



## ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Pottawatomie Community Center

April 14, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order

The St. Charles Park District Board met for a Regular Meeting at Pottawatomie Community Center on April 14, 2026. At 6:39 p.m., President Bob Thomson called the meeting to order.

#### Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos called the roll.

**Commissioners present:** Bob Carne, Jim Cooke, Karrsten Goettel, Peggy McCarthy, Craig Newman, Bob Thomson and Steve Ward

#### **Commissioners absent:**

**Administrative staff present:** Director of Parks & Recreation Holly Cabel, Superintendent of Parks & Planning Laura Rudow, Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies, Superintendent of Finance and Administration Ashlee Wallace and Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos

**Other staff present:** Arborist David Svitak and Horticulture Supervisor Percy Williams

#### **Guests present:**

#### 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 of Regular Meeting on March 24, 2026

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

#### Public Appearances

None

#### Administration and Finance

##### Arborist & Horticulturist Update

Arborist David Svitak and Horticulture Supervisor Percy Williams updated the Board on their respective department's activities and accomplishments. Mr. Svitak spoke about the work his team did in cooperation with the naturalist crew over the winter to clear invasive species in parks across the district. Ms. Rudow praised Mr. Svitak for his kindness when helping grieving patrons pick out a memorial tree to remember their loved ones as well as communicating with neighbors about tree issues. Mr. Williams explained the horticulture season begins each fall when his crew plants a couple thousand bulbs for spring bloom. The District's 90' x 30' greenhouse holds 5,000 single cell plants! Staff fill 112 large ornamental planters throughout the District each spring while prepping the seasonal facilities for May opening. Mums are then prepared for fall planting. Ms. Rudow congratulated Mr. Williams for his 30 years of service. She shared that although the work is tough, his seasonal employees love coming back to work for him each year because he is a fun

boss who teaches them a lot. Mr. Carne asked Mr. Svitak and Mr. Percy if they had any concerns about the parks and Mr. Williams said he did not. Mr. Svitak shared his concerns about errant fireworks and large crowds in the Mt. St. Mary Park because of its arboretum status, but he added that patrons seem to be very respectful in the park. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Svitak and Mr. Williams for their work.

*Dave Svitak and Percy Williams left at 7:00 pm.*

License Agreement with City of St. Charles for Use of Langum Park on July 4, 2026

Mr. Carne moved and Mr. Ward seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the license agreement with the City of St. Charles allowing for the use of Langum Park on July 4, 2026 for the purpose of launching the fireworks display. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

IAPAA Conference Attendance Approval

Mr. Cooke moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the following staff to attend the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in Orlando, FL, November 16-20, 2026: Rosie Edwards, Cayla Greenfield, Tera Harvey, Taylor Krawczyk, Tiffany Kohorst, Jaz Lara and Katie Miller. This is a budgeted expense. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

Ordinance 2026-04-01 Authorizing Disposal of Personal Property Owned by the St. Charles Park District

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Carne seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Ordinance 2026-04-01 authorizing the disposal of personal property owned by the St. Charles Park District. Items being disposed of are exercise bicycles from Norris Recreation Center. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

**Recreation**

Campton United & Strikers Associate Organizations

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the associate organization agreement with the newly formed Fox Valley FORGE Soccer Club. Mr. Kies said the current agreements will stay in place until August when FORGE begins full operations, but the agreement is necessary during this transition time so that it can begin registering players. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

**Parks, Planning, and Facilities**

Purchase of Anderson Property

Ms. Rudow shared that Rich Anderson, on behalf of his mother's trust, accepted the District's verbal offer to purchase the house next to Pottawatomie Community Center. There will be a period of 45 days of due diligence before a closing date is set. Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Goettel seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the purchase agreement by and between the Barbara J. Anderson Declaration of Trust ("Seller") and the Board of Commissioners of the St. Charles Park District ("Purchaser") for the purchase of the parcel of real estate identified

as P.I.N. 09-27-152-023 for \$450,000. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Newman, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Prairieview Pointe Park Disc Golf Course Update

Ms. Rudow presented an update on the progress of the disc golf course. She shared drone photos of the property being developed and explained how the practice course and 18-hole course will flow throughout the park. The work completed thus far includes mowing of fairways through prairie, clearing of fairways in the trees, seeding of disturbed areas with erosion blanket, tee boxes and basket locations laid out, tee boxes excavated and prepped for concrete, and practice area elements installed. The parking lot is excavated and ready to be paved once the weather cooperates. Signage will be installed to aid players in navigating the course. Benches and a portolet enclosure will also be installed. Ms. Rudow hopes the course will be ready to open at the end of April, weather permitting. Ms. McCarthy asked if there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and Mr. Newman asked about promoting the course opening.

