

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 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

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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

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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

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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

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APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC 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

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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

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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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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ADOPTION OF THE 2025 ANNUAL TAX LEVY ORDINANCESponsors: Chief Financial Officer and TreasurerIndexes: Tax LevyAttachments: [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

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ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS AMONG OPERATING FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025Sponsors: Chief Financial Officer and Budget and ManagementIndexes: Transfer of Operating FundsAttachments: [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

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2026 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONSSponsors: Chief Financial Officer and Budget and ManagementIndexes: Budget-Appropriation OrdinanceAttachments: [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

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**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

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**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