

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

10:00 AM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Chicago Park District Administration Building (Park 596)

4830 S. 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 11, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. or immediately following the Public Hearing at the Chicago Park District Administration Building (Park 596) located at 4830 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Roll Call
- Consent Agenda
- New Business / Strategic Initiatives
- Presentations and Reports
- People in the Parks
- Code Amendments
- 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.

Marlon Everett
President

Sarah Gelder
Secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was recited during the Public Hearing.

President Everett welcomed Commissioner Sharon Bush to the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Bush gave remarks on her career and life experiences as well as the vision for her participation on the Board.

Rosa Escareno, General Superintendent and CEO, presented a video and gave remarks regarding key highlights of 2024 in the parks.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, Commissioner Sean Garrett, President Marlon Everett and Commissioner Sharon Bush

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Philip Jackson

A motion was made by President Everett, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, to set the Order of Business for the day as reflected in the posted agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush

Absent: 1 - Jackson

1. 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 Paz Brownrigg, 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: 6 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush

Absent: 1 - Jackson

24-1188-121

1

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION FOR NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BEING HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2024, AT 9:50 AM CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT 2024 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Certificate of Publication

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

24-1177-121

1

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Meeting Minutes

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

[24-1182-121](#)

[1](#)

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HOMER INDUSTRIES FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENGINEERED WOOD FIBER PLAYGROUND SAFETY SURFACING MATERIALS SPECIFICATION NO. P-24006

Sponsors: Cultural and Natural Resources

Indexes: Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

Attachments: EDS - Homer Industries

[MWBE Schedules - Homer Industries](#)

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

2. NEW BUSINESS / STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

[24-1179-121](#)

[1](#)

Effective Operations:

ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFERS AMONG OPERATING FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Sponsors: Chief Financial Officer and Budget and Management

Indexes: Transfer of Operating Funds

Attachments: [Proposed 2024 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance](#)
[Ordinance Authorizing Transfer Among 2024 Operating Funds](#)

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

Aye: 6 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush

Absent: 1 - Jackson

[24-1180-121](#)

[1](#)

Effective Operations:

2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Sponsors: Budget and Management

Indexes: Budget-Appropriation Ordinance

Attachments: [2025 Appropriation Ordinance](#)
[2025 Budget Recommendations](#)

Rosa Escareno, General Superintendent and CEO, and Scott Greene, Director of Budget and Management, addressed the Commissioners.

The Secretary stated for the record that Commissioner Jackson joined the meeting during the Presentation on the 2025 Budget Recommendations.

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: 7 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush

3. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

[24-1185-121](#)

[1](#)

PRESENTATION ON THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT’S RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN THE PARKS

Sponsors: Office of General Superintendent

Indexes: Presentation

Rosa Escareno, General Superintendent and CEO, gave remarks on district wide efforts to address homelessness in the parks. Then, Sendy Soto, Chief Homelessness Officer with the City of Chicago, and Andrea Chatman from the Department of Family and Support Services, addressed the Commissioners.

4. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

24-1178-121

1

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DECEMBER 11, 2024

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Public Comments

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

1. Lisa Stringer (Addressed health, safety, environmental, and Budget concerns related to the impact of encampments in Gompers Park)
2. Denise Ferguson (Addressed the Chicago Quiet Zone Ordinance and concerns related to Riot Fest in Douglass Park)
3. Florina Florea (Addressed maintenance and park access concerns related to Riot Fest in Douglass Park and requested repairs in the park and increased advocacy against megafestivals)
4. Malcolm Hardiman (Addressed concerns around an investigation process regarding allegations brought against him)
5. Louise McCurry (Addressed the South Lake Front Framework Plan and requested development of a field house in Jackson Park)
6. Leslie Recht (Addressed the Grant Park Framework Plan, concerns around private events in Grant Park, and various barriers to public access in the park)
7. Philip McGrath (Addressed concerns around the pension fund program and the District's Budget)
8. John Cronin (Requested development of an all-inclusive and accessible park in the 37th ward / Austin neighborhood)
9. Cecilia Butler (Requested review of funding and resource allocation for Washington Park and addressed proposed development of the Dr. Margaret Burroughs Pavilion)
10. Kenneth Newman (Addressed concerns around resource deficits in youth programming and pollution impacts of the Quantum site adjacent to Steelworkers Park and requested increased collaboration between the District and the Public Building Commission)
11. Pastor Doyle (Requested more literacy and employment programming and addressed positive collaboration with General Superintendent and CEO, Rosa Escareno)

Princess Shaw registered to speak, but was unavailable for comment.

Written testimony was received from Gail Beitz, Julie Newfeld, and Jean Getty Klein.

5. CODE AMENDMENTS:

24-1181-121

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**AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER V OF THE CODE OF THE CHICAGO
PARK DISTRICT**

Sponsors: Law Department and Human Resources

Indexes: Code Change

Attachments: [Ordinance Amendments to Chapter V of the Code](#)
[Exhibit A - Amendments to Chapter V of the Code](#)

Argentene Hryikos, Director of Human Resources, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Vice President Valle, seconded by Commissioner Paz Brownrigg, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush

6. ADJOURNED

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

Aye: 7 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush