

**APPROVED**  
**Mt. Prospect Park District**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**February 18, 2026**

A Regular Board Meeting of the Mt. Prospect Park District, Cook County, Illinois, was held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at the Central Community Center Facility of the Mt. Prospect Park District.

Commissioner Doherty called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Commissioner Starr called the Roll:

The following Commissioners were present upon the roll:

Present: Commissioners Masnica, Tuczak, Lowen, Nicholas, Starr and Doherty

Remote: None

Absent: Commissioner Murphy

The following individuals were also in attendance (present or remote) at the meeting:

**Administrative Staff:** Jim Jarog-Executive Director, George Giese-Deputy Director, Ruth Yueill-Director of Community Relations & Marketing, Mike Azzaretto-Director of Recreation, Matt Dziubinski-Director of Parks & Planning, Mary Kiaupa-Director of Human Resources & Risk, Jon Zgoda-IT Professional/ Remote Meeting Moderator, Jeff Langguth-Director of Golf Operations, Jeanette Foley-Executive Assistant, Toria Smith-Lions Recreation Center & Cultural Arts Manager, Maddy Moon-Community Relations & Marketing Coordinator

**Professionals:** Tom Hoffman-District Attorney, Lee Howard-CPA GAI,

**Visitors and others in attendance:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

President Doherty inquired if any Commissioners had additions or changes to the Regular Meeting Agenda.

There being no changes to the Agenda, President Doherty requested a motion to approve.

**MOTION:**

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Starr and seconded by Commissioner Nicholas. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as written and none opposed. Motion passed

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

President Doherty read the following statement:

All items identified may be considered routine by the Board of Commissioners and be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Commissioner so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and approved under its normal sequence on the Regular Meeting Agenda.

- A. Approval Of Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, January 21, 2026.
- B. Ratification Of Accounts Payable for January 2026 in the amount of \$1,395,429.77.
- C. Ratification Of Payroll for January 2026 in the amount of \$758,097.70.

President Doherty asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Tuczak made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Nicholas.

Commissioner Starr called the roll:

Ayes: Commissioners Masnica, Tuczak, Lowen, Nicholas, Starr and Doherty

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Murphy

Motion Passed

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**FY 2026 Draft Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #882**

**Deputy Director George Giese presented:**

The Draft Combined Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance (B&A) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 is available for public inspection at the Central Community Center, meeting the required thirty-day period before final March approval.

Net changes since the November presentation are summarized for the Park Board. The most significant change is the allocation of previously-received and newly-awarded grant funds, resulting in a net increase of over \$2.1 million to the budget deficit (\$2,475,850 added expenditure offset by \$332,500 added revenue). This includes carryover from reimbursement grants (e.g., OSLAD, Tourism, Bicycle Pathway, CDBG, TIF, and a DCEO/legislative grant for the RecPlex Chiller) and a new \$300,000 DCEO/legislative grant for Weller Creek Park improvements. Appropriating these funds, which stem from major capital successes, makes them available for ongoing capital project spending.

Minor refinements include deploying anticipated credit card expenses in the Recreation Fund, updating labor and benefits based on open enrollment changes, and increasing budgets for additional training opportunities.

Overall positive trends remain: the Corporate, Recreation, Social Security, and Debt Service Funds are budgeted for surpluses. The total budget deficit of -\$3,210,210 is primarily due to fund carryover budgets in grant capital improvements (-\$2,143,350), the Non Bond Capital Fund (-\$834,600, including Brentwood sale proceeds), and the NWSRA Fund (-\$166,792, including ADA project allocations). A budgetary contingency remains in the Liability Fund (-\$349,888).

Referendum bonds are included for the first time, impacting both incoming tax revenues and outgoing expenditures in the Debt Service Fund, significantly affecting year-to-year percentage change. Excluding capital projects and bonds, the operating budget difference between FY 2025 and FY 2026 is a 1.9% increase (+\$477,547).

The preliminary B&A budget figures were rigorously determined, and appropriations were increased 10% from budgets for spending flexibility, a practice ensuring the Park District remains within its established overall spending authority. The B&A will return for the required hearing and final approval at the March Park Board meeting.

Leadership thanks staff, Lee Howard, James Howard, and the GAI team for their assistance. The Draft B&A will remain available for public inspection for the next month.

