Center. Ms. Dasbach also shared some of the upcoming winter break activities and programs.

Special Facilities

In Ms. Mix's absence, Mr. Romejko provided an update on the Special Facilities Department. Guest Services are investigating ways to offer installment billing for online registration. This is not currently possible online but can be set up when registering in person. This is problematic for residents who are trying to register for popular programs that can fill quickly, like camps. Staff hope to have this option available by the time camp registration opens in the spring. Mr. Romejko discussed statistics on usage of **LIFECENTER** and memberships and attributed an uptick in check-ins to the new Assless Big Ass Fans. The annual Breakfast with Santa took place the previous Saturday at Villa Olivia and we welcomed 141 guests.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon provided statistics for Food and Beverage sales in November and the start of the winter sports season. 150 part time staff completed orientation in the past week and are looking forward to starting the season this weekend by opening the snow tube hill. Villa Olivia will be offering Christmas Brunch from 9:30am to 2:00pm with an early bird special to help fill the 9:30am spot. Currently, there are 161 reservations which surpass last year's count. Mr. Pierobon also shared an exciting event that took place last weekend. Villa Olivia had the opportunity to host a music video filming for Chicago natives, Chance the Rapper and Star Bandz. The artists were looking for a ski lodge feel and Villa Olivia was happy to accommodate. Staff enjoyed seeing the many different areas of Villa Olivia featured in the video and it has been shared on social media.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko reviewed dates for upcoming events including the Staff Holiday Party, IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference, and Bartlett Parks Foundation, Raise Your Glass Fundraiser. Mr. Romejko thanked Mr. Botkin for being the first to purchase tickets to the Raise Your Glass event.

Mr. Romejko shared an update from a recent meeting with the 4th of July Festival Committee. Mr. Austin Hopkins asked to meet with Park District staff to discuss a proposed new layout for the festival. The proposed layout is quite different from previous years, and the committee is hoping to move where the fireworks are setoff from behind Bartlett Community Center to the field east of the golf course and south of the pool. Mr. Romejko explained the goal behind this move is to use fireworks that don't launch as far into the air and are less expensive. This move would also require moving the carnival. Mr. Romejko provided a map of the proposed new layout which would have the carnival now on the south side of the field, half in the parking lot and half in the south field

area. This would eliminate parking in the parking lot or grass area nearest the festival. There would be handicapped parking available on the drive where the carnival was previously setup. Commissioners questioned debris from the fireworks and where it would fall. Further discussion of the new layout of the festival ensued and Ms. Kasuba provided some insight as a 4th of July Committee member. The large tent is a big expense for the committee, and the committee has decided to not have the large tent, but a smaller one instead with the food vendors in a separate area outside the tent. Ms. Kasuba added this would allow food vendors to work closer to their vehicles and under their own tents. Commissioners questioned where carnival staff would park their vehicles. Mr. Romejko added that removing the parking at the south side of the festival would eliminate the need for staff to manage parking. Commissioners expressed concern that staff would still be needed to manage parking in the Community Center lot. Ms. Gunsteen added the night of the fireworks would be the biggest concern to ensure people don't park where they shouldn't, such as the fields north of the community center which would no longer be blocked off. Ms. O'Brien stated it was appreciated that the 4th of July Committee is including the Park District in this discussion and they feel their voice and concerns are being heard. Mr. Romejko added that he has requested that Ms. O'Brien be included in discussions with the fire and police districts as well. Mr. Romejko asked commissioners for feedback on this newly proposed layout. Mr. Botkin stated he trusted staff's opinion, other commissioners shared feelings that discussion should continue.

Commissioner Comments

None

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Stocks moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Palmer. **Motion carried at 7:43 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on January 13, 2026.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary