ST. CHARLES PARK DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Hickory Knolls Discovery Center
June 23, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Call to Order

The St. Charles Park District Board met for a Regular Meeting at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center on June 23, 2026. At 6:37 p.m., President Peggy McCarthy 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 (arrived at 6:50 pm), 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, Information Technology Manager Jeff Essig, Public Relations and Marketing Manager Erika Combs and Administrative Assistant Jenny Santos

Guests present: Julia, Gwen and Allana of the St. Charles North High School Girls Varsity Track & Field team and their families, Coach Tony Enright

Consent Agenda

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Ward 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 May 26, 2026
- Approval of Bills as of May 31, 2026

Account		Amount
CORPORATE FUND	$	384,292.09
RECREATION FUND	$	100,517.80
AUDIT	$	855.00
LIABILITY INSURANCE	$	1,069.00
SPECIAL RECREATION	$	274,724.50
REVENUE FACILITIES	$	106,949.89
NORRIS REC CENTER	$	44,029.03
SPORTSPLEX	$	10,497.54
CAPITAL	$	612,030.58
Total	$	1,534,965.43

- Approval of Cash and Investment Report as of May 31, 2026
- Approval of Revenue Expense Reports as of May 31, 2026

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

<u>Public Appearances</u>

Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies introduced Coach Anthony Enright and the athletes from the St. Charles North High School Girls Varsity Track & Field team. Coach Enright spoke about the girls spectacular season and introduced student athletes Julia Rodney, Gwen Hobson and Alanna Gupta. They are three-fourths of the relay team that won the 3A state championship for the 4x800 with a record time of \(8:54.50\), shattering the previous 2012 state best of \(8:59.03\). Reese Thomas and Sofia Bongiorno also ran this relay at the sectional and state preliminary levels. Kara Glenn, a sophomore, also won the 3A state championship in the 800m and 1600 run, and took second place in the 3200m run! Congratulations, North Stars!

Coach Enright, athletes and parents left the meeting at 6:52 pm.

<u>Administration and Finance</u>

<u>Sculpture in the Park Update</u>

Public Relations and Marketing Manager Erika Combs presented an overview of the Sculpture in the Park program. She outlined the proposed guidelines for the program which details the maximum number of sculptures to be permanently located in Mt. St. Mary Park as well as other parks. Staff propose that the $2,000 per year allocation for acquisition be decreased to $1,500 and $500 allocated for sculpture maintenance. Ms. Combs asked for feedback and there was a brief discussion about QR codes on signage.

<u>Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement with CUSD 303 for the Operations of Norris Recreation Center</u>

Superintendent of Recreation Mike Kies said the existing IGA with CUSD 303 for the operations of Norris Recreation Center is due to terminate on June 30, 2026. The renewal is for an additional five years, extending it through June 30, 2031. The proposed renewal edits "Paragraph 4.3 Expenses" to accurately reflect our current practices and adds a new section for the negotiation of financial terms by May 31, 2027 to take effect on July 1, 2027, which District 303 requested. Mr. Carne asked if any of the facility improvements D303 is going to referendum for is allocated for improvements to NRC. Mr. Kies confirmed that there is money in the proposal. The Commissioners asked about the revenue sharing with D303 and whether the money they receive is used for improvements to the facility as outlined in the agreement. Although the school district does use the money for repairs, the school district is not willing to commit to any capital improvements until there is a decision made on pursuing the referendum.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners renew the Intergovernmental Agreement with CUSD 303 for the Operations of Norris Recreation Center. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

<u>St. Charles Aquatics Agreement</u>

Mr. Carne moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners renew the License Agreement with St. Charles Aquatics for a term of five years, July 1, 2026-June 30, 2031. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

Internet Services Agreement

Information Technology Manager Jeff Essig requested approval for a 3-year agreement with MetroNet for fiber internet service at Pottawatomie Community Center for a total of $20,880. This contract will save the District $800 per month over the previous contract with Comcast and includes cellular backup.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Ward seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve a 3-year agreement with MetroNet for fiber internet service at Pottawatomie Community Center for a total of $20,880. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, Newman, Thomson, Ward and McCarthy. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Managed IT Services

Mr. Essig recommended renewal of the contract with TeqWorks for managed IT services for three years for $270,000, equating to a fixed monthly cost of $7,500. Ms. McCarthy asked if this fixed cost saves the District money, to which Mr. Essig responded it is a slight increase over previous contract. However, all district employees can call TeqWorks for technical assistance.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Ward seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners renew a 3-year agreement with TeqWorks for managed IT services for a total of $270,000. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Cooke, Newman, Thomson, Ward and McCarthy. Nay: none. Abstain: Carne and Goettel. The motion carried.

