

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026

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, and Nathan Botkin. Commissioner Jody Fagan was 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 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 January 13, 2026, approval of the Monthly Treasurer Report, and approval of the January Bill List. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Kasuba. Ms. Gunsteen noted a mistake in the meeting minutes included in the consent agenda. Mr. Eckelberry requested the change discussed be made. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Eckelberry, Palmer, Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Botkin

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Fagan

Motion Passed.

Public Comments

None

Unfinished or Continuing Business

None

New Business

Approval of D.A.R.E. Family Fishing Derby Request

Ms. O'Brien presented the request from Bartlett Police Department to host their annual fishing derby at Beaver Pond. This year, the event will be held on Friday, June 12th from 10am to 2pm. Holding the event on Friday will allow summer campers to attend with staff and the Bartlett Police Department to coordinate with agencies that have higher staffing during weekday hours. Ms. Palmer motioned to approve, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Ordinance 26-01 Smoke and Irons Music Festival

Ms. Mix shared the request from Ignite the Courage to hold their annual Smoke and Irons Music Festival at Apple Orchard Community Park, August 7th & 8th. This year, the request includes additional setup days on August 5th & 6th. Ignite the Courage will charge \$10 per person for entrance to the music festival and will include alcohol sales, which is the reason for the Ordinance. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve of Ordinance 26-01, seconded by Ms. Kasuba. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Eckelberry, Palmer, Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Botkin

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Fagan

Motion Passed.

Approval of Ordinance 26-02 Bartlett Oktoberfest

Ms. Mix continued with Ordinance 26-02 Bartlett Oktoberfest. Ms. Mix explained this is the 5th year Oktoberfest has been hosted at Leiseberg Park by the Bartlett Area Chamber of Commerce, Bartlett Lion's Club, and Bartlett Rotary Club. The event includes live music, food, vendors, and alcohol sales. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Eckelberry, Palmer, Gunsteen, Stocks, Kasuba, Botkin

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Fagan

Motion Passed.

Approval of Arts in Bartlett Pet Event

Ms. Mix concluded with the request from Arts in Bartlett to host their annual Pet Event in Bartlett Park. Ms. Mix gave a brief description of the event which includes pet vendors, rescue organizations, and food trucks. The event is expected to potentially attract 800 attendees. Ms. Gunsteen motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Palmer. **Motion Passed.**

Approval of 2026 National Night Out Request

Ms. Dasbach shared the dates for the 2026 National Night Out events. Ms. Dasbach described how the Recreation, Special Facilities, and Parks Departments all support the National Night Out events and some changes have been made to the event schedule for this year. The Dog Walker Program has been moved closer to the other events and there will be no Family Fun Night, which is typically the same night as the Pool Party. Ms. Dasbach shared some of the included activities at the main event night at Bartlett Park. Mr. Eckelberry requested a motion to approve all events pending all COI requirements are met. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Palmer. **Motion Passed.**

Department Updates**Business Services**

Mr. Leninger confirmed an offer has been accepted by a candidate for the Risk and Safety Training Manager position and looks forward to introducing the candidate once they have started in their position. Mr. Leninger provided totals for 1099s, 1095s and W2's which will be distributed. For 2025 a total of 749 W2's will be distributed to employees with total wages paid of \$6.21 million. Mr. Leninger also provided W2 totals for the last 6 years for comparison and discussed the effect of the recent minimum wage increases.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien stated the Custodial and Building Services Manager position has been filled by Bill Penrod who comes to the District with over 20 years of experience. Staff are excited to welcome Bill. Ms. O'Brien also shared a total of 11 bids were received today for the Happy Trails and Schick Park renovations. Staff are thrilled with the amount of bids received and will bring final information to the Board next month for approval.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach shared the Spring Program Guide is coming out the week of February 16th. The new guide is highlighting summer camps, golf, aquatics, and the much-anticipated Executive Director's letter. This guide is the first that has been created in-house by Kathy our full-time Graphic Designer and features a lot of original photos. Ms. Dasbach discussed current programs and shared follow up information on summer camp. Last summer there were about 350 registered campers per week and 66 campers at the Bartlett Nature Center for the last week of summer. Ms. Dasbach also shared the new option to set up payment plans online for camp registration that Guest Services Department has been working on.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix presented numbers for **LIFECENTER** which continues to be busy with check-ins and group fitness classes. The FITMAS Race to Christmas was a successful competition in the month of December which had two winners that tied. Ms. Mix also shared the give away for the Barracuda Bay Water Park Flash Sale this year was inspired by the new assless Big Ass Fans. Fun light up fans with the Barracuda Bay logo will be given away this year at the Flash Sale taking place on Monday, February 16th.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon provided statistics for winter sports and food and beverage for December. Both winter sports and food and beverage sales grew significantly compared to last year. Mr. Pierobon also shared upcoming special events at Villa Olivia including A Night of Bourbon and Culinary Craft, featuring Whiskey Acres, and Love Me Tender: Valentine's Day with Elvis.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko reviewed dates for upcoming events including the DuPage and Cook County Legislative Breakfasts. Any Commissioners that would like to attend either breakfast should reach out to Mr. Romejko or Ms. Carter to register. Mr. Romejko and Mr. Eckelberry will be attending the DuPage County breakfast in Carol Stream. Mr. Romejko also provided an update on the Comprehensive Master Plan. There will be a special meeting on February 10th to discuss the action plan with the Board and then a draft will be presented at a special meeting on March 24th. Mr. Romejko discussed the upcoming annual conference and wished everyone a Happy National Chocolate Cake Day! Mr. Romejko concluded by sharing a letter from the Bartlett Fire Inspector commending the work of the Park District staff.

Commissioner Comments

Mr. Eckelberry asked about a recent Facebook comment requesting that a dead animal to be removed from a trail and how the District responded. Mr. Romejko explained the Park District staff doesn't handle wildlife, dead or alive.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Gunsteen moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion carried at 7:26 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on February 24, 2026.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary