

Regular Meeting

March 23, 2026

A. Call to Order & Pledge to the Flag

At the call of the 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, Perez, Mutz, Tatro, Gulas

Commissioners Absent: None

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

Mike Kerwin, Joliet resident and Airport Committee President, thanked Jim Baranak, Director of Park Services and staff for their efforts in maintaining Pilcher Park. Mr. Kerwin reminded Board of Commissioners of the Airport's April 1 annual meeting for the election of officers.

D. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 23, 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Raasch, seconded by Commissioner Mutz, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of February 23, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Perez to approve the bills and payroll in the amount of \$1,444,818.14 for the month of February, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mutz, Perez, Raasch, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

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

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

Cash on hand beginning of month:	\$	2,558,280.52
Total Receipts:	\$	3,127,925.56
Total Disbursements:	\$	4,996,718.87
Cash on hand end of month:	\$	2,265,436.07
Total Investments:	\$	18,425,186.27
Total Cash & Investments:	\$	20,690,622.34
Total Fund Balances	\$	12,839,435.43

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

Ayes: Raasch, Tatro, Perez, Mutz, Gulas

Nays: None

G. Communications

1. Blue Tides Swim Team Resolution

The Board of Commissioners recognized Blue Tides Athletes Ava Gombosi, Alyssa Whalen and Aileen Razo for their impressive 2026 season. The Park Board of Commissioners commended the three athletes; Head Coach Emily Slattery; Assistant Coach Nick Koenig; and the talented Blue Tides coaching staff on this excellent achievement.

G. Communications

2. Executive Director Correspondence

Mr. Staab, Executive Director, stated the Archery Club previously approached the Board to request an expansion of their building. Joliet Park District staff met with a representative of the archery club last week, during which a proposed plan was presented that would require the removal of more than 100 trees. Staff expressed concern regarding the significant loss of trees, noting that this was not consistent with the originally discussed concept. Staff will inform the archery club that they must return to the Board to present a revised plan for consideration.

Mr. Staab updated the Board on the ongoing insurance claim with Mudron Kane Insurance. A timeline was shared; however, some discrepancies in dates were identified. Mr. Staab prepared a revised accurate timeline, including dates and information, for the Board's review. At this time, Mr. Staab is not seeking a decision. Mr. Staab noted he and Todd Hayden, Counsel, will coordinate a follow-up with the insurance company after the Board has had an opportunity to review the information.

Mr. Staab notified the Board that the Stadium concession stand operated by Cemenos was recently broken into. Mr. Staab noted that staff is currently evaluating security improvements, including the installation of cameras and replacement of door.

Mr. Staab provided an update to the Board regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for Inwood Park. Previously discussed dates were no longer suitable, and a weekday was suggested as a better option. After discussion, the Board agreed that May 1 at 10 a.m. would be the preferred date and time.

Mr. Staab stated that the Ridgewood wall is on the agenda for approval of engineering services for the project. Mr. Staab noted that staff anticipates the repairs will be costly. Upon approval, Jo Hammer will proceed with preparing repair plans for the wall. Vice President Tatro inquired if the Joliet Park District approached the City regarding this project. Mr. Staab responded that once staff has had the wall evaluated and a plan is in place, staff can then reach out to the City.

G. Communications

3. Staff Reports

Mr. Ekstrom, Director of Parks/Golf Grounds, reported to the Board that the spring plant sale at the Bird Haven Greenhouse will be April 24-26 and the Easter Bunny will be at the Greenhouse this weekend and April 4 12-3pm.

Mr. Ekstrom provided an update to the Board regarding the wooden doors at Venue Ninety-Eight Banquet Hall, noting that the doors were delivered and installed last week.

Mr. Ekstrom reported that seasonal staff have begun returning to work at the golf courses.

Mr. Ekstrom reported that staff have begun initial mowing and spring treatments on the courses, including fertilizer applications, as part of the seasonal regimen to prepare for the upcoming season.

Mr. Jim Baranak, Director of Park Services, provided the Board with an update regarding the fleet. Mr. Baranak noted that, after speaking with a representative from D'Arcy, stating the District is expected to begin receiving vehicles in mid-April.

Mr. Baranak stated staff began prepping baseball fields for Spring.