Recreation

Parks, Planning, and Facilities

Intergovernmental Agreement with Fox River Countryside

Superintendent of Parks and Planning Laura Rudow said this Intergovernmental Agreement with Fox River Countryside Fire Protection Agency allows for the use of the District's fuel tanks located at Denny Ryan Service Center. This one-year agreement is effective July 1, 2026. The contract includes a 5% administrative charge for each fuel delivery to DRSC to account for the fire protection agency adding 4 new rescue vehicles, increasing the number of needed deliveries.

Mr. Carne moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Fox River Countryside Fire Protection Agency allowing for the use of the District's fuel tanks located at Denny Ryan Service Center. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast and the motion carried.

East Side Sports Complex Bid Opening

Ms. Rudow said that per the 2026 Capital Plan, bids were solicited to renovate portions of East Side Sports Complex and opened on June 3, 2026. ARS Landscape, Inc, is the lowest responsible bidder, for a total base bid of $2,330,546.68. She asked the Board to consider alternate #1 for turf surface in the playground and alternate #2 for turf surface below the ninja course, $157,315.88 and $80,254.24, respectively. Mr. Carne asked about the budget for this project, to which Ms. Rudow replied it is budgeted for $2,000,000 this year and the remainder will be budgeted for 2027. Mr. Ward asked for an explanation on how to read the second column on the bid sheet and Ms. Rudow said that the highlighted numbers are corrected calculations.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Goettel seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners award the contract for the East Side Sports Complex renovation project to ARS Landscape, Inc. for a total base bid of $2,330,546.68, as well as alternate #1 for turf surface in the playground and alternate #2 for turf surface below the ninja course, for $157,315.88 and $80,254.24, respectively. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, Newman, Thomson, Ward and McCarthy. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Equipment Purchase for East Side Sports Complex Skate Park

Per the 2026 Capital Plan, the purchase and installation of new skate park equipment was specified and located using Sourcewell Contract #112420-ARC provided by American Ramp Company, Joplin, MO in the amount of $498,000. Ms. Rudow shared the design of the skate park and explained the different elements that appeal to both skateboarders and BMX bikers. She added that the 10-foot fence will be removed, but a 4-foot decorative fence will be installed along the parking lot. Mr. Thomson asked if there will be designated times for skateboarding and biking. Ms. Rudow responded that they all get along and share space well. Mr. Newman asked if the fences around the basketball and tennis courts are staying and Ms. Rudow confirmed that they are.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the purchase and installation of new skate park equipment, Sourcewell Contract #112420-ARC provided by American Ramp Company, in the amount of $498,000. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, Newman, Thomson, Ward and McCarthy. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Construction Costs for Hickory Knolls Discovery Center Nature Playground

Ms. Rudow stated that site work for the nature playground at Hickory Knolls Discovery Center included significant grading, added drainage, base material, timbered edge and playground mulch. This was purchased through a contract with Omnia Partners #2017001135 for $115,414.15. Mr. Carne asked if the project is over budget and Ms. Rudow confirmed it is $80,000 over, with $120,000 funded and spent last year.

Mr. Cooke moved and Mr. Newman seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners approve the contract with Omnia Partners #2017001135 for $115,414.15. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Carne, Cooke, Goettel, Newman, Thomson, Ward and McCarthy. Nay: none. The motion carried.

Pottawatomie Campus Improvements

Ms. Rudow presented updated concept plans for improvements to Pottawatomie Community Center, Pottawatomie Golf Course pro shop and Pottawatomie Park. These plans included designs to increase natural lighting in the gymnasium, incorporate appealing waiting areas for parents close to the dance studio and a large outdoor fireplace on the golf pro shop patio. The Commissioners agreed that the next step will be to discuss funding options for these projects that could range from $25 million to $29 million collectively.

Requests for Use

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

1. Worship in the Park

Life Church of St. Charles for the use of Lincoln Park for the purpose of hosting an evening of worship on Saturday, June 20, 2026

2. Anderson Run Club 5K

   Anderson Run Club for the use of Mt. St. Mary Park for the purpose of hosting their fall run club 5K on Saturday, October 17, 2026

3. Local Dancing With the Stars

   CASA Kane County for the use of Baker Community Center for the purpose of hosting an evening of dancing and fundraising to raise awareness for children in foster care on Wednesday, September 30, 2026

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

Special Reports

Baker Community Center

No report.

