

Morton Grove Park District

6834 Dempster Street • Morton Grove, Illinois • 60053 847/965-1200



Minutes of the 896th Board Meeting
August 19, 2026
Held at Prairie View Community Center

I. **Call meeting to order:** The regular board meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Commissioners Present: Paul Minx, Bill Polyak, Lisa Rathunde, and Kelly Russell.
Commissioners Absent: John Liston with notice.

Staff Present: Jeffrey Wait, Executive Director; Claire Baumgartner, Superintendent of Recreation; Patrick Manieri, Superintendent of Parks and Maintenance; Brook Luecht, Recreation Supervisor; and Luisa Brown, Recording Secretary.

Attorney Present: None

II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda:** None

IV. **Citizens' Comments on Agenda Items/Correspondence:** None

V. **Consent Agenda:**

Commissioner Russell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Minx, to approve:

- a. The minutes from the Board Meeting held on July 15, 2026.
- b. The Financial Reports:
 - 1. The Cash Summary and Revenue and Expenditure Report dated July 31, 2026.
 - 2. The Invoice Distribution Report for the period ending July 31, 2026, in the amount of \$668,034.57.
 - 3. Monthly Budget to Actual report dated July 31, 2026.
 - 4. Card Service Report dated July 31, 2026.

Ayes: Commissioner Minx, Rathunde, Polyak, and Russell. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

VI. **Director's Report:** Director Wait announced that the Assyrian Food Festival is August 22nd from 2 pm to 10 pm, and August 23rd from 2 pm to 9 pm. Wait stated on August 29th the District will be hosting an event in celebration of its 75th birthday. The event will be held at Harrer Park from 4 pm to 9 pm. There will be live music, a petting zoo, inflatables, food vendors, beverage sales, and a drone show.

VII. **Attorney's Report:** Was sent electronically earlier in the week.

VIII. **Village Liaison Report:** None

- IX. Department Heads' Report:** Superintendent Baumgartner stated that the classic car show was rescheduled for August 20th with live music by "The Way Outs". Baumgartner announced that the concert in the park previously scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th was canceled due to weather. The concert has been rescheduled for Monday, August 24th. Baumgartner mentioned that both Harrer and Oriole Pools have been audited again by Ellis & Associates on August 7th and both pools received an "exceeds expectations" score. Oriole Pool's last day was August 9th, and Harrer Pool is currently in its post season hours. Lastly, Baumgartner introduced new Recreation Supervisor, Brook Luecht, who will be overseeing performing arts and sponsorship.

Superintendent Manieri stated that the Maintenance Department has been busy doing a lot of stump and dead tree removals. Manieri announced that all the Department's surplus equipment has been sold, and the garage has been cleaned up. Manieri mentioned that the Maintenance Department has removed the large, wooded structure behind Harrer Shelter and cleaned up the area. Lastly, Manieri stated that the department has been busy with vehicle maintenance making sure the entire fleet is safe and ready when needed.

X. New Business:

a. Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Russell, Chair

Accessibility Audit Approval: Commissioner Russell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Polyak, to approve ACT Services Consulting to conduct an accessibility audit of the District's parks and facilities in the amount of \$13,800.

Ayes: Commissioners Rathunde, Minx, Polyak, and Russell. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Air Quality and Outdoor Activity Policy Approval: Commissioner Russell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Polyak, to approve the Air Quality & Outdoor Activity Policy.

Ayes: Commissioners Polyak, Minx, Rathunde, and Russell. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Revision to the Exempt Employee Policy: Commissioner Russell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Minx, to approve the revisions to the Exempt Employee Policy.

Ayes: Commissioners Rathunde, Polyak, Minx, and Russell. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Mission Statement Re-adoption: Commissioner Russell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Minx, to accept the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee to readopt the District's mission statement.

Ayes: Commissioner Minx, Rathunde, Polyak, and Russell. Nays: 0. Motion

- XI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items: None**

XII. Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Minx: Thanked Superintendent Manieri for removing the structure behind Harrer Shelter. Thanked the entire staff for a great summer.

Commissioner Polyak: Thanked the staff for everything they have done this summer.

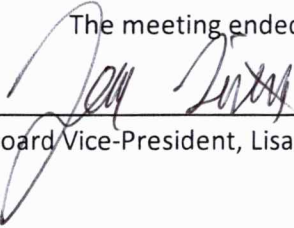
Commissioner Russell: Stated that the Back to School Bash was fun. Thanked the staff for their great work.

Commissioner Rathunde: Echoed all the previous commissioner's comments. Rathunde also welcomed new Recreation Supervisor Luecht.

XIII. Adjournment: Commissioner Polyak made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was carried by voice vote.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:53 pm.



Board Vice-President, Lisa Rathunde

Board Secretary, Jeffrey Wait