

WOODRIDGE PARK DISTRICT
Fred C. Hohnke Community Center
Regular Board Meeting
May 20, 2025



President Cohen called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 6:33 p.m. Upon a roll of Commissioners being called, the following were Present: Cohen, Venouziou, Mahoney, Coleman. Staff present: Bordewick, Karesh, Knitter, Webber, Ritter, Esquivel. Absent: Perry.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

ELECTED PARK COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL SWEARING IN

President Cohen called upon Notary Ashley Esquivel to read the oath to swear in Commissioners Brian P. Coleman and Sam Venouziou officially.

ANNUAL MEETING

President Cohen opened the Annual Meeting of the Woodridge Park District to elect Board Officers, and appoint Committee Chairs and ex officio members. He said the order of business of the Annual Meeting shall be the election of the Vice President and the Board Treasurer.

President Cohen then asked if there were any objections to keeping the existing Vice President and Treasurer, or if anyone would like to make a different nomination. There were no changes.

President Cohen asked if there was a motion to re-nominate Brian Coleman for Vice President.

MOTION by Mahoney and seconded by Venouziou to re-nominate Brian Coleman for Vice President and Venouziou for Treasurer.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Mahoney, Venouziou, Coleman and Cohen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

President Cohen asked if there was a motion to appoint:

- a. Jack Mahoney (Commissioner) as Board Secretary;
- b. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as Assistant Secretary (Pro-Tem),
- c. Sam Venouziou (Commissioner) as Board Treasurer,
- d. Chris Webber (Superintendent of Finance, Personnel & IT) as Assistant Treasurer;
- e. Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins as District Attorney;
- f. Illinois Institutional Trust (IIT) Fund as the District Investment Advisor
- g. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as SEASPAR Representative;
- h. Don Ritter (Deputy Director) as SEASPAR Alternate Representative;
- i. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as PDRMA Representative;
- j. Chris Webber (Superintendent of Finance, Personnel & IT) as PDRMA Alternate Representative;
- k. Megan Romano (Superintendent of Marketing & Community Engagement), Chamber of Commerce Ex-officio Representative;
- l. Lauren Clancy (Customer Service Supervisor), Alternate Chamber of Commerce Ex-officio Representative;

- m. Don Ritter (Deputy Director), Affiliated Athletic Associations Ex-Officio Representative; and
- n. Dan Peboontom (Athletic Supervisor), Alternate Affiliated Athletic Associations Ex-Officio Representative.

MOTION by Mahoney and seconded by Coleman to appoint:

- a. Jack Mahoney (Commissioner) as Board Secretary;
- b. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as Assistant Secretary (Pro-Tem),
- c. Sam Venouziou (Commissioner) as Board Treasurer,
- d. Chris Webber (Superintendent of Finance, Personnel & IT) as Assistant Treasurer;
- e. Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins as District Attorney;
- f. Illinois Institutional Trust (IIT) Fund as the District Investment Advisor
- g. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as SEASPAR Representative;
- h. Don Ritter (Deputy Director) as SEASPAR Alternate Representative;
- i. Jenny Knitter (Incoming Executive Director) as PDRMA Representative;
- j. Chris Webber (Superintendent of Finance, Personnel & IT) as PDRMA Alternate Representative;
- k. Megan Romano (Superintendent of Marketing & Community Engagement), Chamber of Commerce Ex-officio Representative;
- l. Lauren Clancy (Customer Service Supervisor), Alternate Chamber of Commerce Ex-officio Representative;
- m. Don Ritter (Deputy Director), Affiliated Athletic Associations Ex-Officio Representative; and
- n. Dan Peboontom (Athletic Supervisor), Alternate Affiliated Athletic Associations Ex-Officio Representative.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Mahoney, Coleman, Venouziou and Cohen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Director Knitter opened the report with an overview of employee milestones. Deputy Director Don Ritter said a few words about Caitlin Howard and Tony Miglieri on behalf of Brandon from VGGC, as both employees were celebrating 5-year milestones with the District.

Knitter mentioned a few email correspondences the District has received from concerned residents.

Commissioner Coleman asked about a lady's Facebook comment about turf being ripped up by motor scooters. Knitter said that staff checked into the concern, and it was unfounded. Coleman said he replied to the lady and invited her to the Board Meeting, but there was no response.

