

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025
185 Spring Avenue**

I. Call to Order

President Nephew called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Commissioners

Upon roll call, those answering present were Commissioners Stortz, Boynton, Crickmore, Ward, Durham, and President Nephew. Commissioner Cornell arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Stortz, Boynton, Crickmore, Ward, Durham, and
 President Nephew
 Nay: None

Motion Carried.

Staff members present were Executive Director Dave Thommes, Deputy Executive Director Cinquegrani, Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia, Ackerman Sports and Facility Manager Thomas, Manager of Natural Areas & Outdoor Education Gutmann, Environmental Outreach Specialist Bellmar, and Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant Dikker.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

President Nephew led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Changes to the Agenda

None.

V. Public Participation

None.

VI. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Crickmore moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$539,826.58 and minutes from the September 9, 2025, Regular Meeting and the October 7, 2025, Workshop meeting.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Crickmore, Stortz, Cornell, Boynton, Ward, Durham, and
 President Nephew
 Nay: None

Motion Carried.

VII. Recognition – Glen Ellyn Park District, Pat Miller Community Engagement Award

Connie Schmidt of the DuPage Monarch project presented the Pat Miller Community Engagement Award to Chris Gutmann, Manager of Natural Areas & Outdoor Education, and Laurie Bellmar, Environmental Outreach Specialist, of the Glen Ellyn Park District for their efforts in organizing a volunteer initiative focused on enhancing biodiversity in Glen Ellyn's parks. Schmidt stated that the DuPage Monarch project is a collaboration of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage, River Prairie Group, The Conservation Foundation & Wild Ones DuPage and educates residents on monarch habitats throughout DuPage County. Schmidt shared that the Glen Ellyn Park District's Habitat Heroes program helped to collect data which will be used for adopting best management practices and congratulated the District for being proactive.

Gutmann presented an overview of the Habitat Heroes Program which is a pollinator monitor program within the Glen Ellyn Park District. Gutmann shared that in Phase 1 of the program in 2024, staff monitored butterflies, piloted overall protocols and tested field identification techniques and equipment. Phase 2, 2025, brought public opportunities to the program, began monitoring at Maryknoll and also piloted monitoring bumblebees at Maryknoll. Lastly, Guttmann shared that in 2026 Phase 3 will consist of recruiting and training pollinator monitoring volunteers and will begin monitoring at Lake Ellyn. Director of Planning and Natural Resources shared that this is the second award our Natural Areas department has received for their efforts and congratulated them. Following, the Park Board thanked staff for their efforts and took a group photo with the award presented.

VII. New Business

A. Budget Discussion

Deputy Executive Director Cinquegrani reviewed the budget process timeline, noting that December 9, 2025, will be the final date to make any changes to the budget prior to a public hearing and before formal adoption. Cinquegrani previewed the 2025 year-end estimates sharing the net change in operating funds is estimated to be approximately \$1,470,000 which will exceed the Citizens' Finance Committee's recommended average annual target of \$800,000. Additionally, the first draft of the 2026 budget presented estimated an operating surplus of approximately \$1,100,000. Cinquegrani reviewed operation highlights stating that program fees will be increased slightly in 2026. Cinquegrani explained the fund balance classifications and the Fund Balance Policy sharing the minimum fund balance levels for the various funds within the District. Cinquegrani discussed staff's proposed full-time staffing recommendation of creating a full-time Gymnastics Manager and not filling two (2) currently vacant full-time positions, Manager of Raquet Sports and a full-time custodian for Ackerman. Commissioner Cornell inquired how many custodians support Ackerman and Ackerman Sports & Fitness Manager Thomas shared that three (3) part-time custodians are present.

Cinquegrani then reviewed the recreational program market trends, sharing that the target is to attain a 20-25% surplus. Commissioners inquired why the estimate for 2026 appears lower than 2025 and Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim shared that next summer there will be three (3) less weeks of camps due to the construction at District 87 facilities which hinders camps and availability for staff. Commissioner Stortz asked for further clarification as to what drives the \$700,000 athletic contributions. Cinquegrani also shared a chart comparing the tax rate of

various Park Districts relaying that the Glen Ellyn Park District is the fourth lowest within DuPage County from those presented. Next, Director of Planning and Natural Resources reviewed the Downtown Park funding in further detail, sharing the funding details, estimated permit fees and contingency estimates. Troia shared that costs for the ice rink/playground/and picnic shelter are not included in these costs and will be bid as alternates with hopes that donation funding and lower bid costs would allow these to be constructed during Phase 1 of the project. Cinquegrani then reviewed the District's current debt structure and the proposed impact of the planned \$6,500,000 non-referendum bond issue for 2026.

Lastly, Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim reviewed projected numbers of Ackerman Sports & Fitness Center. Lim reviewed the proposed fee increases in memberships and compared them with other districts stating that fees have not increased since 2015. Staff felt the increase is consistent with what the District is offering. Commissioner Crickmore asked if staff researched other fitness centers such as LA fitness etc. but Lim responded that they compared only to other Districts as many of those types of facilities have enrollment fees/cancellation fees etc. and that Ackerman does not. Commissioner Boynton inquired about the projected revenues for the increased fees at Ackerman and Lim responded that they are projecting a \$95,000 increase. Lim shared that expenses for Ackerman Sports & Fitness have increased 108% and Commissioner Stortz asked if we have increased fees for other programs and athletics as well to keep pace, which Lim responded that yes other programs have been assessed and modified. Lim then shared the numbers for the gymnastics programs sharing that revenue has increased from \$164,000 to over \$430,000, with 480 classes now being offered with over 3500 participants. Executive Director Thommes shared that the intent of tonight's discussion was not for Board action regarding the increase in fees at Ackerman but to keep all apprised and for the Commissioners to have knowledge of the actions should they receive questions from patrons in the community. Thommes shared again that any questions regarding the budget can be directed to Cinquegrani or himself over the next month or so with final approval of the budget taking place at the December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting.

B. Place the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance on File – Ordinance 25-05

Deputy Executive Director Cinquegrani presented the 2025 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance 25-05, following the Budget Discussion, to the Board to be placed on file for public inspection.

Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Boynton, to place on file a tentative draft of the 2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance (B&A Ordinance 25-05), a Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Purposes of the Glen Ellyn Park District for the year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Ward, Boynton, Stortz, Cornell, Crickmore, Durham, and President Nephew

Nay: None

Motion Carried.

C. Main Street Roof Pay Application #1

Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia shared Main Street Recreation Center roof repair was anticipated in the 2025 budget for \$265,000. The award was made through the OMNIA purchasing cooperative in July by the Board. Troia shared that to date the project has been completed and recommends payout of the first and final pay application in the amount of \$264,461.

Following, Commissioner Crickmore made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve Garland's payout request for the Main Street Roof Improvements in the amount of \$264,461.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Crickmore, Ward, Cornell, Stortz, Boynton, Durham and President Nephew
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

D. US Bank Demolition Pay Application

Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia stated that staff publicly noticed bids for invitation on July 18th for the demolition of the abandoned building at 453 Forest Ave., formerly the US Bank building, which will be the future site of the new Downtown Park. Troia shared the Park Board awarded the bid to Donegal Services on August 19th and said the project has been completed. Troia said the scope of work included removing the building, filling the void and restoring the footprint to grass. The project is 100% completed and the site has been temporarily restored with seed and blanket until the next phase of construction.

The Park Board had a brief discussion of the project inquiring on the budget of the project which Troia shared was \$250,000 budgeted and came in well under budget for \$106,000. Following, Commissioner Stortz moved, seconded by Commissioner Durham, to approve Donegal Services pay application for the US Bank demolition in the amount of \$106,000.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Stortz, Durham, Cornell, Boynton, Crickmore, Ward and President Nephew
Nay: None

Motion Carried.

VIII. Staff Reports

A. Finance Report (For information only)

B. Staff Reports

Executive Director Thommes shared that they kicked off the annual evaluation process for staff and shared that as in the prior year Directors' Assistant & Board Secretary Dikker would be sharing the Director's evaluation with Commissioners in the coming weeks ahead and Executive Session would be added to the December meeting for discussion. Board Secretary Dikker requested that Commissioners bring their calendars as the proposed Board Meeting schedule for 2026 will be presented. Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia thanked operations staff as they have been busy preparing for Boo Bash, Haunted Trail and continuing with constant

IX. Commissioners' Reports

X. Adjourn

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Stortz, Crickmore, Cornell, Boynton, Ward, Durham, and President Nephew

Nay: None

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant