



ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Pottawatomie Community Center

February 11, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Call to Order

The St. Charles Park District Board met for a Regular Meeting at Pottawatomie Community Center on February 11, 2025. At 6:33 p.m., President Bob Thomson called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos called the roll.

Commissioners present: Bob Carne, Dr. Brian Charles, Jim Cooke, Karrsten Goettel, Peggy McCarthy, Bob Thomson and Steve Ward

Commissioners absent:

Administrative staff present: Director of Parks & Recreation Holly Cabel, Superintendent of Parks & Planning and Deputy Director Laura Rudow, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies, Superintendent of Finance & Administration Ashlee Wallace, Information Technology Manager Jeff Essig and Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos

Other staff present: Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Melissa Caine, Athletics Manager TC Hull, Recreation Supervisor Andrew Nelson, Sportsplex Supervisor Evelyn Grant, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Taylor Krawczyk, Aquatics, RVMG & Haines Manager Cayla Greenfield, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation Katie Miller

Guests Present: Kiwanians Michelle Fisher, Connie Kurr & Trudy Nichol; Aaron Gold of Speer Financial, Linda and Jerry Krawczyk, Giacomo Favia, Joe Cucci, Frank Figueroa

Consent Agenda

Mr. Cooke moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Consent Agenda items, including the following:

- Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on January 28, 2025

A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Public Appearances

The Board of Commissioners honored the members of the Kiwanis of St. Charles for their continued support of the District's commitment to providing inclusive playground amenities to the children of the community. Superintendent of Parks & Planning Laura Rudow shared that the Kiwanis have donated \$55,000 since 2018, so that the District could purchase 12 ADA swings for parks throughout the District; an accessible wheelchair swing for the Pottawatomie Park Sensory Playground, a water amenity for Kehoe Park and a sensory amenity for Langum Park. The Commissioners thanked the Kiwanis members and presented them with a certificate of recognition.

The Kiwanis left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

The Board of Commissioners recognized Taylor Krawczyk, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, for receiving the IPRA's Young Professional of the Year Award. Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies said that Taylor began her career at the District as an intern in concessions, then was hired as a recreation supervisor and was recently promoted to an assistant superintendent. He praised her for her creativity and leadership. Ms. Krawczyk said that her award is really for the whole team. Director Holly Cabel added that the popular Pickle Paradise event last year that was Ms. Krawczyk's idea.

Michelle Fisher, Connie Kurr, Trudy Nichol, Linda and Jerry Krawczyk, Giacomo Favia and Taylor Krawczyk left the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Mr. Joe Cucci, a longtime resident of St. Charles and garden plot renter, addressed the Commissioners regarding the increased price of garden plot rentals. He expressed disappointment in the increase and what he said was lack of notice to the renters that the cost was going up, especially for non-residents. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Cucci for his feedback.

Administration and Finance

Results of Rollover Bond Sale

Aaron Gold of Speer Financial presented the results of the annual rollover bond sale. Mr. Gold said there were six bids for the General Obligation Series 2025 bonds, with Time Bank of Park Ridge as the bidder with the lowest interest rate at 3.46% net. He shared that the GOB sale will close on February 25, 2025 and mature on November 1, 2025. Net proceeds will be 4.6% over prior year bond sale. He was pleased with the strong bidding, from 4 banks last year to 6 this year. He recommended the Board accept the bid from Time Bank of Park Ridge for the issuance of the revised amount of \$2,220,355 in General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2025.

Joe Cucci left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Bond Ordinance 2025-02-01

Mr. Carne moved and Mr. Goettel seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve Ordinance 2025-02-01 as presented, which provides for the issue of \$2,220,355 in General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2025, of the St. Charles Park District, Kane and DuPage Counties, Illinois, for the payment of land for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of said Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Aaron Gold left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Intergovernmental Agreement with South Elgin

Ms. Rudow shared the updated terms for a new five-year IGA between the St. Charles Park District and the Village of South Elgin. She explained that this new agreement eliminates language of the original agreement regarding natural areas and trails and outlines the terms for playground

maintenance and future improvements. The Commissioners agreed to the terms and directed Ms. Rudow to present the agreement to the Village of South Elgin.

Technology Purchase

Information Technology Manager Jeff Essig asked the Board to consider the purchase of replacement server hardware from Dell for \$39,464.81.

Mr. Cooke moved and Dr. Charles seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of replacement server hardware from Dell for \$39,464.81. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. Abstain: Carne. The motion carried.

Recreation

Sportsplex and Athletics Annual Report

Mr. Kies introduced Melissa Caine, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation for Sportsplex and Athletics. Ms. Caine invited the Sportsplex staff Athletics Manager TC Hull, Recreation Supervisor Andrew Nelson, and Sportsplex Supervisor Evelyn Grant to present their annual report.

Mr. Nelson spoke about the success of the programs, especially karate, Hot Shot Sports summer camps and cooperative programming with Geneva through All Star Sports. Mr. Nelson supervised 6 pickleball tournaments and 23 leagues in 2024. There were six softball leagues with 3 co-ed teams. Men's soccer league had 16 teams.

Mr. Hull spoke about the success of outdoor tournaments at James O. Breen Community Park, East Side Sports Complex and Primrose Farm Park. He also spoke to the strength of the relationships the District has built with its Associate Groups, which allows for open communication when there are issues to be addressed. He also said that having access to Thompson turf is critical for high level soccer matches. Mr. Hull spoke about the Sportsplex rental schedule and the associate groups that use the space, as well as other groups that come in for practices, camps and tournaments.

Ms. Grant shared that the Row Zone, dedicated space for 8 rowers, has become very popular and classes have tripled in registrations from 2023. Birthday parties have increased 51% since 2023 because of the two spaces available and repeat customers. Indoor Walking had 147 patrons in 2024 and has become very popular. Ms. Grant said that the second-floor space shared between Kale Training and Smith PT has worked well for all parties. However, Smith PT will not be renewing their lease, so an RFP has gone out for a new renter. In 2025, Sportsplex will host Pottawatomie summer camps, and the Row Zone will add more classes for adults and kids, as well as make improvements to the room. Also, she indicated that there may be a slight decline in birthday parties as a portion of space is now occupied by Row Zone.

Commissioners posed questions of the Sportsplex team, including: whether there is girls flag football programming; whether the team surveys associate groups for feedback; if incentives are given to the long-standing groups; other rental opportunities for private groups and fundraisers; and what kind of marketing we do for Sportsplex. Mr. Carne remarked that Sportsplex is an unknown gem in the community, to which Ms. Cabel responded that the marketing department sends out a welcome letter to new residents. Mr. Ward wondered if we have information about who is using Sportsplex for the walking program and Mr. Kies responded that he would look into ways to track who is using the facility.

TC Hull, Andrew Nelson and Evelyn Grant left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Parks, Planning and Facilities

East Side Sports Complex Restroom Building and Water Main Project Bid Openings

Ms. Rudow shared bids were solicited to develop the new restroom & concession building at East Side Sports Complex and opened on February 6, 2025. She asked the Board to consider Lite Construction, Montgomery, IL as the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$1,159,700. She reviewed the funding available for this project and the associated water main project, for which the lowest responsible bidder is Swallow Construction Corporation, West Chicago, IL in the amount of \$894,500.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Carne seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the contract with Lite Construction, Montgomery, IL in the amount of \$1,159,700 for construction of the ESSC restroom and concession building and Swallow Construction Corporation, West Chicago, IL in the amount of \$894,500 to install the water and sewer lines to the building. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Wildrose Elementary School Playground

Ms. Rudow shared bids were solicited and opened January 29, 2025, for a cooperative playground replacement at Wildrose Elementary School with CUSD303. The lowest responsible bidder is Georges Landscape, Inc, Joliet, IL with a base bid of \$256,413. Staff also propose accepting Alternate #1 in the amount of \$71,755 to install turf surfacing in lieu of fibar mulch. The Park District portion of this total project expense is fifty percent (50%) or \$164,084.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Goettel seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the contract with Georges Landscape, Inc, Joliet, IL, with the District's portion of the project to be no more than \$164,084. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Requests for Use

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Goettel seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the following requests for use:

- Suicide Prevention Services for the use of Pottawatomie Park for the purpose of hosting their annual Here for Life walk on Saturday, September 13, 2025
- UOP / Honeywell for the use of Pottawatomie Park for the purpose of hosting their annual company picnic event on Friday, August 1, 2025
- St. Charles Democrats, through Susan Sanders, Event Coordinator, has formally requested the use of Pottawatomie Park for the purpose of hosting their annual summer picnic event on Sunday, June 22, 2025

A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

Director's Report

Ms. Cabel shared that the River Corridor Foundation and other local non-profits may be interested in doing something special in memory of Barbara Anderson, original owner of the Paddlewheel

Riverboats, who recently passed away. She is entertaining any ideas the Commissioners might have. She also reminded the Commissioners of the Legislative Breakfast on March 7. The River Corridor Foundation's next lecture in the series is called Avian Adventures and will take place on February 19th.

Commissioner Comments

Bob Carne: Mr. Carne said that tonight showed the power of internships (Ms. Krawczyk and Mr. Nelson are former District interns). He would like to see every department have an intern, whether is in the summer or over winter break and to focus on students from St. Charles. He said that tonight's comments from Mr. Cucci regarding the garden plot fees increasing made him think about the impact on rate increases. Ms. Rudow did speak to the numerous factors that went into the fee increase, admittedly that the non-resident fee increase was significant because it hadn't previously existed but was put in place to be consistent with non-resident fees in other program areas. Lastly, Mr. Carne was very pleased to see the Kiwanis honored tonight for their continued support of the District.

Brian Charles: Dr. Charles welcomed back Mr. Thomson.

Jim Cooke: No comment.

Karrsten Goettel: No comment.

Peggy McCarthy: Ms. McCarthy thought the Sportsplex team did a great job tonight. She added that she would like the Park District to consider moving the fireworks back to Boy Scout Island in 2026.

Steve Ward: Mr. Ward asked whether financial aid is available for garden plots and Mr. Kies said it is. Mr. Ward agreed that the Sportsplex team did a job on presentation. He reiterated that he would like to see the statistics on facility and program usage to see who we are reaching. Mr. Carne added that this would be a great intern project.

Bob Thomson: Mr. Thomson would like to know what percentage of our District's residents use the Park District.

Executive Session

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Ward seconded that the meeting temporarily adjourn into a closed session for the purpose of considering the following subjects, per the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120: Section 2(c)(6) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; Section 2(c)(1) discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity: A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried. At 7:55 p.m., the Board temporarily adjourned to proceed to the Executive Session.

Melissa Caine and Jeff Essig left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

President Thomson brought the meeting back into open session at 8:10 p.m.

Other Business

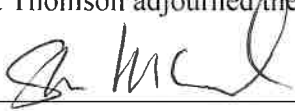
Purchase of Lease of Property and Personnel

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Carne seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the following: (1) an easement agreement with Rukel Management, LLC for \$2,000 that will give the District access to the water / sewer mains located on Rukel Management's property for the restroom and concession building at ESSC; and (2) the changes to Director Cabel's contract regarding evaluation. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Charles, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Ward moved and Mr. Cooke seconded that the meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

President Thomson adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.



Secretary

Date Approved: February 25, 2025