



**Minutes**  
**Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**August 18, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**  
**Johnston Recreation Center (JRC)**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board and staff recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to Order**

The Regular Meeting of the Bloomington Park District Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Marshall. In attendance were Commissioners Andre Burke, Gerace Olson, Frank Saverino, and Jerry Marshall and staff members Joe Potts, Chris Tompkins, Jennifer Vale, Lonna Converso, Mesha Hadzic, Mark Goode, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

**Recognition of Visitors**

There were no visitors in attendance.

(Commissioner Travis entered the meeting at 6:34 p.m.)

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Burke, to establish the Consent Agenda of the August 18, 2025, meeting as presented. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye:	Saverino, Burke, Travis, Olson, Marshall
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
  - July 21, 2025, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
  - July 21, 2025, Special Meeting
- B. Acceptance of Financial Reports – July 2025
- C. Approval of Directive to Pay – August 18, 2025

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

## **New Business**

### Review of Ordinance No. 2025-03: Update of Parks Usage Ordinance – Assembly, Speech, Permits and Loitering

Staff presented an ordinance, which was prepared by attorneys at Ancel Glink, updating the District's Parks Usage Ordinance No. 2015-03 (last updated in Ordinance No. 2021-02). The Board questioned how the ordinance might prevent large festivals from recurring without going through proper channels. The District's large park rental process and a recent festival that used our staff and park were discussed. After conferring with Attorney Derke Price, staff will bring back the ordinance for Board review and potential approval.

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

### Observation of 20-Year BPD Anniversary of Mark Goode

The Board and staff thanked Mark Goode, director of internal services, for his 20 years of service to the District. President Marshall recognized Mark as a great asset to the District who maintains a safe and secure environment and whose hard work is appreciated. Executive Director Potts acknowledged Mark as being dedicated to the safety (related to physical and information technology) of staff and patrons, having a great relationship and safety rating with the Park District Risk Management Agency, and being a magnificent co-worker.

### Strategic Plan and CARP Update

Staff provided the Board a status overview of the strategic plan and capital asset and replacement program. Highlights included Springfield Park's bocce timbers replacement, picnic shelter clean up, picnic table replacement, and repainted concession stand with new shrubs; the JRC's irrigation system, repainted parking lot, recovered gymnastics beam, and replacement of chairs, tables, and pickleball equipment; Westfield Gym's four new baskets and volleyball items; and the Museum's new television, microphone, and display case.

Also discussed were the new IT improvements – new cameras at The Oasis and JRC, Wi-Fi access points, new AEDs, and a rolling supply cart. At The Oasis, a fire alarm has been replaced and upgraded, the slides have been professionally restored, the pools have been painted by the parks staff, and chemical controllers have been replaced. Added to Stratford Park was an arch entry, drainage improvements, two native swales, and improvements to the bioswale. Indian Lakes Park had the playground replaced and amenities added, while Sunnyside Park added pickleball courts and improved foundation drainage. Asphalt seal coating occurred at Circle and Stratford Parks and the JRC.

Major maintenance items and improvements this past year included the JRC wood floors and ramp, Homola, Springfield safety barriers, and the tree pruning and planting program – 124 trees pruned, 28 new trees. The Board thanked staff for the presentation and had questions on the usage of bocce ball courts, effectiveness of speed bumps in the JRC parking lot, requests for lighting at pickleball courts, and the workings of the new irrigation system in the JRC and Springfield flower beds.

### Discussion of Draft of Abuse and Boundary Violation Prevention Policy

The Board and staff discussed a draft of an abuse and boundary violation prevention policy recommended by PDRMA this past year. Whereas the District's current mandated reporter policy calls for action following suspicion of abuse, this policy aims to prevent abuse from happening, making sure staff, volunteers, and the Board are not creating abuse. The Board had questions on implementation at other agencies and how to treat a sport like football and directed staff to obtain counsel from PDRMA and bring the policy back for approval.

### Review of September 2025 Meeting Schedule

It was confirmed that moving the September Board Meeting from September 15 to September 8 fits the schedules of Board Members. The purpose of the date change was to accommodate the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development paperwork timeline for a possible grant submission. Staff will notify the public of the date change.

### Discussion of Potential OSLAD/Springfield Park Project

Executive Director Potts distributed a memo on the preliminary scope of work for the Springfield Park Improvements, which requires an investment of \$600,000 from the District and receipt of a \$600,000 grant from OSLAD. Discussed were features such as sand volleyball, pickleball courts, a playground, spray ground, fitness stations, a shelter to provide shade near concession and basketball areas, and greenhouse space for shade, additional garden beds, and program enhancements. To help with being awarded a grant, an agency should propose features considered high point values that will attract a variety of users.

### **Staff Reports**

Executive Director Potts confirmed the Board remains in agreement with BPD's naming policy. Plans to publicly announce an upcoming project were discussed, potentially at the first or last concert. The Board expressed appreciation to the pool staff for handling the season well and receiving five stars during their last audit. Details of a fall Park Tour for the Board, Foundation, and staff were considered, such as an 8 a.m. to noon timeframe, Board Member availability, and potential meeting posting requirements.

The tour is meant to be a deeper dive into the BPD's Comprehensive Plan – what work has been completed and what work still needs to be done. It was reported that the Ultimate Taylor Swift Dance Party went well. At the request of the Illinois Association of Park Districts, Commissioners were invited to take a photo beside a copy of the "The Park District Code."

### **Executive Session**

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

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

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

Aye: Saverino, Olson, Burke, Travis, Marshall

Nay: None

Absent: None

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Potts  
Board Secretary