

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

9:00 AM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Austin Town Hall Park
5610 West Lake Street
Chicago, IL 60644

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, October 8, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at Austin Town Hall Park located at 5610 West Lake Street, Chicago, Illinois 60644.

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: 5 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Philip Jackson, Commissioner Robert Castaneda and President Marlon Everett

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Sean Garrett and Commissioner Sharon Bush

Tebrena Fears-Howard, Park Supervisor at Austin Town Hall, presented a video and gave brief remarks highlighting Austin Town Hall Park.

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: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

1. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

25-1160-100

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Leading Employer:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE AWARDEES OF THE "WE SEE YOU" EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Sponsors: Office of General Superintendent

Indexes: Presentation

Attachments: Resolution

Trena Harris, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, gave a presentation acknowledging the awardees of the "We See You" Employee Recognition Program. The following awardees were in attendance and recognized by the Board: Jennifer Puttin, Constance McNeil, Robert Quinones, Araceli Vazquez, Sonica Ruiz, Patricia Perez, Anastasia Anti, Elizabeth Trench, Chris Wiesyk, Laura Greinke and Dylan Smith.

The Secretary read the Resolution into record, then a motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Paz-Brownrigg, that the Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

2. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

25-1167-100

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PUBLIC SPEAKERS

OCTOBER 8, 2025

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Public Comments

The following Public Officials addressed the Commissioners:

1. Samantha Nugent, Alderperson of the 39th Ward (Addressed concerns around encampments in District parks related to health and safety, environmental impacts, and park access. Also requested ordinance enforcement, permanent housing initiatives, and collaboration with city public officials)
2. Bridget Gainer, 10th District Cook County Commissioner (Addressed growing risks related to encampments in District parks and requested increased strategy development and ordinance enforcement)

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

1. Katie Schneider (Addressed concerns around encampments at Legion Park regarding park access and impacts to programming, health and safety for un-housed and housed residents, and requested strategies toward permanent housing)
2. Tahsin Rahman (Addressed concerns around encampments at Legion Park regarding illegal activities and general community safety)
3. Ellen Youniss (Addressed the orientation of encampments at Legion Park relative to local homes and safety concerns regarding hazardous materials)
4. Nicole Foster Hill (Addressed potential conflicts between requirements for District event permits compared to conduct allowed at encampments in parks. Also addressed safety concerns regarding fire hazards and illegal activities)
5. Lisa Stringer (Addressed concerns around encampments at Gompers Park and Legion Field related to park access and electrical fire hazards. Also requested increased ordinance enforcement)
6. Doug Schenkelberg (Addressed concerns around the impacts of encampment removals for encampment residents and requested increased resources for un-housed and increased permanent housing strategies)
7. Debbie Montgomery (Addressed community support for un-housed community members and requested increased access to shelters and resources)
8. Sarah-Jayne Ashenhurst (Addressed safety concerns and barriers to housing for encampment residents. Also requested a stop to removal of encampments in District parks and increased investment in citywide housing infrastructure as well as trauma-informed, harm reduction response strategies)
9. Peter Dorman (Addressed safety concerns for encampment residents regarding police and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement presence. Also requested a stop to removal of encampments in District parks)
10. Vanessa Stokes (As a member of the Austin Town Hall Park Park Advisory Council, requested increased transparency, accountability, and community involvement in the development of park operation strategies)

11. Kenneth Newman (Addressed safety concerns related to lighting in athletic facilities at various parks)
12. Tracy Raoul (Addressed positive impacts of youth golf programming and requested support in establishing programming at South Shore Cultural Center)
13. Debra Lawson (Addressed parking fee and site access concerns at 63rd Street Beach related to the drumming circles)
14. William Hudson (Requested increased benefits for hourly year-round District employees)
15. Denise Ferguson (Addressed safety concerns around Riot Fest regarding telecommunication services, traffic, and hospital operations. Also requested increased enforcement of the quiet zone ordinance)

Written Testimonies were received from: Philip McGrath, Rachel Azzarello, Jamey Arnold, Tom Blair, Keith Couture, Ari Webb, Raymond (Last Name N/A), Justin Gumiran, Judith (Last Name N/A), Lucia Mancini, Nikita Tejwani.

3. 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 Paz-Brownrigg, that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as a group in one vote. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

25-1166-100

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APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Meeting Minutes

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

25-1168-100

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AUTHORIZATION TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT WITH SMG FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BEVERLY/MORGAN SPORTS COMPLEX SPECIFICATION NO. P-15018

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Contract Extension

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

[25-1164-100](#)

[8](#)

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE CONTRACT'S FIRST (1) YEAR
EXTENSION OPTION WITH RAE PRODUCTS AND CHEMICALS
CORPORATION FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF PAINT
AND RELATED SUPPLIES
SPECIFICATION NO. P-24002**

Sponsors: Facility Management

Indexes: Contract Extension

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

[25-1169-100](#)

[8](#)

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE AGREEMENT'S FIRST ONE (1)
YEAR EXTENSION OPTION WITH F.H. PASCHEN, S.N. NIELSON &
ASSOCIATES LLC FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ELIZABETH
MORSE GENIUS CHILDREN'S GARDEN AT THE GARFIELD
PARK CONSERVATORY
SPECIFICATION NO. P-23007**

Sponsors: Cultural and Natural Resources

Indexes: Contract Extension

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

4. NEW BUSINESS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

[25-1159-100](#)

[8](#)

**ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED
\$120,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION LIMITED TAX PARK BONDS
OF 2025 IN ONE OR MORE SERIES**

Sponsors: Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Indexes: Bond

Attachments: [Pamphlet Form - Bond Ordinance \(GO LTD Bonds\)](#)

Olyvia Jarmoszka, Treasurer, and Jeffrey Shellhorn, Chief Financial Officer, addressed the Commissioners. Members of the Bond Transaction team were also in attendance and acknowledged by the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Vice President Valle, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

[25-1133-100](#)

[8](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH
CHICAGO PARKS FOUNDATION**

Sponsors: Chief Financial Officer

Indexes: Agreements (Not Bidded)

Jeffrey Shellhorn, Chief Financial Officer, and Willa Lang, Executive Director of the Chicago Parks Foundation, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Vice President Valle, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

[25-1163-100](#)

[8](#)

**PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR SPECIAL EVENTS &
AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR PERMIT
AGREEMENT WITH NIANTIC TO HOLD POKEMON GO FEST IN
GRANT PARK**

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Permit Agreement; Provisional Approval - Special Event Permit

Lauren Quinn, Deputy Director of Revenue, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Vice President Valle, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

[25-1161-100](#)

[8](#)

**SETTLEMENT OF KARIN WOOD V. CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
(CASE NO. 2025 L 000008)**

Sponsors: Law Department

Indexes: Settlement Agreement

Lauren Quinn, Deputy Director of Revenue, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Jackson, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush

5. ADJOURNED

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

Aye: 5 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda and Everett

Absent: 2 - Garrett and Bush