

Regular Meeting
February 23, 2026

A. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

At the call of President Gulas, the Joliet Park District Board of Commissioners met for a Regular Meeting in the Board Room of the Inwood Athletic Club, 3000 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL. The meeting began at 5:00pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Raasch, Mutz, Tatro, Gulas, Perez

Commissioners Absent: None

C. Opportunity For The Public To Speak - 3 minute time limit

No one addressed the Board.

D. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026 and Special Meeting of January 28, 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Perez, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 26, 2026 and Special Meeting of January 28, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mutz, Perez, Raasch, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

E. Approval of the bills and payroll for the month of January 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Raasch, seconded by Commissioner Mutz to approve the bills and payroll in the amount of \$1,174,992.94 for the month of January, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

F. Treasurer's Report for the month of January 2026

Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance, gave the Treasurer's report for the end of the month of January 2026 as follows:

Cash on hand beginning of month:	\$	2,231,622.64
Total Receipts:	\$	2,412,393.98
Total Disbursements:	\$	3,325,997.88
Cash on hand end of month:	\$	2,558,280.52
Total Investments:	\$	17,615,990.25
Total Cash & Investments:	\$	20,174,270.77
Total Fund Balances	\$	13,794,624.84

Commissioner Raasch raised a question regarding why funds were being received by the Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center. In response, Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance, explained that the incoming funds were deposits collected for upcoming events.

Vice-President Tatro made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of January, 2026. Commissioner Perez seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Tatro, Perez, Raasch, Mutz, Gulas

Nays: None

G. Communications

1. Executive Director Correspondence

Mr. Brad Staab, Executive Director, reported on Ridgewood Park, located off Cass and Walnut Street. The stone wall facing the road has crumbled multiple times and is now considered a safety concern. Staff will be meeting with the park district's engineer, Joe Hammer, TWG Technologies, Friday morning to discuss potential solutions. Approximately 15-20 years ago, beams were installed to reinforce the wall; however, the wall is crumbling again. Mr. Staab will provide an update to the Board following the engineer's review and recommendations.

Mr. Staab stated Jodi Brooker, Food & Beverage Manager, recommends increasing domestic beer bottle prices by \$0.25. There will be no increase to premium beer or hard liquor prices. Ms. Brooker noted that domestic beer prices have not been increased in five years. Bottled domestic beer will increase from \$4.00 to \$4.25, and buckets will increase from \$20.00 to \$21.25

Commissioner Raasch inquired about the POS system and the handling of credit card processing fees. Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance stated there are two options. Set a base price of \$4.25 and apply a 3% surcharge for customers paying with a credit card or list the price with the surcharge included and offer a cash price of \$4.25 for customers paying with cash.

Mr. Staab provided a follow-up from last month's meeting. Mr. Staab and Todd Hayden, Counsel, had a phone conversation with Pat Mudron from Mudron Kane Insurance Agency regarding billing for the 2018 insurance policy. An offer was made to split the amount in half, with each party taking on \$23,000.00. Mr. Mudron stated that the offer was not acceptable. Mr. Hayden indicated that Mr. Mudron would provide a written explanation outlining what was being requested and the reasoning behind it. At this time, nothing has been resolved. Mr. Staab will contact Mr. Mudron to reiterate that the Board's offer remains on the table and will report back with any updates.

2. Staff Reports

Mr. John Ekstrom, Director of Golf Grounds and Horticulture, reported to the Board that the flower plugs for the spring plant sale (April 24-26) are being installed at the Barber and Oberwortmann Horticulture Center.

Mr. Ekstrom informed the Board that there will be a pots and planters workshop in May.

Mr. Ekstrom mentioned that the Easter Bunny will be at the Bird Haven Greenhouse March 28 and April 4 12pm-3pm.

Mr. Ekstrom stated Park Services is still performing winter maintenance on the golf equipment and trimming trees at Woodruff Golf Course.

Mr. Ekstrom stated pins will start going into the greens at the golf courses weather pending.

Mr. Jim Baranak, Director of Parks, reported that Park Services is working on winter project lists for all other Joliet Park District departments.

Mr. Baranak reported that in the upcoming weeks Park Services will start renovations on the bathrooms at the Joliet Regional Airport.

Commissioner Mutz inquired about a fence going up around the inclusive playground at Inwood Park. Mr. Staab stated we are waiting to hear from Sara Kolodziej, SRJC Recreation Superintendent, if there is a need for a fence. Mr. Staab stated we have a price for a fence if staff decides there is a need.

Commissioner Mutz inquired if the inclusive playground was complete. Mr. Baranak stated the playground equipment is done and when weather breaks Park Services will seed and blanket the area. Mr. Staab stated the path was installed before Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Raasch inquired whether the inclusive playground is currently safe for public use. Ms. Brumfiel stated that the playground equipment has been installed; however, landscaping is not yet complete, and the snow fence has been properly reinstalled.