Fox Valley Special Recreation Association

Mr. Thomson said the FVSRA Board met that morning and approved their strategic plan. They rewrote their vision and mission statements. They are going through the accreditation process and recently held a 'wheel of meat' fundraiser that raised $16,000.

St. Charles Arts Council

Ms. Cabel reported that the Arts Council is developing its strategic plan and that the banner program is being installed in Mt. St. Mary Park this week.

St. Charles Business Alliance

Ms. Cabel said the Alliance hosts Friday evening concerts on the plaza through STC Live and they are busy planning Jazz Weekend and Scarecrow Weekend.

St. Charles History Museum

No report.

St. Charles Housing Commission

Mr. Goettel said there hasn't been a meeting in three months but they will meet in July.

St. Charles Park Foundation

Mr. Ward reminded Commissioners about the annual A Night on the Fox fundraiser and encouraged them to purchase tickets. He said that he has discussed developing a legacy donation program with President Beck. Mr. Cooke added that it is important for the District's needs to direct the projects that are funded.

River Corridor Foundation

Ms. McCarthy said the June meeting was switched to this week on Thursday, so she will have a report at next meeting.

Correspondence

Ms. Cabel shared magazines in which a few of the District's sculptures are featured as well as highlights of upcoming programs and facilities.

Director's Report

Ms. Cabel shared the research she's done about railbanking shows that it is not necessarily any less expensive than acquiring a rail line. She will send her notes to the Board in an email for information only. Senator Holmes will retire at end of her term. July 4th is next week and the parks and recreation departments are ready for the celebration. Food trucks and music will be at both Langum and Mt. St. Mary Parks. The City of St. Charles Council held a workshop on Monday, June 22, during which the alderpersons were invited to share their opinions on the proposed redevelopment of the old police station site. Ms. Cabel expects the City to issue a Letter of Interest to the District in the next few weeks.

Commissioner Comments

Bob Carne: Mr. Carne said he expects the City to send the Letter of Interest quickly. He would like to see the District apply for an OSLAD grant to help the District purchase the property. He brought up complaints he has heard from local baseball teams regarding East Side Sports Complex. Ms. Cabel said the athletic committee is meeting tomorrow and these complaints will be discussed and the committee will report back to the Commissioners on how to address them. He congratulated staff on the new disc golf course and would like to see it on social media.

Jim Cooke: Mr. Cooke asked who came up with the guidelines for the Sculpture in the Park program. Ms. Cabel responded that they were developed by Ms. Combs with Ms. Cabel's support and in consultation with the parks & planning superintendent, and construction supervisor. The guidelines will be presented for approval at a future board meeting.

Karrsten Goettel: No comments.

Craig Newman: Mr. Newman shared the great experience he and his family had on the paddlewheel riverboats on Father's Day. He complimented the crew's warmth and kindness. He suggested that to be accommodating to those with noise sensitivities, perhaps the crew could warn passengers before the horn is blown. He asked when the Commissioners could get an update on the website changes, to which Ms. Combs said she has made some progress, including removing the sliders on the home page and adding buttons.

Bob Thomson: Mr. Thomson enjoyed last week's concert in Lincoln Park. He asked how we are addressing ADA at the disc golf course. Ms. Rudow said that the first nine holes do not have limiting topography. Mr. Thomson said the new ebike law goes into effect July 1, which means anyone under 15 cannot ride a bike with a battery.

Steve Ward: Mr. Ward said all of the topics he was going to address have been covered.

Peggy McCarthy: Ms. McCarthy said she took relatives to Mt. St. Mary Park and Pottawatomie Park and they were so impressed!

Executive Session

Mr. Ward moved and Mr. Carne seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners move into a closed meeting for the purpose of considering the following subject, per the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/2: 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, Cooke, Goettel, Newman, Ward, Thomson and McCarthy. Nay: none. The motion carried.

President McCarthy moved the meeting into executive session at 8:15 pm.

Erika Combs, Jeff Essig, Laura Rudow, Jenny Santos, and Ashlee Wallace left executive session at 8:15 pm.

The meeting returned to open session at 8:53 pm.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. moved and Mr. seconded that the St. Charles Park District Board of Commissioners adjourn. A voice vote was taken. Unanimous aye votes were cast; therefore, President McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Secretary

Date Approved: July 14, 2026