

**Glen Ellyn Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 9, 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, Ward, Crickmore, Durham, and President Nephew. Commissioner Cornell arrived at 7:13 p.m.

Roll Call: Aye: Commissioners Stortz, Boynton, Ward, Crickmore, 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, Superintendent of Recreation Services MacDonald, Park District Attorney Price, 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. WDSRA Annual Update – Dan Leahy, Executive Director

Executive Director of the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association (WDSRA), Dan Leahy, provided the annual update for the Glen Ellyn Park District and Park Board of Commissioners. Leahy provided a brief overview of WDSRA to the Park Board of Commissioners discussing the core services provided; inclusion, exclusive programming, rec & roll and disability awareness. Leahy provided a brief overview of collaborative efforts with the Glen Ellyn Park District and provided the stats regarding WDSRA seasonal program registrations, inclusion program registrations, who they serve and age ranges of program registrations. He reviewed the WDSRA Foundation and their efforts to fundraise with hopes to achieve an endowment plan for future assistance. Leahy shared that 2026 brings a “Cheers to 50 Years” as they begin their yearlong celebration of serving families for 50 years. WDSRA was proud to announce they achieved

Distinguish Accreditation Status and are happy with the continued support from various agencies and their donors.

Commissioner Crickmore commended their staff working with WDSRA members at Ackerman's Rec & Roll program. President Nephew was appreciative of the personal story shared in their marketing and Commissioner Stortz appreciated the lasting impact that WDSRA plays on the lives of their participants.

VII. Staff Recognition

Executive Director Thommes stated that the District was happy to share that six new full-time staff members joined the Park District team in 2025 and some were present at the meeting. Director of Planning and Natural Resources introduced Keith Carver who was hired in early Fall as Parks Maintenance II and Tree Care. Keith jumped right into the Panfish Park project to assist with the new management of tree care at that park. Luis (Beto) Cervantes, Parks Maintenance I – Landscaping was hired in the Fall and has dived right in to snow removal for the busy winter season. Jim Gross, who was not able to be present, replaced Eric Wassel who retired last year after many years of service. Jim serves as our Fleet and Park Maintenance specialist and keeps our crew active by maintaining our fleet and equipment each day. Deputy Executive Director Nick Cinquegrani introduced Susan McLaughlin, Human Resources & Risk Manager, who comes to us after working for years at the Elk Grove Park District. Susan has streamlined many efforts in her brief time so far at the Park District and is a wonderful addition. Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim shared her two new staff members; Dave Rowland and Amber Bieberstein. Dave works as an Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center Assistant Facility Manager who stays busy overseeing their programming and special events while Amber who is the Ackerman Sports and Fitness Manager brings a strong background in yoga to the facility.

The Park Board welcomed the new staff members to the District.

VIII. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Crickmore moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz, to approve the Consent Agenda including the Voucher List of Bills totaling \$400,995.80 and minutes from the November 11, 2025, Regular Meeting.

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

Motion Carried.

IX. Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 25-05

President Nephew opened the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance and asked if there was any discussion. Nephew then asked if there were any public comments of which there were none. Following, Commissioner Boynton made a motion to close the public hearing seconded by Commissioner Crickmore.

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

Motion Carried.

President Nephew declared the Public Hearing Closed.

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

Motion Carried.

X. New Business

A. Approval for the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance 25-05

Executive Deputy Director Cinquegrani shared that nothing has changed with the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance since the last presentation except for moving the HVAC improvements at Ackerman up to 2026 from 2027 as discussed at the last meeting. Following, Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Cornell, to approve the 2026 Budget & Appropriation Ordinance, Ordinance 25-05.

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

Motion Carried.

B. Preschool Future Capital Discussion

Executive Director Thommes shared the updates that have been implemented to Main Street Recreation Center preschool rooms and other items that will be implemented. Thommes shared that panic buttons and intercoms have been installed within Spring Avenue and Main Street Recreation Center as well as door reinforcements which have been installed. Staff is trained annually and ALICE training will begin in 2026. Thommes also shared that staff has and is looking into installing film that allows for patrons to see out but people cannot see within the rooms. Preschool parents requested shatter proof film and staff has quotes and is waiting to hear back from contractor for timing of installation and safety assurance that it would not impede on emergency evacuation. Staff has also received quotes for upgraded cameras within the facility which would take time as the facility is older and no ethernet cables are run within the facility. When asked about the timeframe for camera installation, Deputy Executive Director Cinquegrani shared that 2-3 months' time would be needed. Thommes also shared that staff has increased patrol of the public facility. Thommes shared that the challenges of this facility are it is not a traditional school but a recreation facility that serves many people attending recreation programs and a preschool program.

The Park Board of Commissioners posed many questions regarding the shatterproof film, security measures, and if other districts have preschools that are contained. Thommes shared that very few have the ability to self-contain but many did not. Board Secretary Dikker invited members of the public who wished to speak to come to the podium.

Preschool parent, Sabina Horrocks, spoke along with several parents regarding the security concerns following the November incident. Horrocks shared that parents were alarmed about the incident and she offered insight to her research from NASRO and the Department of Homeland Security of items that can be implemented to address safety including one point of entry, shatter resistant security film, and the addition of exterior security cameras. She also urged the importance of a single facility preschool program. She believes this event showed that security concerns should be addressed and improvements should be taken. Horrocks thanked the Board for their time and beginning the implementation of these safety measures.

