



**Minutes
Bloomington Park District
Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting
January 26, 2026, 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 Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Marshall at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Bryen Travis, Andre Burke, Gerace Olson, Frank Saverino, and Jerry Marshall, along with staff members Joe Potts, Jennifer Vale, Mesha Hadzic, Chris Tompkins, Mark Goode, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

Recognition of Visitors

The Board welcomed visitors in attendance for matters on the agenda: Dan Leahy, Western DuPage Special Recreation Association's executive director and Blake Wittkamp and Briana Discipio, BPD's aquatics and facilities supervisor and aquatics coordinator, respectively.

Consent Agenda

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

Aye: Burke, Olson, Travis, Saverino, 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 – December 15, 2025

B. Acceptance of Financial Reports – December 2025

C. Approval of Directive to Pay – January 26, 2026

The Board approved the Consent Agenda of the January 26, 2026, meeting as presented. On voice vote the motion was approved 5-0.

New Business

Visit From Dan Leahy, WDSRA Executive Director

On his annual visit to each of their nine member districts, Dan has been giving what he calls his gratitude report. The special recreation association appreciates BPD's efforts at making inclusion happen successfully and its support of the Bash and golf outing fundraisers. Bloomingdale saw 311 inclusion program residents and 156 of its residents enrolled in WDSRA seasonal programs. For the size of community inclusion services balance out.

Dan covered special highlights of the past year at WDSRA including their 50th anniversary, onsite programming, special events, collaborations and partnerships, and an inclusion task force to help explain the inclusion and billing process to member agencies. Also detailed were services provided – inclusion, exclusive programming, Rec & Roll day programs for participants aged 21-55, and a disability awareness campaign. WDSRA is conducting special recreation 101-like training for new commissioners, covering topics like co-op agreements, levies, joint programming, inclusion services, etc.

The WDSRA Foundation, which has received \$951,499 in cash and in-kind donations and \$39,535 in scholarship endowment, is trying to endow the amount it gives out each year. Last year, 384 scholarships were awarded totaling \$23,614. Since its inception, the agency has seen demand for its services increase significantly (50% in the past three to four years alone), and the agency must work to identify people who really need the help. WDSRA will accept the Distinguished Agency Accreditation award at the upcoming IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference.

(Dan left the meeting following his report. At this time, the Board moved up on the agenda item 7A.)

Other Items to be Brought Before the Board

2025 Aquatics Report Presentation

The 2025 Aquatics Report was presented to the Board by Briana and Blake. The Oasis had a successful season this past season, experiencing a 55% returning staff rate. For the upcoming summer, thus far, 40 guards and all the management staff have committed to returning – nearing a 75% return rate.

Revenues and expenses from last season look good – concessions, team, etc. Staffing costs were managed using strategies like sending people home during slow times. Season passes were available on an early bird rate basis February through May. Staff recommends stopping the early bird before May 1. Roselle hosted the post season but did not hire any BPD staff; BPD will keep the line of communication open for this upcoming season when it hosts post season. Another recommendation was to keep Fridays open for rentals, since rentals bring in more revenue.

The swim team had seen a great addition to the coaching staff, stable member participation, and tireless work and support from the Maintenance Department. Overall, the pool received good feedback on special events and boasted 10 Tiki Hut employees with food licenses and one new lifeguard who earned 5-star evaluations during three audits as a rookie. There were no junior lifeguards this year; the staff hopes to implement this program in the future beginning in early July. Staff believes increasing fees will help boost revenues.

Comments from the Board were related to increases in supply costs, which were mostly due to a chemical switch in the new system; observations of staff handling difficult situations well, engaging with the public in positive ways, and trying to address the issue of outside food coming into the facility; and needs for new equipment in the concession stand. Executive Director Potts thanked the staff for conducting pool training that is impressive, extensive, orderly, safe, and enjoyable for people involved.

(Bri and Blake left the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The Board then resumed the normal order of the agenda.)

New Business, Continued

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-01: Funeral Honors Detail Leave Policy

Staff presented the formal version of the funeral honors detail leave policy for approval. No changes were made to the draft version the Board received at the December 15, 2025, meeting. The Board had no further questions about the policy, which was approved by counsel at Ancel Glink.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Burke, to approve Resolution No. 2026-01: A Resolution Adopting a Funeral Honors Detail Leave Policy. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-02: Tree Preservation Policy

With the help of Morton Arboretum grant facilitators, Great Lakes Urban Forestry, and Ancel Glink attorneys, BPD staff developed the District's first urban forest management plan. Staff recommended approval of this policy to implement a structured, long-term approach to tree care that supports environmental stewardship, public safety, and tree canopy sustainability.

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve Resolution No. 2026-02: A Resolution Adopting a Tree Preservation Policy. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Other Items to be Brought Before the Board, Continued

Pool Fee Increases

The staff presented a plan to increase prices for The Oasis, which have not been changed in four years, despite the rising costs of labor, uniforms, chemicals, safety supplies, utilities, etc. Future plans include smaller increases more often, as needed.

Although the Board was comfortable with the proposed changes, no action was necessary at the time; the increases will be included and approved in the annual budget.

DuPage Monarch Project Annual Report

Executive Director Potts shared with the Board the DuPage Monarch Project's annual report for 2025, highlighting the exceptional volunteer work of the group's founder and director, Lonnie Morris. The Board thought the report was well planned, and the District will help promote the group's work.

2026 IAPD/IPRA Conference Discussion

The Board and staff discussed details of the upcoming IAPD/IPRA Conference to be held January 29-31, 2026, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago in Chicago. Covered were the Board/staff dinner at Eataly's La Pizza & La Pasta, an award being presented to Senator Seth Lewis and the reception afterward, and tips for staff attending the conference for the first time.

Discussion on The Grove

Executive Director Potts appreciated input from the Board on a memo to the Village regarding The Grove. In addition to agreeing on the need to schedule a meeting with the Village, the Board came to consensus on the necessity of advocating for park space inside the development, knowing its exact location, determining who is responsible for its maintenance, and knowing the timeline for planning and playground purchasing purposes.

Additional questions for the meeting were formulated. Will there be another park run by the complex in center area? Could this park qualify for an OSLAD or land acquisition grant? Is it going to be the norm to waive impact fees for projects moving forward? The Board also discussed how to best proceed with discussions with individual Village trustees, if necessary, using prepared talking points.

Staff Reports

A discussion was held on the development of an intergovernmental agreement with the Carol Stream Park District that seeks to allow field usage for soccer practice for Carol Stream and indoor pool usage for Bloomingdale. Details such as payment of extra expenses incurred and coordinating schedules with athletic affiliates are being worked out. Other items discussed included giving the public advance notice of tree trimming or removal, good work in the Marketing Department, the programming pivot from a holiday lighting competition to a Halloween decoration contest, the possible relocation of summer events due to school construction, and attendance at the WDSRA Bash.

Executive Session

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

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

Adjournment

Commissioner Saverino moved, seconded by Commissioner Travis, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Potts
Board Secretary

