

# Chicago Park District



## Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

9:00 AM

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chicago Park District Administration Building  
4830 South Western Avenue,  
Chicago, IL 60609

### Board of Commissioners

*Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg*

*Commissioner Robert Castaneda*

*Commissioner Sean Garrett*

*Commissioner Philip Jackson*

*Commissioner Sharon Bush*

*Vice President Modesto Valle*

*President Marlon Everett*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance with the provisions of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the REGULAR BOARD MEETING will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at the Chicago Park District Administration Building (Park 596) located at 4830 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60609.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Roll Call  
Strategic Initiatives  
People in the Parks  
Consent Agenda  
New Business / Non-Consent Agenda  
Adjournment

**By order of President Marlon Everett**

In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12101 et seq.), the Chicago Park District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or admission/access to programs and activities.

Any person with a disability who desires special accommodations or the services of a sign language interpreter in order to attend a meeting of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners, should contact Disability Policy Officer, Larry Labiak, 504 Compliance Officer, 4830 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609, at 312/742-5097 or [accessibility@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:accessibility@chicagoparkdistrict.com) at least 72 hours before the Board Meeting.

**Dr. Marlon Everett**  
**President**

**Sarah Gelder**  
**Secretary**

## Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Roll Call

A Roll Call was made and the following Commissioners were found to be in attendance:

**Present:** 4 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, Commissioner Sean Garrett and President Marlon Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Philip Jackson and Commissioner Sharon Bush

A motion was made by President Everett, seconded by Vice President Valle, to set the Order of Business for the day as reflected in the posted agenda.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

## 1. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

23-1145-121

0

### PRESENTATION ON THE 2025 YOUTH WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL BONANZA

**Sponsors:** Disability Policy Office

**Indexes:** Presentation

Larry Labiak, Disability Policy Officer, addressed the Commissioners and shared a brief video highlighting event participants and sharing the importance of accessibility considerations in public facility designs and park programming.

## 2. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

25-1174-121

0

### PUBLIC SPEAKERS DECEMBER 10, 2025

**Sponsors:** Office of the Secretary

**Indexes:** Public Comments

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

1. Susan Mullen (Addressed transparency, logistic, and community engagement concerns around the participatory budget process at Douglass Park. Also addressed support for newly hired Douglass Park Supervisor.)
2. Denise Ferguson (Addressed concerns around community engagement, District

- collaboration processes, and the host-park giveback initiative. Also addressed support for newly hired Douglass Park Supervisor.)
3. Pastor Doyle (Requested increased violence intervention initiatives.)
  4. Dr. Shammona Clark (Addressed transparency, staff conduct, accountability, and reporting process concerns related to District harbors.)
  5. Cecilia Butler (Requested development of a Dr. Margaret Burroughs pavilion and improvement to the Board meeting public speaker process.)
  6. Ana Marija Sokovic (Addressed transparency and communication concerns around PAC suspension process.)
  7. Janita Nicholas (Acknowledged Foster Park roof repairs and general contributions of Ronald Crenshaw, Foster Park teacher. Requested improvements to lighting at the pickle ball court, parking lot and athletic field.)
  8. Louise McCurry (Requested pathway repairs and increased maintenance at Jackson Park.)
  9. Nicole Foster-Hill (Addressed safety and park use concerns related to encampments. Requested continuity of Ordinance enforcement and partnership improvements.)
  10. Lisa Stringer (Addressed support for new District staff position dedicated to homeless coordination. Also addressed concerns with resource efficiency, City accountability, and incidents of violence related to encampments in parks.)
  11. Tracey Alcoser (Addressed resource needs and health and safety concerns for unhoused residents of encampments in parks.)
  12. Mary Tarullo (Requested an end to encampment closures. Also addressed resource and strategic funding needs, lapses in City housing resources, and health and safety concerns for unhoused residents of encampments in parks.)

Berry Nelson and Bobbie Townsend registered to speak but were unavailable for comment.

Written Testimonies were received from Gail Beitz, Raymond (Last Name Unavailable), and Thomas Blair.

### 3. NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

President Everett requested for an item to be removed from the Consent Agenda due to a typo in the title posted on the Agenda.

The Secretary stated for the record that the correct title of the item in question is: Request to Exercise the Agreement's Second One (1) Year Extension Option with Russo Hardware, Inc. for the Purchase or Lease, Maintenance and Repair of Landscape Mowers Districtwide, Specification Number P-22012. Prior to this correction, the title listed the Extension as a Two (2) Year option.