Mr. Baranak stated that there is a drainage issue at Tezak Park. Brian Eggemeyer, Park Services, visited the site and installed a drain pipe in an effort to improve drainage and help dry out the area.

Ms. Brumfiel, Director of Recreation, reported on the following:

- Spring soccer registration is set to conclude March 27. U12 soccer is filled with 96 participants.
- 180 participants in gymnastics and tumbling.
- 128 participants in tumble bees.
- Discovery day camp has 33 enrolled and daytime adventures has 46 enrolled.
- Great egg hunt is this Saturday at 10 a.m. at Nowell and 12 p.m. at Heggie.
- Spring break mania is this week.
- This Wednesday at USF, Megan Williams, Recreation Superintendent, will be presented the Distinguished Professional of the Year award.
- SRJC will be hosting the Region E Unified bags tournament on Saturday, April 11 and Spring games on April 25 and 26.
- Sunshine and Rainbows has 57 participants enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Sunshine and Rainbows egg hunt is April 1.
- Winter recital was March 14 and ticket sales totaled \$3,500.00.
- Sweetheart Invitational concession profit was \$6,600.00 and team fees was \$9,500.00.
- Kathy Green Multi-Purpose Center Spring craft show is April 19.

- Jay Darnell starts the week after Easter at the Inwood Sports Complex.

Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance, informed the Board that Selden Fox, the District's auditor has completed their work.

President Gulas inquired about an invoice related to the IRC January renovations project. Ms. Talarico responded that the invoice covers the first phase for the ammonia system work. Mr. Kelley further noted that the second payment, which would cover the second phase of the roofing project, is currently on hold.

Teri Talarico, Director of Operations, stated the Nature Center had their Sap to Syrup last weekend with over 400 in attendance.

Ms. Talarico stated the Nature Center had Spring ceramics this past weekend and their fairy and gnome fest is in May.

Ms. Talarico informed the Board she will be working with Mr. Baranak, Director of Park Services and Katie Zaban, Nature Center Superintendent to renovate the Sugar Shack project.

Ms. Talarico informed the Board that the Inwood Ice Arena's Ice Show is this weekend with 3 shows and 100 skaters. Ms. Talarico thanked Park Services for the help setting up.

Ms. Talarico gave the following updates on the Inwood Athletic Club, the pool is having a sold out Easter egg hunt on March 29. Ms. Talarico is working with Gina Rodriguez, Fitness Superintendent and Molly Hoover, Aquatics Superintendent, on small Inwood Athletic Club building repairs. Inwood Athletic Club staff will be meeting with ComEd on an energy efficient program for both Inwood Athletic Club and Inwood Ice Arena. Three fans were installed in the Inwood Athletic Club to help with air flow. Ms. Rodriguez has been working with a carpet company to clean the upstairs fitness floor. Irene McCormick is coming to the Inwood Athletic Club to continue education for fitness staff. Membership is continuing to increase and up 225 members. Ms. Talarico wanted to recognize Alison Reum, Fitness Coordinator and Alexis Rico, Membership Coordinator, on getting two new corporate members, Light ways and Local 176.

Ms. Talarico stated Communication is working with Stephanie Burns, Event Manager, on Venue Ninety-Eight's website and social media.

President Gulas inquired about a smell allegedly coming from Cemenos in the Inwood Athletic Club. Mr. Staab responded, stating, quotes were received for an exhaust fan to be installed and will have a further discussion with Cemeneos.

Commissioner Perez inquired about the carpet in the Inwood Athletic Club. Ms. Talarico responded once the carpet is cleaned, the carpet tiles will be replaced by park services, and staff is actively working on the project.

Sean Caddigan, Deputy Director, reported that the carts will be out at the courses this week, weather pending.

Mr. Caddigan opened a discussion seeking direction from the Board on how to proceed with the driving range bays at Inwood Golf Course. Mr. Caddigan stated at last month's board meeting the Board approved to receive a quote from Featherstone Project & Construction Management for 24 driving range bays at Inwood Golf Course. Mr. Caddigan then introduced Tom Featherstone and Kevin Burke from Featherstone Project & Construction Management, who were present to address any questions. There was a continued discussion, and it was decided that staff will obtain an updated quote from Featherstone Project & Construction Management for 12 bays to present at the next board meeting.

