



**Vernon Hills Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
Minutes of the Special Board Meeting**

**February 27, 2025
Sullivan Community Center
635 N. Aspen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

1. Call to Order

President Doerhoefer called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Giraldo, Jacobs, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins

Staff: Matthew LaPorte, Mark Fleishman, Lacy Marinenko, Tom Ritter, Jessica Mitchell, Amy Darling.

3. Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period

No public comments were made.

4. New Business

A. FY26 Budget Workshop

i. 2025-2029 CIP

Executive Director LaPorte informed the board of the updates to the proposed plan that developed from the January 16 workshop. Commissioner Sente expressed concern that in prior years there has not been an opportunity for board members to have a broader discussion about projects to consider for inclusion in the plan. Commissioner Jacobs concurred, stating that in the past, the board received the plan to approve without having input on selecting or prioritizing projects. Executive Director LaPorte proposed a timeline and meeting strategy that could provide the opportunity for the board to have input into developing the plan. His recommendation is to hold a Special Meeting in June or July where the board members physically tour district parks and facilities to collect information on needs in those areas. Following that Special Meeting, board members would be welcome to create individual "wish lists" and would collect information on options and opportunities presented at the National conference in September. The board would hold a Special Meeting in October to have a broad discussion on projects they may like to include in the new plan as well as review the status of projects in the current plan. The new plan would be created from that discussion and by reviewing District asset lists, community survey results, trends and financial position.



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Executive Director LaPorte further recommended that within the upcoming plan development stages, department heads review trends in their areas to use for consideration. In further discussion, the Board identified several priorities including sustainability, green initiatives, and improvement of District pathways. These items will be addressed for the March 20, 2025 Special Meeting. No further changes to the Capital Plan are expected.

ii. FY26 Operating Budget

Finance and HR Superintendent Mitchell highlighted substantive notes from the summary cover letter that was provided to the board. She provided information on the District Reserve Fund Balance as well as detailed information on areas of impact to both the projected FY25 and the proposed FY26 budgets. Some of these areas were the change in adult minimum wage, investment interest income, health insurance premiums, utilities and unexpected staff retirement expenses. Executive Director LaPorte noted that he and Superintendent Mitchell have begun to review District cash flow monthly.

There was discussion regarding the practice of fund accounting vs. cost accounting and whether either was more reflective of the District financial position. The discussion moved into detailed reviews of District funds and department heads were invited to review the summaries within their area. Parks Superintendent Fleishman began by reviewing the notable items within in his budget. Recreation Superintendent Ritter followed with a review of notable items with the recreation, childcare and aquatics budgets.

At 6:28 PM, President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to pause the Special Board Meeting and move to the Regular Park Board Meeting and to reconvene the Special Meeting directly thereafter.

Motion by Commissioner Jacobs.

Second by Commissioner Sente.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Giraldo, Jacobs, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

The Special Board meeting was paused at 6:29 PM.

The Special Board meeting reconvened at 7:15 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Jacobs, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins



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Staff: Matthew LaPorte, Mark Fleishman, Lacy Marinenko, Tom Ritter, Amy Darling.

Facility Manager Lacy Marinenko reviewed notable items from the Lakeview Fitness Budget.

Executive Director concluded the Operating Budget review by highlighting areas of business services budgets and noted that the following items would be addressed by staff in preparation for the March 20, 2025 Special Meeting: land management, sustainability, pathway planning and reallocation of PALS and Early Childhood Supervisor salaries.

5. **Closed Session under Section 2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District and under Section 2(c)2 for the purpose of discussing matters between the District and its employees concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.**

President Doerhoefer asked for a motion to enter into Closed Session under:

Section 2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; and under

Section 2(c)2 for the purpose of discussing matters between the District and its employees concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

Motion by Commissioner Jacobs.

Second by Commissioner Sente.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Giraldo, Jacobs, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Nays: None. Motion Carries.

Commissioners and staff returned to Open Session at 8:29 PM

Present: Commissioners Jacobs, Giraldo, Sente, Doerhoefer.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins

Staff: Matthew LaPorte



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President Doerhoefer stated that the board met in Closed Session under:

Section 2(c)1 of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District; and under

Section 2(c)2 for the purpose of discussing matters between the District and its employees concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees.

President Doerhoefer stated that no action was taken during the Closed Session.

6. Adjournment

Upon proper motion and second the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Special Meeting at 8:30 PM.

David Doerhoefer, Park Board President

Matthew LaPorte, Park Board Secretary



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