

BARTLETT PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 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, 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: Risk & Safety Training Manager Laura Cavazos, Mr. Potato Head

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 27, 2026, approval of meeting minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on February 10, 2026, approval of the Monthly Treasurer Report, and approval of the February Bill List. Ms. Stocks motioned to approve, seconded by Ms. Palmer. 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

None

New Business

Approval of FY2026-27 Full-Time Staff Wage Increase Pool

Mr. Romejko discussed the information collected from area park districts and HR Source, which is used to make a recommendation for the wage increase pool. Based on the information gathered, a 4% increase pool is recommended. Mr. Romejko explained that would increase full-time salary wages by \$134,270, excluding the Executive Director position. Mr. Leninger confirmed there are currently 64 full-time staff members. Mr. Eckelberry asked for a motion to approve of a 4% Full-Time wage increase pool. Ms. Gunsteen made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Botkin. **Motion Passed.**

Department Updates

Business Services

Mr. Leninger provided an update on the District's investment accounts. The District had another strong year with an account balance of \$1,524,009.44. Throughout 2025, the District's PTMA account increased by \$39,435.72 which was investment income. Mr. Leninger shared his happiness with this year's investment return. Mr. Leninger also shared he had the opportunity to represent Bartlett Park District at Bartlett High School to discuss and answer questions about a career in parks and recreation finance as well as promote summer employment opportunities.

Mr. Leninger then introduced Risk & Safety Training Manager, Laura Cavazos, who is in her second week with the District. Ms. Cavazos shared her previous experience and how excited she is about joining the Bartlett Park District team. Ms. Cavazos also shared that she and Commissioner Botkin know each other from their time performing in the ISU Circus.

Parks & Planning

Ms. O'Brien reviewed information about the Park a Memory Program the District offers. Individuals can donate a memorial tree or bench for installation in a District park of their choice. Each donation includes a commemorative plaque mounted on a concrete base beneath the tree or on the bench. Ms. O'Brien shared the program has been growing since the pandemic and in 2025, 17 trees were donated. Although people can indicate their preferred park location, staff have paused donations at some parks, such as Bartlett Park which is a popular choice but is currently overcrowded with trees. Ms. Palmer asked if the donation and cost for memorial trees was break even. Ms. O'Brien responded the cost is about break even, there is some cost lost due to labor planting the trees and installing the benches.

Recreation

Ms. Dasbach shared the spring program deadlines that are coming up and the pre-season preparations including finding volunteer coaches. Ms. Dasbach also discussed the upcoming Winterfest event at Bartlett Nature Center. There will be activities indoors and outdoors, horse drawn sleigh rides sponsored by Bartlett Parks Foundation, and state representative Maura Hirschauer or her designee will be attending. Even without snow, there will be many activities for attendees. Ms. Dasbach also provided an update on Preschool which opened enrollment for the 2026-27 school year on January 24th. Staff are pleased to already have 130 students enrolled.

Special Facilities

Ms. Mix presented figures for this year's Barracuda Bay Water Park flash sale that took place on Monday, February 16th. This year, 621 season passes were sold with an additional 20 sold through South Elgin. A total of 600 Barracuda Bay Water Park logoed assless little ass fans were ordered as give aways with season passes and staff was pleasantly surprised, they ran out. Ms. Gunsteen asked if patrons that didn't get the assless little ass fans would still get them, Ms. Mix responded that more would be ordered. Ms. Mix also shared the special summer camp registration coming up on Saturday, March 7th. Guest Services will be staffed for what is expected to be a busy day of registration. **LIFECENTER** continues to be busy.

Villa Olivia

Mr. Pierobon provided statistics for winter sports and food and beverage for January 2026 compared to last year. Winter sports revenue is less compared to last year, but Ski Café revenue is up. Winter Sports did close for the season with President's Day being the last open day. With the unseasonably warm weather on the last day, Villa Olivia was grateful they also have assless Big Ass Fans in the Ski Lodge to cool off patrons. Mr. Pierobon also shared this year's Friday Fish Fry will be promoted as a Lenten Buffet, "From Sea & Garden." Fish fry will still be featured along with clam chowder, fries, salad bar, and other items for those who prefer alternatives to fish.

Executive Director Updates

Mr. Romejko informed the Board NWSRA is making some changes to their adult day program. NWSRA has decided to split with their current partner, Clearbrook, and run their adult day program independently. This program is offered at multiple Park District locations. Mr. Romejko also commented on the recent Bartlett Parks Foundation Raise Your Glass event and thanked everyone who attended and helped. Mr. Romejko also congratulated Ms. Carter on her 5-year anniversary with the District. The room erupted in applause!

Commissioner Comments

Mr. Eckelberry shared that he very much enjoyed all the Department updates this evening.

Closed Session

Ms. Palmer moved to adjourn into Closed Session for the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21). Ms. Palmer 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 7:34 PM

Reconvening of Board Meeting

Mr. Eckelberry called the meeting back to regular session at 7:40pm 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. Also present were Executive Director, Kevin Romejko, and Executive Assistant, Maureen Carter.

Action Resulting from Closed Session

Ms. Gunsteen made a motion to release closed session meeting minutes from August 12, 2025, all other minutes should remain closed at this time. Ms. Stocks seconded the motion. **Motion Passed.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Stocks moved to adjourn the Board Meeting, seconded by Ms. Gunsteen. **Motion carried at 7:41 pm.**

Minutes Approved by the Board on March 10, 2026.

By: 
Kevin Romejko, Board Secretary