

Regular Meeting

August 24, 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, Tatro, Gulas, Mutz

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 and Executive Session of July 28, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mutz, seconded by Commissioner Raasch, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of July 28, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Mutz, Raasch, Perez, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

E. Approval of the bills and payroll for the month of July 2026 - \$1,994,135.68

A motion was made by Commissioner Raasch, seconded by Commissioner Mutz, to approve the bills and payroll in the amount of \$1,994,135.68 for the month of July, 2026. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Mutz, Perez, Tatro, Gulas

Nays: None

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

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

Cash on hand beginning of month:	\$	11,813,256.69
Total Receipts:	\$	17,401,346.55
Total Disbursements:	\$	15,460,483.45
Cash on hand end of month:	\$	10,939,604.16
Total Investments:	\$	13,426,381.19
Total Cash & Investments:	\$	24,365,985.35
Total Fund Balances	\$	16,649,091.84

Vice President Tatro made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of July, 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, followed up with the Board regarding an email from the City of Joliet concerning the water main. Mr. Staab addressed the City of Joliet regarding the Board's concerns following last month's meeting about the water main ending at the stadium. City of Joliet staff came in this week to meet with Executive Director, Brad Staab, Deputy Director, Sean Caddigan and Director of Finance, Glenn Kelley. The City of Joliet provided a drawing, which was forwarded to the Board for review. Several alternates were presented. The base option, if everything remains the same, would have a total cost of \$750,000. Alternate one would be \$1,000,070.00, and alternate two would be \$1,107,000.00. Mr. Staab stated the main concern brought to the table was whether the Joliet Park District would remain liable for the water main if it were reconnected to the City of Joliet. The City of Joliet confirmed that the Joliet Park District would remain responsible for the water main. Mr. Staab stated a concern was also raised regarding water pressure. The City of Joliet stated that, regardless of which option was selected, water pressure would no longer be an issue. When asked for the City of Joliet's recommendation, they recommended Alternate One, which would reconnect the system to Infantry Drive. Mr. Staab stated Alternate One was also recommended because it would provide redundancy in the water main system. If one water main were to experience a break or other issue, water could still be supplied from the opposite side. Mr. Staab acknowledged although Alternate One would add approximately \$300,000.00 to the project cost, it would provide additional reliability and help alleviate some of the issues experienced in the past. Commissioner Perez inquired whether there was any financial assistance available or planned to help offset the cost of the engineering and management. Mr. Staab stated that the Joliet Park District could potentially receive a 20% reduction in the project cost from the City of Joliet. Mr. Staab stated staff is recommending having an engineer conduct soil borings and engineering work on the parking lot. At this time, project costs are estimates, and additional information is needed to determine the actual scope and cost of the project. Staff contacted Joe Hammer, who indicated that they could perform the soil borings and engineering work at an estimated cost of \$20,000.00. Following discussion with the Board, it was decided to proceed with having Joe Hammer conduct an estimate for the project.

2. Staff Reports

Mr. John Ekstrom, Director of Horticulture and Golf Grounds, discussed Venue Ninety- Eight at the Barber and Oberwortmann Horticultural Center will host a bigger wedding on August 15, 2026. Mr. Ekstrom thanked Stephanie Burns, Event Manager and Jodi Brooker, Food and Beverage Manager for hosting two successful weddings thus far. Commissioner Perez inquired about staffing at Venue Ninety-Eight. Mr. Ekstrom stated that, at this time, staff are still being pulled from the golf courses

and that this practice will continue until a formal position is posted at a later date. Vice President Tatro inquired about the profit margin Venue Ninety-Eight is generating from weddings. Mr. Ekstrom stated that the net profit from weddings held this past weekend was approximately \$15,000.

Mr. Ekstrom thanked golf grounds staff for keeping up with all the rain.

Commissioner Raasch requested that, at the end of the year, a report be provided identifying individuals who were unable to golf with a cart due to weather conditions.