Knitter also mentioned that if the Board sees a comment to send her way, staff can reply.

Knitter then mentions the upcoming events.

President Cohen inquired about coordination for Jubilee and scheduling the Board for the event.

Knitter replied that she will let the board know as soon as possible.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance

Superintendent of Finance, Personnel, and IT Chris Webber opened his report by reminding the Board that the District's

auditors will attend the June meeting to present the 2024 audit and answer any questions the Board may have. He said the District received the preliminary 2026 IMRF Rate Notice. The employer rate is expected to increase by 30% to 9.02% from the current rate of 6.96%. The increase is specific to the employer retirement funding rate, which will fluctuate when many retirements occur in a year, as the District had 4 in 2024. Webber explains that the budget impact is significant. The increase in IMRF will result in less funding for the Corporate Fund and capital-related projects as well. Overall, the District is operating close to 2024, with a slight increase in the deficit of 5.04%.

Webber then mentions that, as of the month-end, ARC revenues have increased by 13.2% compared to the prior year. Program revenues, fitness memberships, and Gym/Turf rentals account for 89% of that increase. Village Greens, in April, had revenues outpace expenses by \$24,000. The golf shop and food & beverage revenues have increased over the prior year. Expenses remained flat compared to the preceding year; overall, the course ran a deficit of \$189,000 through April, which is \$23,000 behind last year's operational surplus of \$39,000.

Webber closed his report by giving kudos to Sterling Network Integration, the District's third-party IT vendor. Last week, malware was detected on an employee's personal computer. SNI immediately quarantined the computer and removed it from the network before staff even knew a potential problem existed. No harm was found to the network, and the PC was decommissioned as it is up for replacement.

Parks, Planning & Development: Planning, Development, & Natural Resources Division

G. 2. a. 1. Superintendent of Planning & Development Ryan Bordewick opened his report with an action item: Staff recommends the Board reject Hacienda Landscaping Inc.'s bid for the 2025 Playground Renovations Project- Site Work, CRP #25-01c-01.

MOTION by Coleman and seconded by Mahoney to reject Hacienda Landscaping, Inc.'s bid for the 2025 Playground Renovations Project – Site Work, CRP #25-01c-01.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Coleman, Mahoney, Venouziou, and Cohen
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

President Cohen asked which school this was and if the kids were aware.

Bordewick responded with 2 schools, Windy Pointe Park was \$80,000 over budget, so we decided to reject Hacienda, and yes, the kids are aware.

Knitter responded that the Goodrich site is a priority for completion before the school year begins, as the school does not have an alternate playground site.

Commissioner Coleman asked if Hacienda is privy to this information.

Knitter responded Yes, all bidders are privy to this information as it is all public information.

G. 2. a. 2. Superintendent of Planning & Development Ryan Bordewick recommends the Board to re-bid the 2025 Playground Renovations Project- Site Work, CRP #25-01c-02.

MOTION by Mahoney and seconded by Venouziou to re-bid the 2025 Playground Renovations Project – Site Work, CRP #25-01c-02.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Mahoney, Venouziou, Coleman and Cohen
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

G. 2. a. 3. Superintendent of Planning & Development Ryan Bordewick recommends Board consideration to approve Resolution No. 25-3, A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order in Regard to the Lake Harriet - ADA Pathway Improvements Project, ADA #24- 01c Involving a Decrease in the Contract Price in Excess of \$10,000.

MOTION by Coleman and seconded by Mahoney to approve Resolution No. 25-3, A Resolution Authorizing a Change Order in Regard to the Lake Harriet - ADA Pathway Improvements Project, ADA #24-01c Involving a Decrease in the Contract Price in Excess of \$10,000.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Coleman, Mahoney, Venouziou, and Cohen
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

Bordewick explains the pulverization process at Jubilee Pointe Park. He explained that three comments were unresolved, which is down from 30 on May 5th. Permits were also obtained today. Shovels should be in the ground the first week of June. He went on to explain that 90+ trees were removed in about 2 ½ hours on May 13th.

Knitter asked the Board if they would like to hold a groundbreaking ceremony or just celebrate with a ribbon-cutting ceremony after everything is complete.

The Board agreed on a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Commissioner Venouziou mentioned that there should be an information booth at Jubilee so people know what is going on with the project.

Knitter responded that it is a good idea, and staff can do that.

Bordewick then mentioned that they ended up with \$21,389 in savings in decorative fixtures. He noted that the grant of \$25,000 from AARP was not awarded this year, which was not a surprise. He explained that staff solicited designs for playgrounds and they received 6. Staff chose Landscape structures, and 500 students who voted chose the same.

Bordewick then provided updates on the paths, noting good progress. He said Arbor Day staff and volunteers planted 64 trees and 200+ saplings as well.

Parks, Planning & Development: Parks Division

Superintendent of Parks John Karesh opened his report with a board action item, Staff recommends the Board accept Randall Industries as the lowest responsible bidder secured through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase Program, and approve the purchase of a 2025 Club Car Carryall 500 in the amount of \$11,174.83 to include the recommended purchase options per the Capital Replacement Program.

MOTION by Coleman and seconded by Venouziou to accept Randall Industries as the lowest responsible bidder secured through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchase Program, and approve the purchase of a 2025 Club Car Carryall 500 in the amount of \$11,174.83 to include the recommended purchase options per the Capital Replacement Program.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Coleman, Venouziou, Mahoney, and Cohen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

Superintendent of Parks John Karesh's next item, staff recommends the Board ratify the Executive Director's approval of the irrigation controller purchase in the amount of \$3,645.00 from Mueller Mist Irrigation and the VFD purchase in the amount of \$6,300.00 from Leibold Irrigation Inc. for the Orchard Hill Park Irrigation VFD & Controller Purchase MSP #25-08pc.

MOTION by Coleman and seconded by Mahoney Board ratifies the Executive Director's approval of the irrigation controller purchase in the amount of \$3,645.00 from Mueller Mist Irrigation and the VFD purchase in the amount of \$6,300.00 from Leibold Irrigation Inc. for the Orchard Hill Park Irrigation VFD & Controller Purchase MSP #25-08pc.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Coleman, Mahoney, Venouziou and Cohen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

Karesh mentioned the 2011 Ford F250 Pickup sold for \$10,900.00 at auction.

Karesh then goes on to explain that there was graffiti at Janes Avenue Park again.

Commissioner Mahoney inquired about cameras and asked if more could be placed there to help.

Karesh said they can budget for more.

Knitter said yes, we will look into it.

Karesh's next issue he spoke about was that the trash cans at Ides West Park were engulfed in flames on 5/14/25 around 9 pm. The police were called, but there are no suspects at this time.

He then mentioned that contract mowing is going well.

He then mentioned that Zach Cline had taken on the full-time maintenance position. 10-year mechanic Phil resigned and is moving to Tennessee.

Golf Course

Deputy Director Don Ritter shared the Golf report with the Board on behalf of Brandon. He mentioned how the golf course is a little behind last year's numbers so far.

Aquatics & Recreation

Deputy Director Don Ritter opened the report by mentioning that the lazy river painting project is progressing well, ahead of schedule, and is almost complete. The first Tuesday after Memorial Day, the water will be on.

Commissioner Venouziou asked why we would open on a Sunday, June 1?

Knitter and Ritter both said they were unsure of the reasoning behind a Sunday opening, but will get back to him on that.

Ritter goes on to explain that a pool leak has been found, and they are investigating its location. They think possibly in the mulch bed. He said he will keep the Board updated, and they are hoping to find it quickly. They had to have an emergency contract approved for \$12,000 by Knitter.

Ritter mentioned some successful events, such as the Egg Hunt on April 19th, which was relocated to Orchard Hill soccer fields, where 6,200 eggs were spread out, and 6 boxes of food were donated to a local pantry. Motion Explosion went well. Kids Thrill at the Hill had 125 kids enrolled, and it was a great event overall.

Knitter gave kudos to Dan Peboontom. She said this year we had the most kids enrolled, and he does such a great job with the event.

Ritter explained the exciting new things happening at Jubilee this year. There is a new Jubilee Ale Trail with 17 beer vendors on the Saturday of the Jubilee from 1-4 pm. He said this year, for Jubilee, the fireworks show is longer, a rainbow snow cone vendor is participating, and it is an 80s theme for the 40th year, with 3 80s bands performing.

Ritter then closed his report by giving kudos to Keith Blomberg for the April Showers Soccer Tournament and kudos to Kim Passini for working with Rotary to get a \$1000 grant that will go towards the senior club.

