



**Minutes**  
**Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**February 24, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**  
**Johnston Recreation Center**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Bloomington Park District (BPD) Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Burke at 6:38 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Bryen Travis, Jerry Marshall, Gerace Olson, Frank Saverino, and Andre Burke, along with staff members Joe Potts, Jennifer Vale, Lonna Converso, Mesha Hadzic, Chris Tompkins, Mark Goode, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

**Recognition of Visitors**

There were no visitors in attendance.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to establish the Consent Agenda. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Saverino, Olson, Travis, Marshall, Burke
Nay:	None
Absent:	None

The following Consent Agenda items were considered by the Park District to be routine and were enacted in one motion with no separate discussion.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - January 27, 2025 – Special Meeting
  - January 27, 2025 – Regular Meeting
- B. Acceptance of Financial Reports – January 2025
- C. Approval of Directive to Pay – February 24, 2025

The Board approved the Consent Agenda of the February 24, 2025, meeting as presented. On voice vote the motion was approved 5-0.

**Old Business**

Comprehensive Master Plan – Final Review

The staff wanted everyone on the Board to have sufficient time to review the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) and express any concerns. Having no further comments, the Board directed staff to include the CMP on next month’s agenda for approval.

**New Business**

Approval of Board’s Multi-Day Travel Expenses for 2025 IAPD/IPRA Conference

The Board reviewed multi-day travel expenses of Board Members attending the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference January 23-25, 2025, in Chicago.

Commissioner Marshall moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve Board Member travel expenses from attending the IAPD/IPRA Conference January 23-25, 2025, in Chicago. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Marshall, Olson, Travis, Saverino, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

Approval of Resolution No. 2025-01: Child Labor Laws Update – Carve Outs

Staff explained to the Board the update to child labor laws that took effect January 1, 2025. Legislators and Governor Pritzker approved a carveout in the 2024 Child Labor Law for park districts, allowing minors to work under the supervision of an 18-year-old employee rather than requiring a 21-year-old supervisor on site, provided that no alcohol or tobacco is sold at the location. Additionally, minors may officiate youth sports as long as a 21-year-old supervisor is on call.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to approve Resolution No. 2025-01: A Resolution Additionally Updating the Child Labor Laws: Employment of Minors Policy Within the Personnel Policy Manual. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Saverino, Marshall, Travis, Olson, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

Approval of Indian Lakes Park Improvement Bids

Staff reviewed memos from staff and Wight & Company Landscape Architect Daniel Wilson covering the specifics of the Indian Lakes Park bids. It was recommended to approve Obsidian Asphalt Paving, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder at \$127,214, as the contractor for the Indian Lakes Park renovation project. The Board expressed no reservations about the recommendation.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis, to approve the Obsidian Asphalt Paving, Inc., as the contractor for the Indian Lakes Park renovation project. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Saverino, Travis, Marshall, Olson, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

### **Other Items to be Brought Before the Board**

#### Capital Project Review

Director of Parks & Planning Mesha Hadzic presented a capital projects update and thanked all other departments for providing necessary information. Approximately 50% of intended capital improvements have been coordinated. The staff used excess funds from completing some projects under budget to fund other improvements and will carefully apply the use of future savings toward other capital projects. The Board complimented staff on a nice report – in effort and color coding.

#### Utility Usage Update

Staff reviewed the District's energy usage and assured the Board that although the District has not yet received anticipated savings from LED installations, they continue to look for rebates and better ways to operate. It was noted that rebates could possibly be scarcer under the new federal administration.

#### 2025 IAPD/IPRA Conference Review

The Board covered the beautiful restaurant selected for the Board/staff dinner and the unfortunate illnesses of several attendees. Congratulations were given to Commissioner Saverino on his Rising Star Award and Master Board Member achievement as well as the staff members who presented a session on Canva to a crowd of approximately 80 people. The Board attended some very good sessions and enjoyed the keynote address. The staff is grateful to the Board for being allowed to attend.

#### Discussion of Executive Director Annual Review

The process for evaluating the Executive Director, which is done in April, was discussed. Conducted during Executive Session, the Board has used a specific form in the past to evaluate the Director and reviewed the Director's self evaluation. The Board agreed to use the same process again this year. Staff will distribute appropriate materials to the Board.

### **Staff Reports**

The Board inquired about whether the DuPage Monarch group conducts plant sales and offers recommendations and discussed the need for the Distinguished Agency process and the costs in staff time and legal fees it involves. Overall, the Board believes the achievement shows the District meets standards, which can be meaningful to people looking to join the BPD; is a good way to reassure the public the District behaves ethically; can give meaning to the District's current standards it already has in place; provides checks and balances for the Board to know it is doing things correctly; and can make the District even better. Staff will send the Board the most current standards.

Sunnyside Park's poor soil condition was considered in the decision to proceed with park improvements that were to include pickleball courts. The Board and staff agreed the expense of improving the soil may be too much to move forward. A decision can be potentially reached in three to four weeks. Alternative uses for the park were pondered, including removing courts, grassing the area, or building a bird sanctuary. Also contemplated was relocating the courts to another location, such as Prairie Lakes or another Village-owned site.

The Board also commented on the District's tree grant that will bring more tree species into parks; the Director of Recreation's nice report; the Director of Marketing's Goosechase scavenger hunt joint fundraiser with the Chamber of Commerce, which would result in a 50-50 split between the Parks Foundation and Chamber; and the need to fill a vacant position with a full-time candidate or two part-time candidates with digital and brochure experience.

#### **Executive Session**

Commissioner Olson moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis, to not enter into Executive Session. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Olson, Travis, Marshall, Saverino, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

#### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Marshall moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Marshall, Olson, Travis, Saverino, Burke  
Nay: None  
Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joe Potts  
Board Secretary