

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Mr. 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.

Guests: Patti Mancini, Manuel Rodriguez, Sue Leninger

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Eckelberry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation

Patti Mancini 15-year Recognition

Mr. Eckelberry presented and read a letter of recognition for Ms. Mancini's 15 years of service to Bartlett Park District. Ms. Mancini joined the Park District, as Accounting Manager, when Villa Olivia was acquired by the District. Ms. Eckelberry listed many of Ms. Mancini's accomplishments in her 15 years, most notably being managed by two Leningers and a Romejko. Ms. Mancini thanked all her bosses, who were present, for their support and stated she was grateful to be part of such a great team.

Manuel Rodriguez 15-year Recognition

Mr. Eckelberry presented and read a letter of recognition for Mr. Rodriguez's 15 years of service to Bartlett Park District. Mr. Rodriguez was another welcome bonus through the acquisition of Villa Olivia and has worked as custodian since December 28th, 2010. In addition to keeping Villa Olivia clean and running smoothly, Mr. Rodriguez enjoys keeping teammates on their toes and creating fun by never missing an opportunity to jump out and scare someone. Mr. Rodriguez was thanked for being such an important part of Bartlett Park District. Mr. Rodriguez thanked his manager, Mr. Pierobon, and said everyone feels like family.

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 December 16, 2025. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Stocks. 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

No Report

New Business**2026 Outdoor Pool Dates of Operation**

Ms. Mix explained School District U-46 will have an extended summer this year and will return to class two weeks later than in previous years. Typically, the pool closes for the season on Labor Day, but staff is looking to close the pool August 23rd this year. Ms. Fagan asked about staffing levels at the end of the season. Ms. Mix explained that there are typically some lifeguards still available for the last few weeks of summer, but older management staff typically return to college before the summer is over. Because the older staff make up all the supervisory staff, there is a shortage of pool supervisors at the end of the summer. Ms. Fagan asked if some of the younger staff could be trained as supervisors, Ms. Mix explained that it would require changing the requirements for our leadership positions which require staff to be over the age of 18. Mr. Romejko discussed the need to close some of the attractions in the last weeks of summer due to staffing levels as well as the fact that Labor Day this year is as late as it can be, September 7th. Ms. Mix investigated other pools in the area and discovered that many of the other local pools do not stay open until Labor Day. Mr. Romejko explained that staff are looking to close the pool for the season on August 23rd but will be offering additional weekday hours from Wednesday to Sunday. This would add 3 days to the pool season compared to last year. Mr. Romejko explained that the Spring Program Guide is being finalized, which is why staff are looking for input from Commissioners about this proposed change to the pool schedule. Commissioners discussed the benefits of the additional days and the concerns of closing the pool before school starts. Mr. Romejko added there is the option of making the weekend of August 29th and 30th the last weekend the pool is open. Ms. Palmer commented that it would look better to have the pool open until the end of August, if it won't be open for Labor Day. Mr. Eckelberry expressed concern about staffing for the last weekend and the benefit of being open if some attractions must be closed due to staffing shortage. Mr. Botkin also brought up the idea of opening the pool 30 or 60 minutes earlier. Ms. Mix discussed information that would need to be considered such as when the pool is used by swim team in the morning and if closing time would need to be shifted as well to accommodate staffing hours. Ms. Gunsteen added it could be a pass holder benefit that is added. Mr. Eckelberry asked if there was consensus from the Board on the suggested changes to the schedule for the outdoor pool. Commissioners discussed the concern over staffing along with the concern for closing before the school year starts. Commissioners came to the consensus that August 29th and 30th would be the last weekend when the pool was open, understanding that some attractions may need to be closed due to staffing.

Department Updates**Business Services**

Mr. Leninger reminded the Board that the end of the calendar year is busy for Business Services because of preparing W2s for staff and 1099 forms for vendors. Mr. Leninger will present totals and figures for both at the next Board Meeting.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien stated the Parks Department is out cleaning up holiday décor from facilities and Bartlett Park. Staff are focusing on training while there is no snow to clear and will work on some tree trimming once the ground has frozen again. Ms. O'Brien shared that staff are replacing most of the water fountains at Bartlett Community Center with fountains that also have bottle fillers. Many have already been replaced, and the remainder will be completed in the new fiscal year.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach discussed some changes to summer camp this summer. The Recreation Department is also adjusting due to the extended summer for School District U-46 students. Additionally, registration for summer camp will be separate from regular spring registration and will take place on a Saturday morning to accommodate working parents. Additional staff will be brought in for the guest services area and camp managers will be available to answer questions. With summer recess beginning May 20th and ending August 27th, additional weeks of camp have been added. Mr. Dasbach explained Nature Center Camp will begin the day after school releases for the summer, May 21st. Camps at the Community Center will begin June 1st. At the end of summer, Nature Center and Community Center camps will combine at the Community Center for the last 3 weeks of summer. During the last 3 weeks, there will be no daily pool visits, but there will be weekly field trips and other water play activities. Ms. Dasbach explained this format is new and staff will need to be creative and flexible with space as the Preschool rooms, which are typically used for camp, will need to be prepared for the upcoming school year. Ms. Palmer asked about the available capacity for the late camp weeks. Ms. Dasbach stated the maximum capacity will be 100 campers, but more availability will be added as staff is confirmed. Ms. Gunsteen asked if staffing ratio requirements change if campers are not going to the pool. Ms. Dasbach stated it does not change the staffing ratio requirements.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix informed the Board the aquatics team is working on rebranding the outdoor pool and getting ready for the upcoming flash sale. Ms. Mix stated there will be a giveaway included in the flash sale. Ms. Mix also stated the assless Big Ass Fans are still working well in **LIFECENTER**. Commissioners discussed the name change to Barracuda Bay Water Park.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon shared totals for the opening of winter sports at Villa Olivia and discussed plans for upcoming weather concerns. Mr. Pierobon also shared a fun marketing campaign targeting Packers fans who might not have anything better to do on Sunday, they will receive a special discount by using the code BEARDOWN.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko provided several updates to the Board. IDNR has not yet announced recipients of FY26 OALSD Grants; however, staff is hoping to hear soon about the Tallgrass Park project. Mr. Romejko reminded the Board about the Midwinter Social this week with the Bartlett Parks Foundation Board and leadership staff. Coming up are the DuPage and Cook County Legislative Breakfasts, Mr. Romejko will send out additional information and any Commissioners that would like to attend either should reach out to Mr. Romejko or Ms. Carter. Mr. Romejko took the opportunity to congratulate Ms. Mix and the aquatics team on receiving a 4 Star rating from StarGuard Elite for the 2025 outdoor pool season. Mr. Romejko also thanked Mr. Leninger and Ms. Mix for completing the ERMF form for PDRMA's risk management and annual review. The District received an 82% compared to the overall PDRMA average of 76%.

Commissioner Comments

Ms. Palmer asked how many campers participated in camp last summer. Ms. Dasbach responded there has been an average of 200 registered campers per week over the past two summers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Palmer moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. **Motion carried at 7:54 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on January 27, 2026.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary