

July 24, 2025
635 N. Aspen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Minutes

Call to Order

President Sente called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Sente led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Absent: Commissioners Doerhoefer.

Staff Present

Executive Director Matthew LaPorte; Superintendent of Finance & HR Jessica Mitchell; Superintendent of Recreation Tom Ritter; Superintendent of Parks Mark Fleishman; Facility Manager Lacy Marinenko; Recreation Programs Manager Jay Bullman; Administrative Assistant/Risk Manager Amy Darling.

Guests Present

None.

Omnibus Vote Agenda – Items under the Omnibus Vote Agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. If a separate vote on any one item is desired, it will be pulled from the Omnibus Vote Agenda and voted on separately.

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.

Second by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Nays: None. Motion Carries

Financial Reports for the Period Ending June 30, 2025

President Sente asked Superintendent Mitchell if there any changes to the financial reports on file for the period ending June 30, 2025. No changes were reported.

Welcome to Visitors and Guests - Public Comment Period

President Sente stated that the Board will now hear remarks from the public. Remarks will be limited to three minutes and no board response will be given. President Sente asked if there were any remarks to be heard. No remarks were heard.

Reports and Communication

Superintendent of Finance and HR – Jessica Mitchell- report attached. Commissioner Robbins stated that although the financial statement as of June 30 was approved, there could be adjustments to financials at the conclusion of the audit. Commissioner Robbins also made the Board aware that the June 30 financial statement for Turtle Creek Waterpark reflects a higher percentage of income over expenses. When all expenses have been accounted, the report will reflect a more accurate bottom line. President Sente thanked staff for providing the additional report. Director LaPorte followed up by confirming that this first report provides the Board with the template of how the Turtle Creek financial report will look and as actual expenses are recorded an updated report will be provided.

Superintendent of Recreation – Tom Ritter-report attached. Superintendent Ritter also provided the annual report of recreation program statistics. Commissioner Robbins clarified that the GO Walk is scheduled for Wednesday August 6. President Sente inquired as to how the feedback for recreation programs is obtained from participants. Recreation Programs Manager Jay Bullman

Executive Director – Matthew LaPorte- report attached. In the absence of the Marketing & Communications Manager, Director LaPorte noted that the program guide has been mailed to residents. Program registration dates for residents and non-residents were provided. Director LaPorte delivered an overview of how the use of E-Bikes on District paths by patrons could be integrated into the District Conduct Ordinance. Discussions took place with District counsel, the Village of Vernon Hills and other communities and park districts. Some communities banned them altogether while others developed criteria for their use. Director LaPorte stated that this is early in the process of establishing any regulation and informed the Board of how E-Bikes have different classes and varying top speeds. He recommends that as the Board moves thru the decision on establishing any regulation, that it be aligned with any that is made by the Village. President Sente led the Board thru discussion regarding the two areas within Director LaPorte's report that he would like to receive direction for. The Board directed Director LaPorte to move forward with the next step to re-bid the cost for grading the Grosse Pointe ballfields to achieve uniform drainage as the project manager is working thru grading plans for the project. President Sente led the Board thru discussion to obtain a consensus on any regulations on E-Bikes. Commissioner Robbins is opposed to permitting them in any capacity and would like to see them banned completely. Commissioner Jacobs noted that permitting speeds of 20 mph by an E-Bike on a path seems quite high. Commissioner Beaumont pointed out that a regular bicycle is capable of reaching 20 mph and while they are mandated by law to announce themselves and generally do not, they have not been banned. She also noted that the Class 1 E-Bike is becoming a more popular mode of transportation overall. She is in favor of developing regulations that will assist in the safe use of E-Bikes on District paths and being in line with the Village as decisions are made. President Sente would like to continue to pursue a limit on permissible speed. She also noted that the District social media would be a good tool to provide community education and signage could be beneficial. The Board directed Director LaPorte to continue obtaining information and he will work toward presenting a proposed update for their approval at the August Board Meeting.

President Sente asked for a motion to approve Resolution 07-25.

Motion by Commissioner Beaumont.

Second by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Nays: None. Motion Carries

Item B is the Village of Vernon Hills Resolution 2025-037: A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a First Amendment to the License Agreement Between the Village of Vernon Hills, The Vernon Hills Park District, SMP Development LLC, and the Vernon Hills Soccer Club for Use of Fields 10, 11 and 12 at the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex.

President Sente asked for a motion to approve the Village of Vernon Hills Resolution 2025-037.

Motion by Commissioner Robbins.

Second by Commissioner Beaumont.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Nays: None. Motion Carries

Item C is Ordinance 04-25: An Ordinance Declaring as Surplus and Authorizing the Sale or Other Conveyance of Surplus Personal property of the Vernon Hills Park District, Lake County, Illinois.

President Sente asked for a motion to approve Ordinance 04-25, noting that the Secretary's Certificate has been corrected to reflect Matthew LaPorte as Executive Director.

Motion by Commissioner Beaumont.

progress updates for April thru June 2025. He reported that the Leadership team may pursue reaching out to the plan consultant in late 2026 to reassess the benchmarks of the plan. Director LaPorte noted that these strategies were also integral in department goal development. President Sente supports and encourages the staff to reassess the plan as goals are met and new ones could be added.

Item E is the 2025 Q2 Capital Projects Report.

President Sente asked Executive Director LaPorte to discuss the report. Executive Director LaPorte summarized the April thru June 2025 updates to the Capital Plan and outlined progress on various projects. He reported that staff are researching options to utilize the \$240K DCEO Grant that was awarded to the District. Past projects that may qualify are being reviewed as well as the possibility to use the grant for Century Park bridge restoration. A recommendation will be presented to the board at an upcoming meeting. Commissioner Robbins inquired about how the fund balance on the report is calculated. Executive Director LaPorte clarified that the budget from which the monthly financials are produced are on a fiscal calendar while the capital budget operates within the calendar year. Commissioner Robbins suggested that all budgets be moved to the fiscal year. President Sente agreed that there were pros and cons to both approaches and it was something the Board would like to explore. Commissioner Jacobs noted it may be helpful to learn if there was any history regarding the decision to separate the reporting periods. Superintendent of Parks Fleishman provided context that capital projects that start in the Spring may have expenses that are outside the concurrent fiscal year period. Staff will provide more information for board discussion at the September 28 Board Meeting.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Beaumont- no comments.

Commissioner Jacobs- no comments.

Commissioner Robbins – no comments.

Commissioner Sente – Commissioner Sente reported on a recent book she read titled “Anxious

or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Motion by Commissioner Jacobs.

Second by Commissioner Beaumont.

Discussion: None.

Ayes: Commissioner Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Nays: None. Motion Carries

President Sente stated that the Park Board unanimously agreed to return to Open Session at 8:51 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Beaumont, Jacobs, Robbins, Sente.

Absent: Commissioners Doerhoefer.

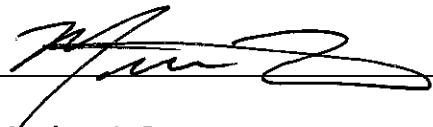
President Sente stated that the Park Board met in Closed Session under 2(C)1 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

No action was taken. The audiotape of this Closed Session will be in the custody of Executive Director Matthew LaPorte.

Upon proper motion and second the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:52 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Sente", written over a horizontal line.

Carol Sente
Park Board President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew LaPorte", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew LaPorte
Park Board Secretary