Mr. Ekstrom stated that the aeration dates are September 8-9 for Woodruff Golf Course, October 5-6 for Inwood Golf Club and October 7-8 for Wedgewood Golf Course.

Mr. Jim Baranak, Director of Park Services, informed the Board that Park Services is still working to catch up from recent rainfall. Staff began the Forest Park playground remodel; however, the project is currently on hold due to staffing needs and weather-related conditions at other parks. Staff anticipate being caught up within the next week and a half.

Mr. Baranak updated the Board on Pilcher Park, stating Pilcher Park was closed several times due to weather. Numerous trees were down throughout the park. Park Services is currently assessing the damage, which is significant. The bridges are also closed, and while some trails remain open, others are blocked by fallen trees. Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance has provided pictures to the insurance company and is currently working with the insurance company regarding potential claims for the damage.

Mr. Baranak stated plumbing work on the ADA bathrooms at Inwood Park is expected to begin next week. The concrete work has been postponed due to the recent rainfall, which is expected to delay the project by several weeks.

Ms. Laura Brumfiel, Director of Recreation, informed the Board about the following programs:

- Kids at Hart started last week, with 36 participants.
- Nowell Park Recreation Center Back to School Fest was August 8th. Staff gave away over 700 backpacks. Thank you to Megan Williams, Recreation Superintendent, and staff.
- Troy Trojans started, with 73 participants.
- Summer recitals were held this past Saturday at the Kathy Green Multi-Purpose Center. Total earned was \$3,535.
- Chicago Fire Camps will start again this Fall at the Hartman Recreation Center.
- Hartman Recreation Center rentals are filling up for winter.
- Jay Darnell returns to the Inwood Sports Complex in September.
- University of St. Francis and Joliet Catholic Academy started at the Joliet Memorial Stadium.

Mr. Kelley, Director of Finance, stated July was the month for bond interest payments, and all payments have been processed and taken care of. Mr. Kelly also stated our 2026 bond will be coming up for maturity in October.

Ms. Teri Talarico, Director of Operations, shared a report from recent water testing at the Inwood Ice Arena and Inwood Athletic Club, as they are continuing to experience leaks and wanted to confirm that the water intrusion was not related to the new roof and to identify any other areas where water may be entering the building. The testing found that a significant amount of water is entering through the windows. The rubber seals around the windows are approximately 20 years old and have deteriorated, allowing water to come through. Water was also found entering through the Inwood Athletic Club stairwell, which Park Services has already addressed and repaired. There are also a few cracks in the concrete blocks that are contributing to water intrusion; however, the majority of the leaks appear to be related to the windows. A leak was also identified in the Inwood Ice Arena lobby. Testing determined that there are windows above the ceiling in that area, allowing water to enter. Staff are currently reviewing the cost of repairing and replacing the affected window seals and addressing the other areas of water intrusion as soon as possible.

Ms. Talarico reported on the following:

- Inwood Athletic Club elevator repair work has been rescheduled for August 31- September 4. Studio 1 classes will be moved into Studio 2, and Studio 1's flooring will be redone during this time.
- Inwood Athletic Club pool will have a few closures due to upcoming swim meets.
- Inwood Athletic Club Boot Camp started with 53 enrolled.
- Namastadium event was held Sunday, with 108 participants registered. The event raised nearly \$2,000 for Pink Heals. Ms. Talarico thanked Double J's Sports Bar for sponsoring the post-party.
- Fun Friday Night at the Inwood Athletic Club will be held September 4 at Inwood Golf Club.
- Fun Friday Night at the Inwood Athletic Club is scheduled for November 13, which will include a celebration of the Inwood Athletic Club's 20th Anniversary.
- Referral program will be rolled out during the month of October, at the Inwood Athletic Club, with additional information to come.
- The Inwood Ice Arena will host a spring tournament on April 16, with November dates still awaiting confirmation.
- Steve Egan, Owner of Legacy Sports Pro Shop, agreed to replace the ice skates. Mr. Egan will replace 100 skates in September and another 100 in early spring, which will replace the entire skate inventory.
- Open skate at the Inwood Ice Arena will be held August 28 from 7-8:30pm. Dan Dutkiewicz, Ice Arena Superintendent, will also be expanding open skate hours during September.
- Ice Arena staff are working on a new program called "Stick and Puck".
- At the Nature Center, staff have not yet received a quote for the generator. The information will be shared with the Board as soon as it is received.