**APPROVAL ITEMS**

**A. Acceptance of the Bid for the Mt. Prospect Golf Club Clubhouse Flooring Replacement**

Director of Parks and Planning Matt Dziubinski presented:

The 2004 Golf Course Clubhouse, which replaced the 1929 structure, was followed by a major grounds renovation in 2015 and interior improvements, including new carpeting, in 2016. Since then, the flooring has experienced significant wear in the main corridor and pro shop exit, plus heavy staining in the bar/grille room.

Staff sought materials better suited for current foot traffic and easier maintenance. The new flooring schedule includes advanced textile composite flooring, luxury vinyl tile (LVT), and commercial carpet tiles, all with a 15-year service life and 10-year to limited lifetime warranties.

Proposed improvements include durable hard-surface-like flooring for the corridor/pro-shop and a balance of LVT and commercial carpet tiles for the bar/grille area.

After a public bid opening on February 4, 2026, ABM Commercial Flooring was the apparent low bidder. Staff checked references, which were positive, confirming ABM is a reputable and capable contractor. If approved, the project will run from March 2 to March 13, 2026. The facility will remain open for limited Park District operations, including the Pro Shop. Staff recommends approving the flooring replacement.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Starr made a motion to accept the Base Bid And Alternate # 1 For The Golf Course's Interior Flooring Replacement For A Total Project Cost Of \$25,245.00 As Submitted By ABM Commercial Flooring, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Lowen.

Commissioner Starr called the roll:

Ayes: Commissioners Masnica, Tuczak, Lowen, Nicholas, Starr and Doherty

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Murphy

Motion Passed

**B. Acceptance of the Bid for RecPlex Pool - Dehumidification Unit Replacement**

Director Matt Dziubinski presented on the necessary replacement of the RecPlex indoor pool dehumidification unit.

Indoor pools require dehumidifiers to manage high humidity (60–70%) and maintain air quality by removing moisture and chloramines (irritating chemical byproducts). The unit uses refrigeration and air exchange cycles but wears quickly due to harsh chemicals and humidity.

The original 1991 unit was undersized, leading to a 2007 replacement. The current RecPlex unit has had multiple recent issues, requiring emergency repairs. It is now inefficient, unreliable, and shows significant coil corrosion. Replacement was budgeted for Fall 2025.

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On February 5, 2026, 7 contractors submitted bids. C. Acitelli Heating & Piping Contractors, Inc. was the apparent low bidder, with positive references. Staff recommends approving the bid for the Seresco unit. If approved, the project will occur from August 24 to September 4, 2026, during the annual pool maintenance shutdown, keeping RecPlex open but the pool closed.

Commissioner Starr inquired as to the length of time needed to install the new unit. Director Dziubinski clarified that the replacement would be timed with the usual annual pool shutdown. The pool would be reopened by Labor Day if all goes according to plan.

Commissioner Tuczak wanted clarification that Meadows would have open lanes for those who regularly lap swim. Director Dziubinski confirmed that would be the case and explained there would be some flexibility on the delivery date which is to our advantage.

**MOTION:**

Commissioner Masnica made a motion to Accept Base Bid #1 Using A Seresco Unit For The Recplex Pool Dehumidification Unit Replacement, For A Total Project Cost Of \$825,000.00, As Submitted By C. Acitelli Heating & Piping Contractors, Inc. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Nicholas.

Commissioner Starr called the roll:

Ayes: Commissioners Masnica, Tuczak, Lowen, Nicholas, Starr and Doherty

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Murphy

Motion Passed

**FINANCIAL ADVISOR'S REPORT**

Lee Howard presented to the Board.

The 2026 budget shows a 26% overall increase in expenditures, driven by several factors:

**Referendum Bond Payments:** \$3,686,783 (15.4%)

**Grant Carryovers:** Appropriation of grant proceeds carried over to 2026.

**Overall Operating Increase (excluding one-time events):** \$477,547 (1.9%)

These increases are partially offset by a **Closed Facilities budget decrease** of \$372,436 (1.6%) due to the Big Surf pool and Lions Center demolition (less redeployed costs). January 1 fund balances were adjusted for estimated undistributed Cook County property taxes for policy compliance. The budget includes reimbursing grant proceeds and non-bond sourced capital project funds.

