



**Minutes
Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 16, 2026, 6:30 P.M.
Johnston Recreation Center**

Pledge of Allegiance

The Board, staff, and visitor 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 and staff members Joe Potts, Mark Goode, Chris Tompkins, Mesha Hadzic, Jennifer Vale, Lonna Converso, and Jackie Tithof Steere.

Recognition of Visitors

The Board recognized Tania Rodriguez, recreation supervisor, who was present to speak to an item on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Burke, to establish the Consent Agenda. On roll call vote the motion was approved 4-0 with Commissioner Saverino abstaining.

Aye: Travis, Burke, 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 – February 23, 2026
- B. Acceptance of Financial Reports – February 2026
- C. Approval of Directive to Pay – March 16, 2026

The Board approved the Consent Agenda of the March 16, 2026, meeting as presented. On voice vote the motion was approved 4-0. Commissioner Saverino abstained.

(At this time, the Board moved up on the agenda Item 7B.)

Other Items to be Brought Before the Board

Featured BPD Employee Tania Rodriguez

As the BPD employee featured at this month's meeting, Recreation Supervisor Tania Rodriguez described her work at the District, which is focused on youth and adult variety programming, concessions, and the Museum. Tania elaborated on a succession plan she is working on for the Museum, which will soon see the retirement of two veteran curators with impeccable eyes for details related to art. Also detailed were concession areas indoors and outdoors. Tania manages 11 staff members, many of whom are new to the world of work, and she enjoys teaching them valuable skills and watching them grow.

On the recreation programming side, Tania oversees cooking classes, adult enrichment/art, the art club, and teens – consistently picking up and applying current trends to these areas. Focusing on growing teen programming, she has steadily increased attendance at the Kids Friday Night event by relating to the age group through Mario Cart gaming and creating a balance of giving them space while still under supervision. Watching younger kids in the art club be so excited to come to class and ask for more sessions fills Tania with happiness. As a supervisor, she regularly steps in to teach classes (and gets to know the parents and children), tries to attend all Museum receptions, and believes it is important to support her staff. Tania also helps with many of the District's special events.

In featuring BPD employees at meetings, a new undertaking, the Board hopes to gain a better understanding of our employees and their roles at the Bloomingdale Park District. At the same time, staff gain a better understanding of the BPD Board and their role.

(The Board returned to the normal order of the agenda.)

New Business

Approval of Resolution No. 2026-03: River Sweep 2026 Proclamation

Staff read into the record a public declaration of the District's commitment to encourage all BPD residents to make a difference in the quality of water in the area by participating in "River Sweep 2026." The proclamation – a collaboration between the DuPage County Stormwater Management Department, townships, municipalities, and park districts – will be publicized upon approval to help generate interest in the April 18 event.

Commissioner Burke moved, seconded by Commissioner Olson, to approve Resolution No. 2026-03: River Sweep 2026 Proclamation. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Other Items to be Brought Before the Board, Continued

Festival of Lights Report

Staff reviewed the Festival of Lights Report from the past winter holiday season. Although the weather restricted the opening night, the evening was still very festive. The Recreation and Parks Departments put together a plethora of programming and activities during the month of December that the community enjoyed. The Board complimented the staff on a job well done; discussed patron feedback on changing out lighted structures annually and the expense of doing so along with the most attended offerings; and clarified staff's recommendation to offer fewer programming options next year.

First Amendment to Leslie Park Lease Agreement

Staff presented the First Amendment to Leslie Park Lease Agreement Between the Village of Bloomingdale and the Bloomingdale Park District, which has been signed by both parties following legal review. The update dictates who is responsible for the upkeep of various areas as some sections are owned by the Village and others by the Park District. No further action was required.

Review of Agency Mission Statement, Slogan and Logo

As part of the Illinois Association of Park Districts' Distinguished Agency process, the Board and staff examined the BPD's mission statement, slogan and logo to make sure they are still resonating with the community and conveying the proper, positive message. The mission statement, albeit wordy, does a great job reflecting who the BPD is and what it does for the public. The logo, rolled out 18 years ago, features subliminal "bpd" letters and still functions well but could use a color palette refresh, samples of which will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting. The slogan, "Where recreation revolves around you" is inclusive and effective.

Although not recommended by staff, the high cost of a time-consuming, all-out buildout program for change was discussed. It was agreed the current classic message was working digitally and overall and did not need to change. As best practice, the review of the mission statement, slogan and logo will be placed on the Board Meeting agenda every three years.

WDSRA Funding Discussion

Staff gave the Board a tutorial on how funding works for inclusion services provided by the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association. A tax levy of 4% of equalized assessed value is levied for special recreation, which boils down to 8% of BPD tax dollars going toward special recreation. Each year, two installment payments of member dues (2%) go to WDSRA – a portion of this 2% is allocated by WDSRA for capital funding. Another 2% funds aides for special assistance in programming (sports, camp, etc.) and BPD's ADA capital improvements.

Once billed four times per year, the District is now billed once a month and services have exploded. For example, in 2022 BPD's inclusion billing was \$6,500; it was most recently \$81,000. Services ballooned in 2023-2024 and will probably be \$93,000 this year. The Board and staff discussed possible reasons for the large increase in services including potentially more diagnoses, more parental requests, differences in the population, different inclusion aide pay scales, and other contributing factors. Other member districts are having the same issues. Remedies are being worked on inside WDSRA through a committee of partner executive directors – one recent change being that home (rather than host) districts will now pay the costs of patrons enrolled outside their home district.

Also discussed were the consequences of the cost increase to the BPD. For instance, when remodeling, the Park District must make things ADA compliant. If the District runs out of funds in the ADA account, funds must be taken from somewhere else, like capital funding, operations or recreation. The group considered bringing the issue to the attention of legislators, questioning the special recreation agency's staffing model and protocol for determining who needs services, and implementing other information-gathering tactics. The Board thanked the Director of Finance for the education in WDSRA funding.

Staff Reports

Executive Director Potts briefed the Board on a few staff report items such as an overdue Bloomingdale Baseball & Softball Association agreement that has been updated internally and will be reviewed at a meeting with the affiliate on Friday. The Oasis project is on track to open before pool season begins despite hiccups. Board Members possibly interested in attending the National Recreation and Park Association's annual conference in Philadelphia this September included Commissioners Olson and Marshall.

The WDSRA Bash raised approximately \$250,000. Staff was urged to be mindful of likely dangerous emails – those that are labelled urgent and/or involve staff impersonations. There will be a staff training by Links Technology next week. Staff member Mike Arnone and Commissioner Saverino's son Frank Saverino won the recent bags tournament that benefited the Bloomingdale Parks Foundation and other local non-profits.

A gift was selected for District 13 Superintendent Dr. Jon Bartelt, who is retiring in June, and an invitation will be sent to the new superintendent to attend an upcoming BPD Board Meeting. Staff will confirm with the School District if any shared gym expenses need to be worked out. The Board was reminded to complete their Statement of Economic Interests form and submit it to the DuPage County Clerk's office by the deadline in early May.

Executive Session

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


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

Adjournment

Commissioner Travis moved, seconded by Commissioner Saverino, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. On roll call vote the motion was approved 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Joe Fotts
Board Secretary