- Nature Center Little Sprouts Preschool is full for the fall session, which begins September 8.
- Nature Center is introducing a new program called “Bats, Bugs and Beyond”.

President Gulas complimented Yoga in the Park at Paul E. Briese Park.

Sean Caddigan, Deputy Director, stated that he and Glenn Kelley, Director of Finance met with Redwood Apartments Association regarding a proposed multi-family apartment complex at the northwest corner of Van Dyke and County Line. Redwood Apartments Association are interested in possibly entering into a land cash deal with the Joliet Park District. Based on the initial conversation, it appears they would prefer to make payment in lieu of providing a playground. Approximately 70% of the anticipated residents will be age 55 and older. Mr. Caddigan requested guidance on whether the Board is comfortable proceeding with a land cash deal. Mr. Caddigan will follow up with the board if and when this matter needs to be added as an agenda item moving forward.

Mr. Caddigan stated he and Beth Ley, Corporate Relations Supervisor met with Ed West regarding the possibility of installing solar panels at the Inwood Ice Arena, Inwood Athletic Club, Kathy Green Multi-Purpose Center and Nowell Park Recreation Center. Staff reached out to the companies that recently competed the roof work to ensure that installing solar panels would not void any existing warranties. Mr. Caddigan is seeking feedback from the Board and will forward information and pricing received to the Board for review. Mr. Caddigan stated there would be no upfront cost to the Joliet Park District. However, concerns were raised regarding responsibility for repairs if a golf ball were to damage a solar panel or if the panels were damaged during a storm. The proposed agreement would be a 25-year lease, and questions were also raised whether the Joliet Park District would receive technology updates as solar technology advances. Mr. Caddigan is seeking guidance from the Board as to whether solar panels are something the Board would like him to continue exploring and requested additional thoughts or concerns. Mr. Caddigan stated that a structural engineer would need to evaluate the roof to ensure that it can safely support the additional weight of the solar panels. There was a further discussion, and it was decided that Mr. Caddigan will gather additional information regarding the proposed solar panel project and present information to the Board for further consideration at a later time.

Mr. Caddigan updated the Board on the Joliet Regional Airport runway project. Mr. Caddigan stated crews are finishing the work and currently addressing the joint repairs in preparation for seal coating the runways. Painting of the runways is scheduled to begin tomorrow. Throughout the project, Jenny McFarland, Airport Superintendent, will coordinate temporary closures and communicate them to pilots and anyone else who may be affected. Mr. Caddigan stated Park Services is currently scraping the main hangar door in preparation for painting. The door will be painted in house.

Mr. Caddigan reminded the Board that the election is coming up. Packet pickup will begin tomorrow at 8 a.m. Packets may be turned back in beginning Monday, November 16, at 8 a.m., and must be returned no later than November 23 and 5 p.m.

Ms. Talarico stated that the Board received a copy of the purchasing policy that was approved in September 2025. Ms. Talarico also stated The Joliet Park District attorney subsequently reviewed the policy and made minor revisions. The revised policy was approved following attorney's review. The changes included updating the bidding threshold for services to \$30,000 and the other applicable threshold to \$60,000. Ms. Talarico wanted to ensure that the Board received the final copy of the purchasing policy, which was provided to the Board today.

