

Chicago Park District



Meeting Minutes - Final

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:00 AM

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Columbus Park Refectory
5701 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60644

Special Meeting

Commissioner Coya Paz Brownrigg

Commissioner Robert Castaneda

Commissioner Sean Garrett

Commissioner Philip Jackson

Commissioner Sharon Bush

Vice President Modesto Valle

President Marlon Everett

NOTICE OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The purpose of the Special Board Meeting is for a routine Board retreat.

In accordance with the provisions of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the SPECIAL BOARD MEETING will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026 at 9:00 A.M. at the Columbus Park Refectory located at 5701 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60644.

For the March 13, 2026 Special Board Meeting, public comment will be limited to three (3) registered speakers. Advanced registration to speak will begin Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 8:30 A.M. through Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 12:00 P.M. Please find the public participation rules and registration instructions here:

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/chicago-park-district-public-participation-guidelines>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call
Public Comment
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.

Dr. Marlon Everett
President

Sarah Gelder
Secretary

The purpose of the Special Board Meeting is for a routine Board retreat.

ROLL CALL

A Roll Call was made and the following Commissioners were found to be in attendance:

Present: 7 - Sharon Bush, Robert Castaneda, Marlon Everett, Sean Garrett, Philip Jackson, Coya Paz Brownrigg, and Modesto Valle

The Secretary announced that President Everett would join a portion of the Special Board meeting remotely via video conference allowable under the Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120 Section 7A and reported that President Everett provided the Board Secretary with written advanced notice of the qualifying reason for his remote attendance due to employment purposes which prevent him from attending in-person.

The Commissioners physically in attendance took action to allow President Everett to participate in the Special meeting remotely. A motion was made by Vice President Valle, seconded by Commissioner Castaneda, that President Everett be allowed to join the meeting virtually. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Excused: 1 - Everett

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Secretary stated for the record that there were no speakers registered for public comment and no written testimonies were received.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE PRESENTED ON IN OPEN SESSION:

The Board met to discuss its self-evaluation, practices and procedures. The Board was joined by Peter Murphy, IAPD President and CEO, which is a statewide association of which the Park District is a member.

- President Everett provided a recap of 2025 Board operations and planning for 2026 initiatives.

- Herbert Allen, Meeting Facilitator, led discussion around improved communication strategies for the Board.

- Kahari Humphries, Deputy Mayor of the City of Chicago, addressed the Commissioners about positive collaboration with the District.

- Dannielle Wilson, Recreation Consultant from Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, LLC, led discussion about Board committee structure options.

- Judge Edward Washington spoke with the Board regarding considerations for organizations when evaluating lawsuits and settlements.

2. CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)

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) (1). A motion was made by Vice President Valle seconded by Commissioner Garrett, that the meeting enter into Closed Session. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. OPEN SESSION

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

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

Absent: 1 - Jackson

The Secretary stated for the record that Commissioner Jackson left the meeting during Closed Session. During Closed Session, President Everett left the meeting to join by remote means as approved by the Board's vote at the start of the meeting. President Everett then rejoined the meeting in person.

4. ADJOURNED

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

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

Absent: 1 - Jackson