[25-1199-121](#)

[0](#)

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE AGREEMENT'S SECOND ONE (1)  
YEAR EXTENSION OPTION WITH RUSSO HARDWARE, INC. FOR  
THE PURCHASE OR LEASE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF  
LANDSCAPE MOWERS DISTRICT-WIDE  
SPECIFICATION NO. P-22012**

**Sponsors:** Cultural and Natural Resources

**Indexes:** Contract Extension

**A motion was made by Vice President Valle, seconded by Commissioner Garrett, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA:**

All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine, procedural, informational, or non-controversial in nature and will be voted upon as a group in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Board so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Garrett that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as a group in one vote. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

**23-1053-121**

**0**

**APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE PUBIC  
BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
NOVEMBER 19, 2025**

**Sponsors:** Office of the Secretary

**Indexes:** Meeting Minutes

**The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.**

**25-1198-121**

**0**

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE AGREEMENT'S SECOND ONE (1)  
YEAR EXTENSION OPTION WITH SHOREWOOD HOME & AUTO,  
INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OR LEASE, MAINTENANCE AND  
REPAIR OF LANDSCAPE MOWERS DISTRICT-WIDE  
SPECIFICATION NO. P-22012**

**Sponsors:** Cultural and Natural Resources

**Indexes:** Contract Extension

**The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.**

**25-1202-121**

**0**

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE AGREEMENT'S FIRST ONE (1)  
YEAR EXTENSION OPTION WITH FLOOD BROTHERS DISPOSAL  
CO. FOR WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL, AND RECYCLING  
SERVICES DISTRICT-WIDE**

**SPECIFICATION NO. P-24005**

**Sponsors:** Cultural and Natural Resources

**Indexes:** Contract Extension

The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.

[25-1057-121](#)

[0](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CHRISTY  
WEBBER & COMPANY FOR DISTRICTWIDE PLANTING AND  
LANDSCAPING SERVICES  
SPECIFICATION NO. P-25010**

**Sponsors:** Cultural and Natural Resources

**Indexes:** Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

**Attachments:** [MWBE Schedules - Christy Webber and Company](#)

The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.

[25-1208-121](#)

[0](#)

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT  
WITH ARBOR PRO INC. FOR COMPLETION OF A DISTRICTWIDE  
TREE INVENTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN URBAN FOREST  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
SPECIFICATION NO. P-24011**

**Sponsors:** Cultural and Natural Resources

**Indexes:** Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

**Attachments:** [MWBE Schedules - Arbor Pro Inc.](#)

The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.

[25-1206-121](#)

[0](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CELLCO  
PARTNERSHIP DBA VERIZON WIRELESS FOR CELLULAR  
BASED WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS**

**Sponsors:** Information Technology

**Indexes:** Contract Award (Non Bid)

The item was approved. The motion carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.

**5. NEW BUSINESS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA:**[25-1203-121](#)[0](#)**ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCE**

**Sponsors:** Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

**Indexes:** Tax Levy

**Attachments:** [2025 Tax Levy Ordinance](#)

Jeff Shellhorn, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

[25-1204-121](#)[0](#)**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS AMONG OPERATING FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025**

**Sponsors:** Chief Financial Officer and Budget and Management

**Indexes:** Transfer of Operating Funds

**Attachments:** [Ordinance](#)

Scott Greene, Director of Budget and Management, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

[25-1205-121](#)[0](#)**2026 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Sponsors:** Chief Financial Officer and Budget and Management

**Indexes:** Budget-Appropriation Ordinance

**Attachments:** [2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance](#)

General Superintendent and CEO, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, provided opening remarks about the 2026 Budget Recommendations. Scott Greene, Director of Budget and Management, addressed the Commissioners. Then, General Ramirez-Rosa made closing remarks acknowledging the efforts of the Department of Budget and Management and contributions made by the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett, seconded by Commissioner

Castaneda that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Valle, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 3 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson and Bush

[25-1123-121](#)

[0](#)

**AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT AT MINIMUM 0.071 ACRES OF PROPERTY  
FROM THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY AND AMEND AN  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO TRANSFER  
APPROXIMATELY 0.071 ACRES OF WENDELL SMITH PARK (272) TO  
THE CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY FOR THE CTA RED LINE  
EXTENSION PROJECT**

**Sponsors:** Planning and Construction

**Indexes:** Land Transfer

**Attachments:** [Resolution](#)

[Ordinance](#)

Heather Gleason, Director of Planning and Construction, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Garrett, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Valle, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 2 - Paz Brownrigg and Bush

President Everett stated for the record that Commissioner Jackson joined the meeting during the presentation on this item.

**Present:** 5 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Philip Jackson, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, Commissioner Sean Garrett and President Marlon Everett

**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg and Commissioner Sharon Bush

[25-1207-121](#)

[0](#)

**SETTLEMENT OF MATTHEW LARSON V. CHICAGO PARK  
DISTRICT  
21 WC 025880**

**Sponsors:** Law Department

**Indexes:** Settlement Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Garrett, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, that the Settlement be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Valle, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett



**Absent:** 2 - Paz Brownrigg and Bush

## **6. ADJOURNED**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Valle, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

**Absent:** 2 - Paz Brownrigg and Bush