



**Minutes**  
**Bloomington Park District**  
**Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting**  
**January 27, 2025, 6:30 P.M.**  
**Johnston Recreation Center (JRC)**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Board, staff, and visitors 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 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Bryen Travis, Jerry Marshall (attended virtually), Gerace Olson, Frank Saverino, and Andre Burke, along with staff members Joe Potts, Lonna Converso, Jennifer Vale, Mesha Hadzic, Chris Tompkins, Mark Goode, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

(Commissioner Marshall attended virtually due to personal illness.)

**Recognition of Visitors**

The Board recognized visitors in attendance for matters on the agenda: George Manis, FGM Architects, and Blake Wittkamp and Briana Discipio, BPD.

**Consent Agenda**

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

Aye: Olson, Saverino, 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 – December 16, 2024
- B. Acceptance of Financial Reports – December 2024
- C. Approval of Directive to Pay – January 27, 2025

The Board approved the Consent Agenda of the January 27, 2025, meeting as presented. On voice vote the motion was approved 5-0.

## **New Business**

### Oasis Façade Presentation by FGMA

FGM Architect's George Manis presented to the Board the existing pool conditions and facade renovation plans the firm and staff have been focusing on. No decision was sought, only a consensus to move forward in budgeting, etc. for one of three proposed plans. The preferred plan focuses on bathhouse issues including improper installation of cap flashing, water spotting, and moldy areas and provides a perimeter screen wall. The budget expectation is between \$240,000-\$321,000. Staff confirmed this option best matches the appearance of the Johnston Recreation Center and that a concrete pad for the swim team grill will be considered. The Board directed staff to move ahead with planning for the preferred plan.

### Approval to Move Forward with Old Town Park Design by Williams Architects

Staff presented cost estimates for the Old Town Park conceptual design the Board reviewed at the December 2024 meeting. Staff recommends moving forward with the planning of the recommended work – the Gazebo dance pad and Gazebo renovation – for an approximate total of \$150,000, to be included in the FY 2025-26 Budget. Final plans and expenditures will be brought back to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve moving forward with the planning of work on the Gazebo dance pad and Gazebo renovation in Old Town Park for an approximate total of \$150,000. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

### Approval to Waive Sunnyside Park Pickleball Further Bidding

Staff requested Board approval to move ahead with the contractor, E. Hoffman, for the Sunnyside Park Pickleball project without further bidding. According to Attorney Price, this is appropriate with Board approval. Staff made clear they do not expect to continue using this process and that it is an exception. The Board agreed it made sense to use this process under these conditions.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to find that under the totality of the circumstances – including timing requirements and prior bid solicitations – the Sunnyside project is not adapted to competitive bidding at this time and therefore the Board waives further bidding and authorizes the Executive Director to accept the proposal of E. Hoffman for the work at Sunnyside Park for an amount not to exceed \$270,100. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

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

### Introduction of Blake Wittkamp, Facilities & Aquatic Supervisor

Blake Wittkamp was introduced to the Board. In November, Blake joined the staff as the facilities & aquatic supervisor responsible for the JRC, Westfield, and aquatics. He comes with experience from Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates among other park districts and has hit the ground running.

### 2024 Aquatics Report Presentation

The 2024 Aquatics Report was presented to the Board by Briana Discipio, aquatic coordinator, Blake Wittkamp, and Chris Tompkins, director of recreation. Pool pass numbers have been fairly consistent over last three years, and salaries continue to be the biggest expense – keeping up with neighboring agencies and statewide minimum wage increases. Overall, The Oasis had a great year, growing revenue and hosting the post season with Roselle Park District. Roselle will host the post season in 2025. This allows Bloomingdale residents to access another pool under their super pass or at resident rates.

It was a successful year for swim lessons – classes were never boring, instructors were excited and in good supply (20-25 of them), and an app was initiated for communicating with parents about rainouts. As an overview of the general staff, the pool had 67 employees total, many of them high school students, and eight managers, five of them returning, one head guard promoted into the position, and one earning Star Guard certification. Audited once a month, the pool earned two, four-star audits and one, five-star audit. Parties and rentals were also successful, filling up quickly and producing solid revenue. Staff recommends updating party forms, designating enough time to have these parties, and having them go to 10:30 p.m. Village and parks ordinances will be consulted to see if 10:30 p.m. will work.

Many special events happened this year at the pool. Giveaway events were impacted because of weather issues. Capital budget purchase requests include items to help with staff professionalism: more lifeguard tubes, two new basketball hoops, and mops and related supplies. A discussion was had on how to best discourage patrons from bringing outside food/coolers into the pool and increase concession revenues. The swim team had a great year under new leadership – participation numbers are at a comfortable level. The team will be seeking additional coaches for the upcoming season. Briana was recognized for her 10<sup>th</sup> (and last) summer as a BPD employee. Commissioner Marshall thanked her for her outstanding management and service.

### 2025 IAPD/IPRA Conference Discussion

President Burke noted the BPD staff did an outstanding job presenting its Canva session and representing the BPD at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference. The audience was engaged, and the demos and videos were excellent – the agency's image elevated as a result. Director of Marketing Lonna Converso had prepared the panel through months of preparation and has proposed the session for the next National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) conference in Orlando, Fla.

Executive Director Potts thanked everyone who attended the state conference in Chicago. Some districts have no commissioners and/or few staff attend. The BPD, by contrast, has great participation and engaged Board Members. Commissioner Saverino was recognized at conference as the Rising Star Award recipient and for having achieved Master Board Member status. The marketing team participated in eight different Agency Showcase categories and won a third-place ribbon for integrated photography. Commissioner Travis was fascinated by his first conference and the large number of session offerings. For next year, the staff will be looking at other options for the Board/staff dinner, perhaps a room to host the gathering with food brought in and games played.

### **Staff Reports**

The Board had no comments on staff reports.

### **Executive Session**

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

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

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Olson moved, seconded by Commissioner Marshall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Potts  
Board Secretary