Marketing & Community Engagement ("MCE")

Executive Director Knitter shared that in the absence of Superintendent of Marketing & Community Engagement Megan Romano, Knitter would answer any questions regarding the MCE May report.

Knitter made note that every month registration to date is the highest to date.

Commissioner Mahoney gave kudos to Megan and Colleen on the Jubilee marketing. He said they did a great job this year, and it looked great.

Administration

No report

CONSENT AGENDA

H.1.- 13 President Cohen asked if any Commissioner requested to remove any agenda item from the consent agenda for separate consideration and action. There were none.

MOTION by Coleman and seconded by Mahoney to approve Consent Agenda Item #1 for the approval of the April 22, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda Items #2 through #13 for Vendor Payment, Payroll Ratification and Program Refunds for a total amount \$837,278.26.

1. Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2025
2. Vendor Payment & Payroll Ratification Report (4/18/25 – 5/15/25)\$837,278.26
3. Bluestem Ecological., Pond Buffer Brush Removal, MSP#25-03pc, Payout #1\$12,396.00
4. DLZ., Jubilee Point Park – As-Built Survey of 71st & Woodridge, CA#25-03pc, Payout #1 (final)\$1,500.00
5. DuPage County, Wetland Mitigation Fees, CDP #25-04c-08, (Fee-in-Lieu of Program)
Payout #1 (final).....\$45,500.00
6. Hitchcock Design, Inc., Town Centre Park Phase 2 – Final Design, CA #23-02ca, Payout #22 \$2,523.25
7. Kompan, Inc., Jubilee Point Park (Town Centre) Phase 2 – Play Equipment & Multi-Court Purchase,
CDP #24-04c-03, Payout #1 (final).....\$273,087.24
8. Living Waters Consultants, Inc., Hawthorne Hill Woods Culvert Repair – Engineering Services,

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| CA #20-02pc, Payout #20..... | \$712.00 |
| 9. Schwartz Construction Group, Jubilee Point Park (Town Centre) Phase 2 – Development Project,
CDP #24-04c-01, Payout #1..... | \$45,315.50 |
| 10. SEASPAR, Member Contribution, Installment #1 | \$126,855.00 |
| 11. Semmer Landscape, 2025 Various Park Contract Mowing Services, MSP #25-01c, Payout #1 | \$2,436.00 |
| 12. Tallgrass Restoration, LLC., 2024-2025 Prescribed Burns, MSP #24-05c-02, Payout #2-3 (final)..... | \$16,000.00 |
| 13. Webster, McGrath & Ahlberg, LTD, Ide's Grove East and Summerhill Park – Civil Engineering Services,
CA #24-02ca, Payout #3..... | \$945.00 |

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Coleman Mahoney, Venouziou, and Cohen
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Knitter opened her Board Report, giving an update on Jubilee Pointe Park and the IGAs. She mentioned that the community surveys will be mailed starting next week. She asked the Board if there were any questions regarding her report. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEASPAR

Executive Director Knitter referred the Board to the report for updates.

Safety-PDRMA

Executive Director Knitter mentioned that they are celebrating their 40th anniversary. Staff attended their annual meeting and an all-staff meeting.

EX-OFFICIO REPORTS

Chamber of Commerce

No Report

Affiliated Athletic Associations

No report, but Ritter mentioned that the Annual Memorial Day Tournament is this weekend. There were 45 teams enrolled, which is lower than the usual number. He gave kudos to the maintenance team, led by John and his guys, for keeping everything nice and clean.

BOARD UNFINISHED BUSINESS (OLD)

None

BOARD NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:58 PM, MOTION BY Coleman and seconded by Mahoney to adjourn to Executive Session under:

1. Section ILCS 120/2(c)(5) and 2(c)(6) to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

President Cohen requested a roll call. Upon a roll being called:

AYES: Mahoney, Coleman, Venouziou, and Cohen
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Perry

MOTION CARRIED

RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The May 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 9:17 p.m. Upon a roll of Commissioners being called, the following were Present: Cohen, Coleman, Mahoney, and Venouziou. Staff: Knitter, Ritter, Webber, Esquivel

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion to adjourn was requested. MOTION by Mahoney, seconded by Coleman, to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:18 p.m. President Cohen requested a voice vote to adjourn the regular board meeting of May 20, 2025.

ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted.



Jack Mahoney, Secretary