Equipment Purchase

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Carne seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of an ABI Force zero turn infield machine plus attachments, a sole-source product offered exclusively by ABI Attachments, INC, located through Turfwerks, Mishawaka, IN, for a total of \$48,385. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Newman, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Playground Equipment Purchase

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Ward seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of a playground and amenity for Anderson Elementary School from Burke, North Fond du Lac, WI for \$119,587. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Newman, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Change Order #1 for Prairieview Pointe Park

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve a change order to the contract with Hacienda Landscape, Inc. in the amount of \$12,822 to account for modifications to the asphalt apron from Rt. 38 into the parking lot at Prairieview Pointe Park required by IDOT. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

Requests for Use

Mr. Ward moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the use of Ferson Creek Park by a St. Charles East Leadership Studies student for the purpose of hosting Paws for a Cause, a yoga class for the 4 Paws 4U 4Ever animal shelter on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Director's Report

Ms. Cabel congratulated Ms. Rudow on her 15-year anniversary at the District. Following up on previous comments by Commissioners, Ms. Cabel said improving trail access from Sportsplex to Timber Trails could be a consideration for the Capital Workshop in October. The concessionaire at ESSC will donate 10% of its sales made during the Cal's Angels tournament weekend back to Cal's Angels. Primrose Farm's drop-in participants almost doubled since winter 2025 and the

cancellation rate has decreased. The National Park City designation that was awarded to Chattanooga is impressive and is in line with many procedures in our planning, but she isn't interested in pursuing that designation at this time. She will share the article about it with the Commissioners in the weekly update. Ms. Cabel shared that District staff are monitoring water levels across the District. The river is closed due to rising water and the golf course has water on some of its holes. The riverboats will be placed in the river next week if conditions allow. Ms. Rudow added that several neighbors that back up to wetland areas are concerned about the water, to which staff responded by making sure all areas have clear drains and are without blockages. Ms. Cabel informed the Commissioners of a film crew interested in using the riverboats in May to film a scene for a movie. The usage would not interfere with operations and would generate significant income for the District. The Commissioners were favorable to rental. Finally, Ms. Cabel invited everyone to the Baker Community Center's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House on May 1 and asked who can attend, as she would like a Board member to read the resolution honoring the milestone. Commissioners Carne, Cook, Thomson and possibly Ward will attend.

#### **Commissioner Comments**

**Bob Carne:** Mr. Carne said he was recently at Primrose Farm Park and it was packed with people. He said the improvements look great, as does the fencing at the farm. Mr. Carne said he had neighbors asking about the restrooms at ESSC and when they would be open. He had heard earlier from Ms. Rudow that they are already open and he received great feedback from patrons who were at ESSC this past weekend. He asked if there was a possibility dragon boat races would be back on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year and Ms. Cabel said no, in the past a different organization hosted it and she stated it would take another organization to sponsor that activity to bring it back.

**Jim Cooke:** No comments.

**Karrsten Goettel:** No comments.

**Peggy McCarthy:** Ms. McCarthy said that Mt. St. Mary Park looks beautiful with all the daffodils.

**Craig Newman:** No comments.

**Bob Thomson:** Mr. Thomson saw the concession stand at ESSC operating this weekend while he was biking. He heard a comment that it is too far away from the fields. The FVSRA BBQ fundraiser last week was well attended. He was in Cambridge Park and there were kids on electric bikes and when he told them they weren't supposed to be riding them there they said they knew that but continued riding. He asked if the District had considered railbanking as an option when negotiating with the UPRR for use of its deactivated railway. Ms. Cabel said she will review the fifteen years of notes to confirm that it was discussed.

**Steve Ward:** No comments

#### **Executive Session**

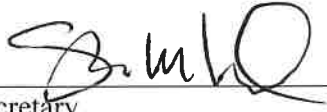
Mr. Carne moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners adjourn to closed meeting for the purpose of considering the following subject, per the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120: Section 2(c)(6) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, McCarthy, Newman, Ward and Thomson. Nay: none. The motion carried. At 7:45 p.m., Mr. Thomson moved the meeting into a closed session.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Carne moved and Ms. McCarthy seconded that the meeting adjourn. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

President Thomson adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

  
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Secretary

Date Approved: April 28, 2026