**Program/Facility Revenue (January):**

**Rec Programs:** \$253,518 (up 18%)

- **Childcare Programs:** \$75,122 (up 28%; Kids Klub up 44%, Preschool up 9%). Day Camp registration is nominal.
- **Recplex Facility:** \$73,537 (up 53%)
- **Pools (RecPlex Pass/Lessons):** \$33,819 (up 43%). Meadows is closed, Big Surf demolished.
- **Central Programs:** \$14,529 (down 20%)
- **Central Facility:** \$60,369

**Total Facility overall revenues** are up \$7,216 (14%) from last January. The Golf course was closed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

The District is advancing the Melas Park Athletic Fields Master Planning, approved August 20, 2025. Design Perspectives Inc. submitted the initial draft in late January; staff is reviewing it. The plan aims to resolve drainage, enhance playability, and allow for potential site upgrades (pathways, bike stations, workout areas), fulfilling a 2024 Referendum commitment to improve Melas field conditions. The draft incorporates feedback from recreation staff, grounds crew, and athletic affiliates to maximize future programming.

The Board's capital planning involvement begins March 18th, leading to the Draft Melas Plan presentation on April 15th for Board review and input. A primary 2026 goal is rebuilding the post-referendum 5-year capital plan. The Melas discussion will initiate broader capital talks, targeting Board approval of the updated 5-Year Capital Plan by September 16th.

The Mt. Prospect Park District received the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Exceptional Workplace Award at the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Conference, recognizing high employee health and wellness. Activities were largely prepared by the Employee Committee, chaired by Toria Smith and Maddy Moon. This 5-year award is a point of pride. To share this achievement, the Employee Committee Chairs and Leadership team will be photographed with the Board.

The next Regular Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**COMMENTS/MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Nicholas expressed gratitude to the Park District for the chance to attend the Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago in late January. With approximately 4,000 attendees, she found the opportunity to network with fellow commissioners, directors, and industry leaders to discuss policy, strategic planning, and governance to be extremely valuable. She also welcomed any occasion to highlight the outstanding work being done by this agency.

Commissioner Starr noted the upcoming Memorial Day services in May and the Park District's customary involvement. He mentioned that the initial planning meeting is scheduled for the end of the month and expressed gratitude for Ruth's participation. The primary concern is whether the bandshell can be used this year due to the Lions construction adjacent to it. Discussions will take place to assess the location's feasibility, considering safety and other related issues.

Director Jeff Languth and his staff received congratulations and thanks from Commissioner Masnica for the successful 100 Year Golf Anniversary Kick Off Event. The event saw a large turnout and was a very enjoyable evening.

Commissioner Tuczak provided two updates. First, he reminded the Board that tickets are still available for the Foundation Fundraiser, "Midnight Memories." He encouraged attendance at the event, which will feature Cabaret Music, fine dining, and drinks.

Second, he addressed safety concerns at RecPlex, specifically regarding the walking lanes. He suggested that better signage is needed to clarify the flow of traffic and designated lanes for running and walking, particularly on busy Saturday mornings, as he has observed confusion leading to potential safety risks. Director Azzaretto thanked Commissioner Tuczak for the feedback and committed to addressing the signage issue promptly.

Commissioner Doherty praised the District staff for the recent award, emphasizing its marketing potential for recruitment and highlighting the District's positive reputation. He acknowledged the cohesiveness and team-oriented nature of the current staff, under the leadership of Executive Director Jim Jarog. He expressed that there is a cohesive blend of long-term and newer employees whose fresh ideas have integrated well with

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experienced staff. Commissioner Doherty credited Executive Director Jarog and his team for the District's current success, particularly noting the strong financial performance in recent years, especially since the pandemic. He concluded by expressing gratitude for the positive developments and suggesting the posting of signs to publicize the award, recognizing the quality of the people and leadership within the District, including Executive Director Jim Jarog, all Directors, Managers, Supervisors, and frontline staff.

**MOTION:**

Motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made by Commissioner Starr and seconded by Commissioner Masnica.

A voice vote was taken. All were in favor.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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William J. Starr, Secretary