Mr. Caddigan updated the Board on the 2027 event and presented an initial layout. Mr. Caddigan asked Board members to reach out with any ideas or feedback.

Mr. Staab stated that staff met with Jay Darnell a couple of weeks ago regarding extending his contract. Mr. Darnell mentioned that, starting next year, he would like to add Friday's to his calendar. Staff expressed some concerns due to softball teams using the Inwood Sports Complex fields on Friday nights but wanted to open topic for discussion.

H. Action Items

1. Old Business
2. New Business
 - a. Approval of Ordinance #872- Cash Contribution in Lieu of Land- D.R. Horton, INC. Neustoneshire Subdivision

Mr. Staab stated that the Joliet Park District was offered cash in lieu of property for Neustoneshire Subdivision. If approved, the district would receive \$383,000.00 to put toward other projects in the vicinity, in accordance with the land cash ordinance. Commissioner Mutz made a motion to approve ordinance #872- an ordinance approving adopting an agreement with D.R. Horton, INC. relating to a cash contribution in lieu of land for Neustoneshire Subdivision. President Gulas seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

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

- b. Bids and Awards of Contracts
 - b(1). Wedgewood Golf Course Parking Lot and Path & Inwood Golf Course Driveway and Parking Lot Seal Coating- Denler, Inc. \$46,843.71

Mr. Ekstrom explained the necessary maintenance for the asphalt at Wedgewood Golf Course and Inwood Golf Course. This presented project is to reseal and strip the parking lots. The proposed project includes resealing and striping the parking lots. The project was put out to bid, and Denler, INC was identified as the lowest bidder. Commissioner Mutz inquired whether the golf courses would need to close during the project. Mr. Ekstrom responded that, pending approval, staff will coordinate with Denler, INC to determine logistics and minimize any disruptions. Mr. Staab expressed appreciation to Mr. Kelley, Director of Finance and golf staff for their efforts in advancing the project.

Commissioner Raasch made a motion to accept and approve the bid from Denler, INC in the amount of \$46,843.71. Vice President Tatro seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

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

c. Quotes and Award of Contracts

c(1). Engineer Professional Services Ridgewood Park Topographic Survey and Concept Plan- TWG Engineering \$11,500.00

Mr. Staab informed the Board that staff are aware of the issue with the Ridgewood Park wall and are actively working to address it. Engineer, Joe Hammer will be coming out to provide an estimate, after which staff will reconvene to review next steps.

Commissioner Mutz made a motion to accept and award a contract for Engineer Professional Services at Ridgewood Park to TWG Engineering in the amount of \$11,500.00. Vice President Tatro seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

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

c(2). Weed Control Application Services- TruGreen \$12,359.90

Mr. Baranak stated that three quotes were received for a select number of Joliet Park District parks to receive herbicide weed application for 2026. The application will take place in April. It is staff's recommendation to proceed with TruGreen, as TruGreen submitted the lowest quote. Mr. Staab stated that in 2019, staff received calls from patrons inquiring about the products being used at the parks. Conversely, when staff does not apply treatments, staff receives complaints that weeds are overgrown and the parks appear poorly maintained. Mr. Staab noted he wanted to address the Board, stating that if calls are received again, there has been prior discussion and a belief that the current approach is a better practice for managing weeds.

President Gulas made a motion to accept and award a contract for weed control application services to TruGreen in the amount of \$12,359.90. Commissioner Mutz seconded the motion and it carried as follows:

Ayes: Gulas, Mutz, Perez, Raasch, Tatro

Nays: None

I. BOARD COMMENT

1. Committee Report

a. Joliet Park Foundation

President Gulas reported Moonlight Golf will be held on July 31 and the Poinsettia luncheon will be held on November 24 at the Barber and Oberwortmann Horticultural Center.

b. Joliet Regional Airport

Commissioner Raasch reported the next Airport meeting will be held on April 1.

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 6:31pm, 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

At 6:44pm the Board returned to the regular meeting.

K. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by President Gulas. The motion was seconded by Vice President Tatro, and it carried unanimously. The time was 6:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kren

Recording Secretary