President Gulas inquired about the status of the Joliet Archery Club. Mr. Caddigan stated that he reached out to Jeff Zych following the last Board meeting. Mr. Caddigan also stated he advised Mr. Zych that the Board did not want the building located near Francis Road. Mr. Zych proposed an alternative location near the crossbow range, which would be a couple hundred yards off of Francis Road and would not be visible from the road. Mr. Zych will review the floodplain areas and develop a new proposed plan. Mr. Zych will contact the Joliet Park District when the plan is ready, and the proposal will be brought back to the Board for review.

H. Action Items

1. Old Business

There was no Old Business.

2. New Business

a. Appointment of Board Secretary

President Gulas stated since Mr. Staab is stationed at Woodruff Golf Course, in order to keep business flowing at the main administrative office and ensure documents are available for signatures, the Board will make an Appointment for Board Secretary and switch the position to Sean Caddigan, Deputy Director.

Commissioner Mutz made a motion to approve the Appointment of Sean Caddigan as Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Vice President Tatro and carried as follows:

Ayes: Mutz, Tatro, Raasch, Perez, Gulas

Nays: None

b. Quotes and Award of Contracts

b(1). 2026-2027 Airport Liability Insurance- Facer Insurance Agency, INC

Commissioner Raasch made a motion, seconded by Vice President Tatro, to accept and award contract for the 2026-2027 Airport Liability Insurance to Facer Insurance Agency, INC. The motion carried as follows:

Ayes: Raasch, Tatro, Raasch, Mutz, Perez

Nays: None

b(2). Approval of Golf Grounds Equipment- John Deere Compact Utility Tractor- Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC- \$60,783.03

President Gulas made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mutz, to Accept and Award Contract for John Deere Compact Utility Tractor to Revels Turf and Tractor, LLC, 180 Corporate Drive, Elgin, IL 60423 in the amount of \$60,783.03. The motion carried as follows:

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

b(3). Ratification of Approval- 2026 Ford/Starcraft Allstar SRJC Wheelchair Accessible Bus- Midwest Transit Equipment, INC.- \$122,100.00

Ms. Brumfiel stated that the Joliet Park District received a proposal from Midwest Transit, a company the District has worked with in the past, for the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible bus. The District currently has a wheelchair accessible bus; however, the ramp is no longer functioning properly and the bus is not safe to operate on the road. Ms. Brumfiel explained that the department has added a second day program and has increased the number of participants, creating a greater need for accessible transportation. The bus is essential to the department's operations and the District does not want to disrupt accessibility services, an emergency purchase of a new wheelchair accessible bus was requested. The purchase will be funded through the SRJC operating budget.

Commissioner Mutz made a motion, seconded Commissioner Perez to Ratify the Approval of the 2026 Ford/Starcraft Allstar SRJC Wheelchair Accessible Bus to Midwest Transit Equipment, INC, 146 W. Issert Drive, Kankakee, IL 60901 in the amount of \$122,100.00

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

I. BOARD COMMENT

1. Committee Report

a. Joliet Park Foundation

No report.

b. Joliet Regional Airport

It was noted that the Airport Fest is September 20.

Commissioner Raasch inquired whether staff has heard from Senator Meg Loughran Cappel or State Representative Natalie Manley regarding the gas station by the Joliet Regional Airport. Mr. Caddigan stated he had spoken with Ms. Loughran Cappel and Ms. Manley and was informed that there is nothing further that can be done at this time until the owner relinquishes their rights to the gas

station property. Vice President Tatro inquired if the EPA was able to look into the gas station seeking if the tanks were full. Mr. Caddigan verified that the tanks had been filled at one point and that citations had been issued. Mr. Caddigan also stated the State Fire Marshal issued citations for having fuel tanks that are more than five years' old with lack of activity on site. The matter has now been referred to the Attorney General's Office. Mr. Staab stated that he would call Ms. Loughran Cappel tomorrow to discuss the matter further.

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 5:59pm, 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, Perez, Mutz
Nays:	None
Absent:	None

At 8:42pm the Board returned to the regular meeting.

K. Adjournment

With all agenda items discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice-President Tatro. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Perez and it carried unanimously. The time was 8:43pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Kren
Recording Secretary