

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

9:00 AM

ANNUAL 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 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. at the Chicago Park District Administration Building located at 4830 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call
Strategic Initiatives
People in the Parks
Election of Board Officers
Consent Agenda
New Business / Non-Consent Agenda
Presentations & Reports
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:** 6 - Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Philip Jackson, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, Commissioner Sean Garrett, President Marlon Everett and Modesto Valle
- Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Sharon Bush

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

- Aye:** 6 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Valle
- Absent:** 1 - Bush

1. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

26-1307-051
3

Community Wellbeing:

PRESENTATION ON CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT MAY IN MOTION EVENTS

Sponsors: Wellness

Indexes: Presentation

Meghan O'Boyle, Wellness Manager from Community Recreation, and Colleen Lammel, Health and Wellness Officer, gave a presentation on strategic initiatives, programming details, and key deliverables for May in Motion. The following staff were also recognized by the Board: Louis Battle, Park Supervisor at Murray Park; Elesabeth Bacherta, Activity Instructor at Broadway Armory; Kazidi Feng, Activity Instructor at Ping Tom Park; and Danielle Radojevich, Park Supervisor at Madigan Park.

2. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

26-1299-051
3

PUBLIC SPEAKERS MAY 13, 2026

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Public Comments

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

1. Jeff Reynolds (Addressed concerns related to Westrec harbors and workplace culture, funding equity, employee retention and operational sustainability. Also addressed the scope of work managed by harbor crew members and requested wage increases.)
2. Arthur Thomas Jones (Addressed concerns related to employee wages and retention for Westrec harbors staff.)
3. Denise Ferguson (Addressed positive impacts of community outreach and new staffing at Douglass Park. Also requested the development of a health and safety plan for Douglass Park.)
4. Cecilia Butler (Requested new computers and repairs to the Washington Park jogging track. Also requested that the Notice for the request to name a Washington Park feature be updated for accuracy purposes.)
5. Louise McCurry (Addressed appreciation for upcoming Jackson Park infrastructure improvements and positive outcomes of the Earth Day clean-up event. Also requested repairs to the wall located at La Rabida and provision of electric vehicle charging stations for the parking lots.)
6. Captain Bill Hoover (Requested increased strategic effort toward developing a workforce pipeline for youth through existing District aquatics programming.)
7. Lynn Burmeister (Addressed health, sanitation, and environmental concerns related to encampments in parks.)
8. Carlos Portillo (Addressed concerns around the impact of encampments on safety, access and environmental health. Also requested District opposition to House Bill 1429.)
9. Laura McAlpine (Addressed health and safety concerns related to encampments in Ronan Park and requested a response plan for those who prefer to live in encampments.)
10. Andrew Flanagan (Addressed health, safety, environmental, and park access concerns related to encampments at Ronan Park. Also requested increased resources and strategy toward permanent housing solutions.)
11. Fred Mueller (Addressed communication and community engagement concerns around the District's response to encampments in parks. Also addressed concerns around how health, safety, and park access issues impact the capacity for neighborhood development.)
12. Levette Haynes (Addressed increased tourism in Garfield Park and requested improvements around landscaping, staffing, traffic flow and removal of hazardous materials.)

Frank Gutierrez, James Talley, and Michael Hill registered to speak but were unavailable for comment.

Written Testimonies were received from Nicole Foster Hill and Lisa Stringer.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:

26-1297-051

3

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sponsors: Commissioners' Office

Indexes: Election

Commissioner Jackson nominated Dr. Marlon Everett to serve as President of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners. The nomination was seconded by Vice President Valle. The nomination carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bush

26-1298-051

3

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sponsors: Commissioners' Office

Indexes: Election

President Everett nominated Modesto Valle to serve as Vice President of the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Paz. The nomination carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bush

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Vice President Valle, that the items on the Consent Agenda be approved as a group in one vote. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Bush

26-1300-051

3

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2026

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Meeting Minutes

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

26-1301-051

3

CERTIFICATE OF FILINGS OF THE 2025 TAX LEVY ABATEMENT WITH THE CLERKS OF COOK AND DUPAGE COUNTIES

Sponsors: Treasurer

Indexes: Certificate of Filing

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

above.

[26-1308-051](#)

[3](#)

**REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE CONTRACT’S SECOND ONE (1) YEAR
EXTENSION OPTION WITH CANNON COCHRAN MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, INC. FOR THIRD-PARTY WORKERS COMPENSATION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES:
SPECIFICATION P-22017**

Sponsors: Risk Management

Indexes: Contract Extension

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

[26-1309-051](#)

[3](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR
THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT APPLICATION FOR ARC MUSIC
FESTIVAL TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL EVENT DAY AND
REVISE THE DATES**

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Provisional Approval - Special Event Permit

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

5. NEW BUSINESS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

[26-1303-051](#)

[3](#)

**PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT
APPLICATION FOR THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER VIEWING
EVENT AT MIDWAY PLAISANCE**

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Provisional Approval - Special Event Permit

Attachments: [Exhibit A](#)

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bush

[26-1304-051](#)

[3](#)

**PROVISIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT &
AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A MULTI-YEAR PERMIT**

**AGREEMENT WITH CHICAGO EVENT MANAGEMENT, INC. TO
HOLD BANK OF AMERICA SHAMROCK SHUFFLE IN GRANT PARK,
BANK OF AMERICA CHICAGO 13.1 IN GARFIELD PARK, AND BANK
OF AMERICA CHICAGO MARATHON IN GRANT PARK**

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Permit Agreement; Provisional Approval - Special Event Permit

Lauren Quinn, Deputy Director of Revenue, addressed the Commissioners. Carey Pinkowski, CEO & President of Chicago Event Management, Inc., also gave brief remarks. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Vice President Valle, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

[26-1305-051](#)

[3](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH UNISON
CONSULTING, INC. FOR CONCESSION PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
FOR THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
SPECIFICATION NO. P-25006**

Sponsors: Revenue

Indexes: Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

Attachments: [MWBE Schedules - Unison Consulting, Inc.](#)

CJ Grakens, Deputy Director of Revenue, addressed the Commissioners. Yovette Drake, President of Unison Consulting, Inc., and Stephanie Hatch, General Manager at Unison Consulting, Inc., were also in attendance. 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: 6 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Valle

Absent: 1 - Bush

[26-1302-051](#)

[3](#)

**REQUEST TO EXTEND THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT WITH
CANON U.S.A., INC. (AS SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO CANON
SOLUTIONS AMERICA, INC.) FOR EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES
DISTRICT-WIDE
SPECIFICATION NO. CITY-28364 FOR FIVE YEARS**

Sponsors: Information Technology

Indexes: Contract Extension

Al Ruiz, Director of Information Technology, and Brian Stepp, Director of Purchasing, 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: 6 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Valle

Absent: 1 - Bush

[26-1306-051](#)

[3](#)

**SETTLEMENT OF THE 2011-2014 PROPERTY TAX RATE
OBJECTIONS**

Sponsors: Law Department

Indexes: Settlement Agreement

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bush

6. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS:

26-1310-051

3

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON BOARD COMMITTEE
STRUCTURE STUDY**

Sponsors: Commissioners' Office

Indexes: Presentation

Dannielle Wilson, Recreation Consultant from Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC, gave a presentation on the key results from the Board Committee Structure Study and options for next steps.

The Secretary stated for the record that Vice President Valle left the meeting during the Presentation on the Board Committee Structure Study.

7. 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 - Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett and Everett

Absent: 2 - Bush and Valle