Bill Costello, also a preschool parent, echoed the sentiment of Sabina Horrocks. He shared his concern from the November 3rd incident and believes the preschool program should have the same safety measures as a school since it is called a preschool program. He would like to know what the Board will be doing to address these concerns and is unhappy with the safety measures that were in place at the start of the school year. He would like items to be immediately addressed both at Main Street and Spring Avenue Recreation Centers including the shatterproof film, cameras, and locking down the classrooms/centers. He asked the Board to assess these concerns and come forward with costs in a transparent manner. He would like this to not be a one-time agenda item but for this to be continually addressed.

Commissioner Stortz asked if other options have been considered to segregate preschool students and Executive Director Thommes said staff has looked into moving preschool to the third floor of Main Street Recreation Center or moving preschool all to Spring Avenue Recreation Center. Staff discussed the challenges to both scenarios and the timeline for implementation which staff replied could be up to 2 years for relocating the preschool program. President Nephew asked about the first amendment auditor and Commissioner Crickmore asked about the timeline for installing security cameras which Deputy Executive Director Cinquegrani shared it would be a 2–3-month process as there are IT issues that would need to be addressed. Commissioner Nephew relayed background information on first amendment auditors and Attorney Price further explained the first amendment audit process that often occurs. Members of the public spoke of their concern that their children were videotaped and Attorney Price further explained privacy law and expectations of privacy and the frustrations of such. Commissioner Cornell inquired if classrooms participated in outdoor time and field trips which Superintendent of Recreation Services MacDonald stated they do go onto the playground at certain times. Commissioner Cornell shared her educational and working background within preschool education and shared an alternative solution may be to discontinue the preschool program and does not feel we should be pressured to do things fast but should thoroughly analyze and do it correctly. President Nephew brought up concerns about the difficulty of ensuring safety in all programs, whether it be outdoor soccer or general recreation programs. Horrocks spoke of the differences between programs with parents present and those without. Costello encouraged that the Board ensure there are safety measures in all programs which Executive Director Thommes shared that yes there are protocols in place. The Park Board then agreed that safety measure are being implemented and that they need to come back and further discuss long term measures that can be addressed about the Preschool program within the coming months for the future of the program. Sarah Costello, who spoke via Zoom, was

disappointed that this discussion circled to the first amendment audit and not to the safety measures that could have been addressed and the future measures that should be addressed. Costello stressed the importance of an entry point and someone knowing the presence of those within the facility. Another member of the public who did not disclose her identity suggested use of a buzzer to access the facility and the Board inquired of that possible solution. Executive Director stated they did not research a buzzer but did share they have discussed options of having staff check-in patrons and the difficulties that that could bring. The public was very vocal of the items discussed this evening and staff reiterated that the current safety measures will remain in place as they assess the new safety protocols and further discuss future options for the preschool program. President Nephew asked that public to be patient as the Board discusses the concerns of the parents and the options posed by staff. Nephew shared that Commissioner discussion all has to take place in an open meeting and the Board would be discussing this further in the months ahead.

XI. Staff Reports

- A. Finance Report (For information only)
- B. Staff Reports

Executive Director Thommes attended an E-Bike discussion with several staff members and other key stakeholders within the Community held at the Glen Ellyn Police station. E-Bike usage and regulation was discussed in an open forum and Director Thommes shared that the District will revisit their Ordinance and staff will have further discussion following the Villages direction in the upcoming new year. Thommes also shared that a pipe, owned and maintained by DuPage County burst within upper Ackerman Fields. The repair has taken place, and the area will be repaired weather dependent. Board Secretary and Directors' Assistant Dikker reminded Commissioners of the Staff Holiday party that will take place on Friday at 11:30 a.m. at the Lake Ellyn Boathouse should any wish to attend. Commissioner Cornell shared she was hoping to stop by the event. Director of Planning and Natural Resources Troia thanked staff for their hard work in the many snow events that have occurred over the last few weeks. Troia also shared that over 60 plan holders viewed the RFP for construction of the Downtown Community Park and shared that the bid opening will take place next week. Director of Recreation and Facilities Lim shared that the staff will be busy over the next two weeks as it is filled with Holiday events for the Community.

XII. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Cornell wished everyone Happy Holidays. Commissioner Crickmore presented a PowerPoint featuring photos from the Restoration workday in Ackerman woods, the new playground equipment for toddlers at Panfish Park, the story walk, and the Little Library that is available to the community. Lastly, Crickmore shared highlights from the many events held at Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center that included Christmas tree decorating in the gymnastics area, Toys for Tots that was held on December 7th, and the League of Enchantment event.

XIII. Adjourn to Executive Session

At 8:37 p.m., Commissioner Ward moved, seconded by Commissioner Stortz, to move into Executive Session under Section 2 (c) 21 discussion of minutes of prior executive session meetings and Section 2 (c) 1 for the discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel for the district.

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

Motion Carried.

XIV. Reconvene to Open Session

The Park Board reconvened open session at 9:15 p.m.

XIV. Semi-Annual Executive Session Minutes Review

Staff and the Park Board of Commissioners completed the Semi-Annual Review of Executive Session minutes and following Commissioner Stortz moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve and Release the minutes from the June 17, 2025, Executive Session, Section 2(c)21 and Section 2(c)3, July 15, 2025, Executive Session, Section 2(c)5, and August 19, 2025, Executive Session, Section 2(c)5.

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

Following, Commissioner Stortz then moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve and Not Release the minutes from the June 17, 2025, Executive Session, Section 2(c)1

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

XV. Adjourn

There being no further business, Commissioner Stortz moved, seconded by Commissioner Crickmore to adjourn the December 9, 2025, Regular Meeting at 9:17 p.m.

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

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Dikker
Board Secretary & Directors' Assistant