Commissioner Perez inquired if the snow fence at the old soccer fields was taken down. Mr. Baranak confirmed the fence was removed.

Commissioner Perez inquired about a plan to address the carpet that is coming up along the edges on the fitness floor at the Inwood Athletic Club. Mr. Baranak stated he reviewed the issue and would repair it at night, with completion expected within a day or two.

Ms. Brumfiel, Director of Recreation, reported

- Nowell Park Easter egg hunt is March 28
- SRJC Valentine's Day dance was on February 13 with 125 participants
- Polar Plunge is March 14
- Hartman Recreation Center is busy with baseball rentals booked until May
- Hartman Recreation Center will have their Spring Break Chicago Fire Camp

- Mount Rushmore Trip is full with 89 participants
- Sunshine & Rainbows priority registration was February 17-27 with 18 families registered
- Sunshine & Rainbows partnered with Joliet Pediatric Dentistry with each child receiving toothbrush, floss and coloring book
- Synergy dance recital has three shows on March 14
- Winter Fest was this past Saturday and had 150 kids
- Inwood Sports Complex will host baseball tournament on Saturday
- Competitive gymnastics team competed at their first meet February 14
- Spring soccer registration is open through March 27

Mr. Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance, reported that the 2026 Bond has been added to the long-term debt outstanding. The 2022 Bond was paid off in January with the capital payment covering both interest and principal. The 2025 Bond was paid off in October of last year. Mr. Kelley also reported that a CD matured at First Secure Bank and was renewed for an additional seven months at 3.7 percent.

Mr. Kelley reported the Audit started last week.

Ms. Teri Talarico, Director of Operations, reported

- Little Sprouts summer preschool program is full with 60 participants
- Fall enrollment for Little Sprouts preschool starts next week
- Nature Babies classes are full and run March-May
- Sap to Syrup is March 14 8:30-1:30pm
- Inwood Athletic Club has 3,242 active members, compared to 3,015 at this time last year
- Inwood Athletic Club will have March Matness with five unique yoga and pilates classes
- Run3 bundle registration is open and ends in March
- 47 are registered for the 1,000 club
- Boot Camp ends March 10th and was full with 50 participants
- ALL IN has 100 participants and will end March 4th
- New diving blocks were installed at the Inwood Athletic Club pool
- 15 Blue Tides athletes are going down to Regionals with two already qualifying for State. Staff will recognize athletes with the Board of Commissioners at the March meeting
- Annual Ice Show is March 27 with 75 skaters participating

President Gulas inquired which three races were included in the Run3 bundle. Ms. Talarico stated the three races include Los Dos, Sundowner and Santa Run.

Ms. Talarico thanked Park Services for creating a small locker room for the ice skating academy program.

Sean Caddigan, Deputy Director, stated he now oversees the golf course staff and has been going around to the courses understanding operations.

President Gulas inquired whether Inwood Golf Course would be hosting an adult Easter egg hunt this year. Mr. Staab stated staff was not planning to hold Easter egg hunt.

H. Action Items

1. Old Business

- a. Accept & Award Contract for ADA Bathrooms- Inwood Park
Cunningham Recreation- \$88,580.00

Ms. Brumfiel explained The Joliet Park District received the following proposal from Cunningham Recreation for all supplies of ADA Bathrooms at Inwood Park. The total project, which includes supplies only, is \$88,580.00. Ms. Brumfiel noted that an adult changing table was added and included in the proposal. Funding will come from the Special Recreation Fund. Staff recommends acceptance and approval of the proposal from Cunningham Recreation, PO Box 240981, Charlotte, NC, 28224 in the amount of \$88,580.00. Mr. Staab stated that until the project is finished, Waste Management will have an ADA accessible bathroom available. GameTime pricing is based on a contract award from OMNIA Partners. OMNIA Partners is a cooperative purchasing organization for public sector procurement, which the Joliet Park District is a member.

Vice President Tatro made a motion to accept & award a contract for ADA Bathrooms at Inwood Park to Cunningham Recreation, PO BOX 240981, Charlotte, NC, 28224 in the amount of \$88,580.00. President Gulas seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Tatro, Gulas, Raasch, Mutz, Perez

Nays: None

2. New Business

- a. Naming of Banquet Hall at Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center-
Venue Ninety-Eight

Mr. Staab stated he would like to formally adopt a name for the banquet hall. While it will still incorporate the Horticultural Center, the banquet hall will be named Venue Ninety-Eight at Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center. Mr. Staab noted that having a specific name will help when promoting the facility and that the name ties back to 1998, when the venue first originated.

