

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

President Luanne Spiros called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Darien Park District Community Center, 7301 Fairview Avenue, Darien, Illinois.

ROLL CALL OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT: Luanne Spiros, Frank Noverini, Cathy Marchese, Ray Jablonski, Steve Shanks

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Stephanie Gurgone, Executive Director; Matt Henderson, Director of Parks and Facilities; Jordan Rossi, Sportsplex General Manager; and Gina Madden, Attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS (6:30 p.m.)

There was no one in the audience wishing to present public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS (6:32 p.m.)

President Luanne Spiros reported that she received correspondence from a resident who observed someone dumping waste at Ridgewood Park.

Staff noted that matters requiring police attention should be reported immediately, and the Board discussed remaining vigilant as the issue has persisted.

OFFICER REPORTS (6:44 p.m.)

- a. **President** – President Spiros reported that Alderman Ralph Stompanato continues to serve as the City liaison and that the partnership is going well. Executive Director Gurgone will follow up on the role's involvement and support.
- b. **Treasurer** – Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the July 31, 2026, Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Noverini moved, seconded by Commissioner Shanks, to approve the July 31, 2026, Treasurer's Report.

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYES: Noverini, Shanks, Jablonski, Marchese, Spiros

NAYS: None

President Spiros declared the motion carried.

c. Commissioner Reports

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Commissioner Jablonski reported that the Darien Action Committee meeting was cancelled due to availability and time constraints.

Executive Director Gurgone reported that two Board seats will be open in 2027, with filing beginning in November and candidate packets available in late August. She reviewed signature requirements and document submission guidelines.

Commissioner Ray Jablonski reported that a resident questioned how one can obtain a raised garden bed and that the information is not easily found on the website with only a bullet on the Garden View page.

Staff reported that no garden beds are currently available and that most are used by the Garden Club, SEASPAR and Girl Scout troops. The Board discussed demand and staff noted that 6–8 additional beds could be available by spring if interest warrants expansion.

ATTORNEY REPORT (6:54 p.m.)

Attorney Madden provided a legal update on “free speech zones,” referencing litigation involving the Downers Grove Park District. She noted that limiting political speech to a small designated area may invite constitutional challenges, and that public entities may regulate speech only through narrowly tailored time, place, and manner rules—not content-based restrictions. She said newer ordinance approaches focus on prohibiting conduct such as harassment, discrimination, violence, or disruption rather than confining speech to a specific area.

Attorney Madden suggested considering restrictions during events, programs, and sensitive times or locations, including board meetings and preschool line-up. She also recommended applying rules to facility rentals and private user groups to prevent disruptive or targeted political activity from interfering with the rental or event purpose.

Attorney Madden also addressed public versus private social media accounts, citing a July 16, 2026, Seventh Circuit decision noting that a private page may be treated as public or official in certain circumstances. She advised keeping personal pages personal and redirecting residents with service requests to appropriate official channels.

STAFF REPORTS (7:10 p.m.)

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m.

b. Finance Report (7:11 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the first draft of the audit was received and that the approval anticipated at the October meeting.

c. Sportsplex General Manager (7:12 p.m.)

Sportsplex General Manager Jordan Rossi offered to answer questions about his report.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities (7:13 p.m.)

Director Henderson reported that the Westwood project is progressing and staff are awaiting equipment delivery and installation. He also reviewed storm response, including tree-related workload over the past 12 months, operational constraints related to debris storage and disposal, and the District's lack of a chipper. A former employee and arborist will return November through February to assist with pruning and inventory updates.

Director Henderson reported that a July storm caused tree damage to the Meyer Woods barn, and staff are working with a vendor to estimate repair costs and complete cosmetic restoration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (7:25 p.m.)

There was no unfinished business.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA) (7:25 p.m.)

No public comment was presented.

CONSENT AGENDA (7:26 p.m.)

- a. June 8, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Warrants (July and August)

Commissioner Shanks moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchese, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYES: Shanks, Marchese, Noverini, Jablonski, Spiros

NAYS: None

President Spiros declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (7:27 p.m.)

There was no new business.

BOARD MEETING TRAINING (7:27 p.m.)

Attorney Gina Madden provided the training in her report.

CLOSED SESSION (7:28 p.m.)

- a. Closed Session for the purposes of litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/ 2 (c) 11.

At 7:28 p.m. Commissioner Shanks moved, seconded by Commissioner Marchese, to adjourn to Closed Session for the purposes of litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/ 2 (c) 11.

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

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AYES: Shanks, Marchese, