

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, April 8, 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, April 8, 2026, at 9:00 A.M., or immediately following the Personnel Board meeting, at 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
Consent Agenda
New Business / Non-Consent Agenda
Closed Session
Open Session
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

Roll Call

- Present:** 5 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Robert Castaneda, President Marlon Everett and Commissioner Sharon Bush
- Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Philip Jackson and Commissioner Sean Garrett

A motion was made by President Everett to take the agenda Out of Order to consider the following item of New Business next: Request to Initiate the 45-Day Notice Period to Name the Unnamed Playground at 53rd Street Beach and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive within Washington Park to Ronald "RonnieMan" Playground.

The motion was seconded by Vice President Valle. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 2 - Jackson and Garrett

[26-1294-040](https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/26-1294-040)

[8](#)

**REQUEST TO INITIATE THE 45-DAY NOTICE PERIOD TO
NAME THE UNNAMED PLAYGROUND AT 53rd STREET AND
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DRIVE WITHIN
WASHINGTON (GEORGE) PARK TO RONALD "RONNIEMAN"
JOHNSON PLAYGROUND**

Sponsors: Office of General Superintendent

Indexes: Park Renaming-Phase I, 45 Day Notice Period

Pam Witmer, Director of Policy, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Paz, seconded by Vice President Valle, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Everett

Recused: 1 - Bush

Absent: 2 - Jackson and Garrett

A motion was made by President Everett, seconded by Vice President Valle, to return to the Order of the Day as reflected in the posted agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 2 - Jackson and Garrett

1. STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

26-1288-040

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PRESENTATION ON KEEPING OUR PARKS CLEAN & GREEN

Sponsors: Cultural and Natural Resources

Indexes: Presentation

Cathy Breitenbach, Director of Cultural and Natural Resources, addressed the Commissioners and presented a video regarding park maintenance and environmental initiatives as well as Earth Day programming.

2. PEOPLE IN THE PARKS:

26-1289-040

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PUBLIC SPEAKERS

APRIL 8, 2026

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Public Comments

The following members of the public addressed the Commissioners:

1. Tonya Trice (Addressed transparency, equity, communication, and economic value concerns related to the South Shore concession agreement. Also requested a meeting to discuss agreement terms and concerns.)
2. Dr. Carol Adams (Addressed equity, strategy and communication concerns related to the South Shore concession agreement. Also requested a collaborative strategy toward addressing concerns.)
3. Myesha McClendon (Addressed equity, communication, and economic sustainability concerns related to the new entertainment restrictions at South Shore. Also requested a collaborative strategy toward a mutually beneficial approach.)
4. Donnell Digby (Addressing long-standing maintenance issues impacting business operations and revenue at South Shore Cultural Center. Also requesting improved communication, collaboration, and equitable partnership processes.)

5th Ward Alderman Desmon Yancy, addressed concerns related to south side concessionaires. Yancy also requested a collaborative process for developing agreements, increased diversity of programming, a clear timeline for community engagement, and that concessionaires be regarded as cultural assets.

5. Phil McGrath (Addressed support for the Open Meetings Act, response concerns related to employee complaints, and equity concerns related to the Pension Fund.)
6. May Toy (Addressed accuracy concerns related to allegations that led to suspension from the Skinner Park Advisory Council as well as communication, equity and transparency critiques around the suspension process.)
7. Gee Toy (Addressed character witness testimony in support of May Toy, critiques of the PAC suspension process, and accuracy concerns related to

allegations against May Toy.)

8. Pastor Doyle (Addressed support for CEO and General Superintendent, Carlos Ramirez-Rosa's tenure so far and requested additional community input toward operational and programming strategies.)

9. Adam Rogers (Performed a 2-minute acoustic saxophone jazz number.)

10. Graham Grady (Requested to un-name Jackson Park for Andrew Jackson and name the park in honor of Rev. Jesse Jackson.)

11. Sandy Albecker (Addressed Sheridan Park programming highlights, equity concerns around staffing, and reasoning for the recent termination of the Park Supervisor.)

12. Nicole Foster Hill (Addressed health and safety concerns related to the encampment at Eugene Field.)

13. Amy Silva (Addressed health, safety, park access, and policy enforcement concerns related to the encampment at Ronan Park. Requesting increased collaboration toward permanent housing solutions and a clear timeline for response plans.)

14. Jeri Freeman (Addressed health, safety, and District communication concerns related to the encampment at Ronan Park. Requesting increased policy enforcement.)

Oscar Santiago registered to speak but was unavailable for comment.

Written Testimonies were received from Lisa Stringer and Denise Ferguson.

The Secretary stated for the record that President Everett left the meeting during the Public Speakers section.

Present: 4 - Vice President Modesto Valle, Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg, Commissioner Robert Castaneda and Commissioner Sharon Bush

Absent: 3 - Commissioner Philip Jackson, Commissioner Sean Garrett and President Marlon Everett

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 Bush, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, 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, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett

26-1293-040

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**APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR
BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 11,2026 AND THE SPECIAL
BOARD MEETING HELD ON MARCH 13, 2026**

Sponsors: Office of the Secretary

Indexes: Meeting Minutes

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

[26-1290-040](#)

[8](#)

REQUEST TO EXERCISE THE THIRD ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION OPTION WITH J.P. SIMONS & CO. AND MIDCO ELECTRIC SUPPLY, INC. FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES SPECIFICATION NO. P-23004

Sponsors: Facility Management

Indexes: Contract Extension

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

4. NEW BUSINESS / NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

[26-1291-040](#)

[8](#)

REQUEST TO EXTEND THE TARGET MARKET CONTRACT WITH DUSABLE PARK DESIGN ALLIANCE FOR DUSABLE PARK DEVELOPMENT SPECIFICATION NO. P-21009 FOR TWO YEARS AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 3

Sponsors: Planning and Construction

Indexes: Change Order

Attachments: [MWBE Schedules - DuSable Park Design Alliance](#)

Heather Gleason, Director of Planning and Construction, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Bush, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett

[26-1295-040](#)

[8](#)

REQUEST TO INITIATE THE 45-DAY NOTICE PERIOD TO NAME PARK NO. 514 AS FILLENWARTH (PATTY) PARK

Sponsors: Office of General Superintendent

Indexes: Park Renaming-Phase I, 45 Day Notice Period

Pam Witmer, Director of Policy, addressed the Commissioners. A motion was

made by Commissioner Castaneda, seconded by Commissioner Bush, that the matter be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett

5. CLOSED SESSION:

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) & (12)

President Everett stated that the Commissioners would enter Closed Session to consider matters appropriately discussed in Closed Session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120 Section 2, Subsections (c) (11) and (12). A motion was made by Commissioner Paz seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, that the meeting enter into Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett

6. OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Paz seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, that the meeting return to Open Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett

7. ADJOURNED

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

Aye: 4 - Valle, Paz Brownrigg, Castaneda and Bush

Absent: 3 - Jackson, Garrett and Everett