President Gulas made a motion to approve the naming of Banquet Hall at Barber & Oberwortmann Horticultural Center Venue Ninety-Eight. Commissioner Mutz seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Gulas, Mutz, Raasch, Perez, Tatro

Nays: None

b. First Amendment of Personnel Manual dated February 2024- Employee Policy
Section 3.14: Employment of Relatives

Mr. Staab explained the Joliet Park District is permitted to hire relatives, provided the relative does not report directly to that family member. Commissioner Raasch made a motion to approve the employee policy section 3.14: employment of relatives. Commissioner Mutz seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro, Gulas
Nays: None

c. Quotes and Award of Contracts

c(1). Golf Driving Range Bays- Inwood Golf Course
Featherstone Project & Construction Management- \$14,000.00

Mr. Caddigan stated this is based off conversation from the Special Meeting and discussions with Commissioners. Mr. Caddigan explained the \$14,000.00 would begin the process of developing the bid specifications. The timeline will depend on coordination with Nicor, water and other utilities. Once all information is gathered, Featherstone Project & Construction Management will return to the Board with a not-to-exceed amount for the entire project. Mr. Caddigan stated the project is for 24 bays at Inwood Golf Course based on conversations with the Commissioners. President Gulas questioned whether a quote would also be obtained for 12 bays as well as quotes for both golf courses. Mr. Caddigan responded that, based on conversations with Commissioners, it was decided to obtain pricing for 24 bays at Inwood Golf Course. Vice President Tatro made a motion to accept & award a contract for Golf Driving Range Bays at Inwood Golf Course to Featherstone Project & Construction Management, 4610 Roslyn Rd, Downers Grove, IL 60515 in the amount of \$14,000.00. Commissioner Raasch seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Tatro, Raasch, Perez
Nays: Mutz, Gulas

Commissioner Mutz noted that he voted Nay, stating he supports the project but does not believe it can be afforded at this time. President Gulas noted that she voted Nay, citing that the motion did not follow staff recommendations; she noted that during her time on the Board, she has never previously voted against staff's recommendations.

d. Bids and Award of Contract

d(1). 2026 Park Services Fleet Lease- D'Arcy Chevrolet (5-Year lease)- \$1,338,770.00

Mr. Staab stated the bid process opened in early January with two bidders: D'Arcy and Acme, with D'Arcy submitting the lower bid. Minor variances in the bid documents did not affect the bid process or final pricing. President Gulas inquired about the bidding process and whether staff advertise in the paper. Mr. Staab confirmed that the bid was advertised in the paper, that interested parties may request bid documents, and that a public opening is held. Commissioner Mutz asked staff if the bid included enough vehicles to meet the needs of the departments. Mr. Staab confirmed that the bid

included enough vehicles to meet staff's needs. Commissioner Mutz asked staff what will be done with the old vehicles. Vice President Tatro inquired about the total number of vehicles included in the bid. Mr. Staab stated that there are 25 vehicles included in the bid. President Gulas made a motion to accept & award the 2026 Park Services Fleet 5-year Lease to D'Arcy Chevrolet, 2022 Essington Rd, Joliet, IL, 60435 in the amount of \$1,338,770.00. Commissioner Raasch seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Gulas, Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro
Nays: None

I. BOARD COMMENT

1. Committee Report

a. Joliet Park Foundation

The Foundation meeting will be held on March 11, 2026.

b. Joliet Regional Airport

The Airport meeting will be held on April 1, 2026. Airport Fest will be on September 20, 2026 with A rain date of September 27, 2026. NAMI 5K will be at the Joliet Regional Airport in May 16, 2026.

Commissioner Raasch inquired about the status of planning a 2027 event. Regarding the status of the 2027 event, Mr. Caddigan stated he is meeting next Wednesday and invited a few staff members to attend to discuss potential ideas.

President Gulas stated she has been approached by multiple individuals, including pilots inquiring about how to sponsor Airport Fest. Mr. Staab stated he would pass along the information to Jenny McFarland, Airport Superintendent.

J. Executive Session: The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of a Specific Employee or Legal Counsel for the Park District; Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the Use of the Park District, Including Meetings Held for the Purpose of Discussing Whether a Particular Parcel Should be Acquired; The Setting of a Price for Sale or Lease of Property Owned by the Park District; Pending Litigation; Probable or Imminent Litigation

At 5:48pm, a motion was made by President Gulas, seconded by Vice President Tatro to go into Executive Session per the Open Meeting Act to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee of the Park District, Section 2(c)(1); to discuss the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the Park District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, Section 2(c)(5); to discuss the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the Park District, Section 2(c)(6); to discuss sale or purchase of securities, investments or investment contracts, Section 2(c)(7) and, to discuss pending litigation or probable or imminent litigation, Section 2(c)(11). The motion carried as follows

Ayes: Gulas, Tatro, Raasch, Mutz, Perez

Nays: None

K. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Raasch. The motion was seconded by Vice President Tatro, and it carried unanimously. The time was 6:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kren
Recording Secretary