

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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, January 21, 2026, 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: 7 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Philip Jackson, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, Commissioner Sean Garrett, President Marlon Everett and Commissioner Sharon Bush

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

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

1. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

[26-1209-012](#)

[1](#)

RESOLUTION HONORING RETIREES

Sponsors: Office of General Superintendent and Commissioners' Office

Indexes: Resolution-Honoring

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

Trena Harris, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, addressed the Commissioners and acknowledged the 2025 retirees in attendance. Then General Superintendent and CEO, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, read the Resolution into record. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Garrett, that the Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

26-1210-012

1

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

JANUARY 21, 2026

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Public Comments

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

Stacia Scott-Kennedy, Executive Vice President of SEIU Local 73, addressed

equity concerns related to health care benefits for hourly employees and requested increased benefit resources for part-time District workers.

1. Carling Andrews (Addressed employee retention and cost concerns related to health care benefits for hourly District employees.)
2. Mark Heller (Addressed positive community impacts of Logan Boulevard Skate Park and requested efforts toward long-term sustainability of the installation.)
3. Denise Ferguson (Acknowledged appreciation for new Douglass Park staff and requested increased Board engagement around matters related to Douglass Park.)
4. Melissa West (Addressed opposition to closure of the Legion Park encampment and requested removal of surveillance camera and increased resources for the unhoused.)
5. Justin Gumiran (Addressed fire safety concerns related to Legion Park encampment and requested increase resources towards housing solutions.)
6. Ellen Youniss (Addressed divestment and equity concerns related to Albany Park and requested increased investment in recreation and structural improvements to the Legion Park play lot.)
7. Ramona Laude (Requested resources be reallocated to supporting the unhoused compared to removal of encampments and addressed high risk concerns for elderly people with disabilities experiencing poverty.)
8. Gail Beitz (Addressed concerns around impacts to local economy, health and safety regarding encampments in parks; also requested increased collaboration with the City for housing solutions.)
9. Mildred Rivera (Addressed recent reports of violence, fire hazards, and public disturbances related to encampments in parks and requested increased collaboration with the City for housing solutions.)
10. Peter Dorman (Addressed opposition to encampment closures and equity concerns related to Board meeting accessibility and District responses to homelessness; also addressed critiques of resource allocation and negative impacts to collaborative relationships.)
11. Indigo Mendes (Addressed critiques of encampment closures, concerns related to ICE activity, and requested removal of surveillance camera at Legion Park.)

Natassia Simmons and Greg (Last Name N/A) registered to speak but were unavailable for comment.

Written Testimonies were received from Rebecca Wolfram and Lisa Stringer.

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

26-1211-012**1****CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE 2026 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.

26-1212-012**1****CERTIFICATES OF FILING OF THE 2026 APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE WITH THE CLERKS OF COOK AND DUPAGE
COUNTIES****Sponsors:** Office of the Secretary**Indexes:** Certificate of Filing

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

26-1213-012**1****CERTIFICATES OF FILING OF THE 2025 TAX LEVY WITH THE
CLERKS OF COOK AND DUPAGE COUNTIES****Sponsors:** Office of the Secretary**Indexes:** Certificate of Filing

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

26-1214-012**1****APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR
BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2025****Sponsors:** Office of the Secretary**Indexes:** Meeting Minutes

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

26-1215-012**1****CLOSED SESSION MINUTES REVIEW: AUTHORITY TO RELEASE
OR HOLD CLOSED SESSION MINUTES AND AUTHORITY TO
DESTROY VERBATIM CLOSED SESSION RECORDINGS****Sponsors:** Law Department

Indexes: Executive Session Minute Reveiw

The item was approved. The motion to approve and release Closed Session Meeting Minutes for September 10th, 2025 and to destroy the Verbatim Closed Session Recording for July 10th, 2024 carried by the Consent Agenda vote listed above.

[26-1216-012](#)

[1](#)

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO
THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

Sponsors: Law Department

Indexes: Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA)

Attachments: [Resolution](#)

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

[26-1217-012](#)

[1](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
LAKESHORE RECYCLING SYSTEMS, LLC FOR DEBRIS
DUMPING TRANSFER STATION SERVICES
SPECIFICATION NO. P-25009**

Sponsors: Cultural and Natural Resources

Indexes: Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

Attachments: [MWBE Schedules - Lakeshore Recycling Systems, LLC](#)

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

[26-1218-012](#)

[1](#)

**AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT WITH CLARITY PARTNERS, LLC
FOR WEBSITE HOSTING, MAINTENANCE, AND SUPPORT**

Sponsors: Information Technology

Indexes: Contract Amendment

Attachments: [MWBE Schedules - Clarity Partners, LLC](#)

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

4. NEW BUSINESS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA:[26-1219-012](#)[1](#)

**AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD PROJECT AND ISSUE NOTICE TO
PROCEED TO STRUCTURES CONSTRUCTION L.L.C. FOR DOJ
POLLING SITE ADA IMPROVEMENTS TIER 2/3 GROUP 1
SPECIFICATION NO. P-23001-019**

Sponsors: Planning and Construction

Indexes: Contract Award-IFB, RFP, RFQ

Attachments: [MWBE Schedules - Structures Construction LLC](#)

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

5. 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: 7 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Jackson, Castaneda, Garrett, Everett and Bush