FRANKFORT PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY MAY 12, 2026
140 OAK STREET, FRANKFORT, IL 60423

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McCarey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT Commissioner Ponton
Commissioner McCarey
Commissioner Gentry
Commissioner Barz
Commissioner Ruvoli

ABSENT None

ALSO PRESENT Gina Hassett, Executive Director; Stacy Proper, Supt. Recreation; Regina Ross-Ellison, Business Manager; Edward Newton, Supt. Building and Grounds; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.

GUESTS: Beth Nagel, Recreational Supervisor, Athletics

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – Approved as presented.

5. CONSENT AGENDA – Items on the consent agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a board member so requests, in which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. President McCarey asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

A. **Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026**
B. **Approval of the Committee Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026**
C. **Approval of the Executive Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026**

Commissioner Gentry made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the suggested changes and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Gentry, Ponton, Barz, Ruvoli, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

6. Finance Report- APPROVAL OF BILLS (financial reports attached) – President McCarey asked for a motion to approve the April 30, 2026, Accounts Payable and Payroll in the amount of $425,007.19 which may include travel and lodging expenses. Regina gave an overview of the list of bills and highlighted several of the larger payments. Capital Expenditures are $139,467.93 and non-Capital expenditures are $189, 204.08. It was noted that $6,500 Judgement Settlement ended the two-year Five Oaks HOA suit. The roof replacement of $23, 552.00 was for the West Hallway Vestibule. There are three more roofs needing repairs/replacement, Founders Room, the area over the locker room and the area over the offices. Discussion of refunds and several bills was held.

Commissioner Ponton made a motion to approve April 30, 2026 Accounts Payable in the amount of $425,007.19 as presented and Commissioner Gentry seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Gentry, Barz, Ruvoli, Ponton, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

7. CITIZENS COMMENTS AND/OR CORRESPONDENCE –
   A. Staff received a thank you letter from IAPD.
   B. A resident called asking for escalation of treatment to the pond and grasses for ticks near Sara Springs Park. Discussion was held.

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
   - President McCarey said he wanted to discuss the Senate Bill 3907 to license Park Districts programming after it was part of the IAPD Park's Day agenda. He noted that he and the Board are very concerned about the State trying to regulate FPD programming. Currently Park Districts are exempt until 2027. Licensing of the proposed individuals and programs would be very hard to administrate, costly and cause much delay without adding significant oversight. It is an unfunded mandate. Gina has reached out to Frankfort's legislators. FPD already does background checks of employees and every coach. Discussion was held. IAPD opposes proposed Senate Bill 3907, which would require youth recreational park district programs be licensed by Illinois Department Early Childhood. This would place significant burden for all park districts therefore IAPD is advocating for a change to the proposed bill and has asked for support from Districts.
   - He told the Board and Staff that he was grateful for the time spent down in Springfield at the IAPD Parks Day. It was very busy and interesting.

9. PUBLIC HEARING
   A. Public Hearing on FY 26/27 Budget - President McCarey asked for a motion to open the Budget Hearing to the Public at 7:23 p.m. for comments and discussion.

      C*ommissioner Barz made a motion to open the Budget Hearing* and *Commissioner Ruvoli seconded the motion. All present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote.*

      There being no public comments, President McCarey asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

      Commissioner Gentry made a motion to close the Budget Hearing at 7:24 p.m.* and *Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Barz, Ruvoli, Gentry, Ponton, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –
   A. Motion to Approve the FY 26/27 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 2026-5 – President McCarey asked for a motion.

      Commissioner Gentry made a motion to approve Ordinance 2026-5 for the budget and appropriations as presented for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2027 and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Ponton, Ruvoli, Barz, Gentry, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

B. Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-5 for Fund Transfers – Gina explained that the auditor said to establish a resolution for the transfer. It was presented and discussed at Committee. President McCarey asked for a motion.

Commissioner Ruvoli made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-5 Approving the transfer of $400,000 of funds from the Corporate Fund with $300,000 to the Capitol Fund and $100,000 to the Recreation Fund and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Gentry, Ponton, Barz, Ruvoli, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

C. Motion to Elect Board Positions – President McCarey previously poled the commissioners to determine if anyone wanted to hold a different position on the Board. All were content with their current duties. President McCarey asked for a motion.

Commissioner Ruvoli nominated and made a motion to approve the Slate of Commissioner McCarey for President, Commissioner Gentry as Vice President, Commissioner Ponton as Treasurer, Commissioner Ruvoli as Secretary and Commissioner Barz as Historian and Past President and Commissioner Barz seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: (5) Commissioners Barz, Gentry, Ponton, Ruvoli, McCarey
Nay: (0)
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (0)

Motion approved

- Tax Bill – The Park District received a property tax bill for Main Park. The Village was to deed the property back to the Park District which they did. What didn't happen, is the deed transfer was not recorded at the County level. Recently the County recorded that transfer, but the Park District was not notified. Staff have been in contact with the County who said we need to pay for the first installment and apply for the tax exemption. Once the exemption is received, which can take a few months, the money paid, which was $386 will be refunded. Staff have submitted the proper paperwork for an exemption.
- Village Administrator – Rob Piscia retired from the Village after 40 years of service. John Burica was appointed as the Village Administrator in May. Zachary Brown is moving to Assistant Village Administrator.
- Old Stone – Gina discussed the sale of the park parcel with the Village Administrator. Old Stone Park parcel is designated as a utility easement. FPD would like to have the easement pulled back to the north end or the west side of the park parcel so when/if the parcel is developed FPD would have the ability to do so. She offered to write a memo to take to the Village Committee. They discussed but the HOA was present and voiced objections to any sale. The HOA, instead, wants FPD to install sidewalks in front of the parcel. FPD does not have the funding to pay for sidewalks. The sidewalks should have been installed by the developer before the parcel was accepted, but the developer went under. The Village might help with the sidewalks.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Special Recreation – Gina noted that last month's meeting for LWSRA discussed the upcoming 50th Anniversary Sneaker Ball. She asked the commissioners to check to see if they could attend. A table has been reserved.

B. Building and Grounds Report – Ed's report was included in the Board's packets.

- Spring activities – Weekly mowing is back. Garbage cans are all out, bathrooms are all open and work to the softball and soccer fields are being done.
- Boiler system – Ed is in discussion with the contractor for solutions for repairs or replacement parts.
- Roof – The west hallway at the Founders Center has been leaking for a long time and has now been repaired.
- Fort Frankfort – The playground replacement project has made some progress. Some equipment has been received but it was wrong.
- Splash Pad – Some of the pipes have cracked. Staff have made repairs.
- Summer Seasonal Employees – A returning summer seasonal employee has already begun working. The older fleet vehicles are being inspected and repaired for use by these employees.
- Weed Treatment – When treatments are applied staff does post signs and it is posted on Social Media.

C. The Recreation Report – Stacey's report was included in the Board's packets.

- Summer Registration – Registration has been very busy with senior programming, trips and camp filling up fast.
- Spring Events – Earth Day, Kids Garage Sale, Lunch Buddies and Bowling with Mom were all held in the latter part of April and Early May. All were well attended.
- Spring Soccer League – There are 186 participants registered for the league. It's off to a good start and final games are this coming weekend. Beth thanked Stacy for substituting for her while she was in Florida.
- Men's Softball League – The season started May 5th and will continue for 9 weeks. There are eight teams with six returning from last year. Beth set up WhatsApp with the team captains. She said the program is doing good.
- Pre-School – Staff is working to fill all spots for the next sessions. Graduation is next week.
- Day Camp – Kristin has some returning counselors and some new. It will start in June. She has the field trips planned. Training for counselors will be in late May.
- Community Showcase – It will be held May 31 at Breidert Green.

a. Community Outreach – Julie's report was included in the packets. Julie has some great unique sponsors for this year's events. She is working on the Short Run and Pours for Parks. The report has been produced by See My Legacy.

D. Public Relations – Debs report was included in the Board's packets. She has included the Digital Media report.

E. Planning Report – None

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

12. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS –

Commissioner Gentry said thank you for all the work on the budget. He thanked Ed for the update on Stone Creek. The parks look good. Lakeview North has tall weeds, but they are native to the area.
Commissioner Ponton addressed all of the staff and said they are doing a great job. He appreciates all they do and told everyone to take the time to enjoy their families and friends in the coming months.
Commissioner Ruvoli asked about the progress of the move of the Dog Park. The final renderings and going out to bid will be late in June per Gina. Discussion was held regarding some of the plans for Commissioners Park. The electrical towers in the park was discussed. He said thank you for the arrangements for the IAPD Parks Day. He thanked Ed for all the work his staff is doing and

said congratulations on the new truck. He thanked Regina for her part and the whole team in getting the budget done. He gave Kudos to Stacy for the Kids Garage Sale and Earth Day. He thanked Beth for being at the meeting and all the work she does on the programs she runs. He asked Ed for more mulch at Heritage Knolls before the Party in the Park.
Commissioner Barz thanked Beth for attending the meeting. He also thanked those who assisted him at the IAPD Parks Day. He had a great time and learned a lot. He said Julie has done a great job and Stacy has done a great job on programming. He asked if there is room for additional programming and was told that some are removed to enable some new trends. He thanked the staff for all the work on the Budget. The garden plots look wonderful. He asked if some previous commissioners would be invited to the reopening of Fort Frankfort and Gina said yes, she will share the list with him. He noted that several area park districts are experiencing some issues.
Gina Hassett – Informed the Board that she will be out of town during the Short Run and asked for volunteers.
Stacy Proper – June 3rd will be a Classic Car show along with a Movie in Main Park. This is a new event. The movie is American Graffiti.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

14. ADJOURNMENT –– President McCarey asked for a motion to adjourn the Frankfort Park District Board of Commissioners Regular monthly meeting of May 12, 2026 at 8:05 p.m.
Commissioner Gentry so moved, and Commissioner Ponton seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, all present voted Aye. Motion passed by a voice vote at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Strand
Board Minutes Secretary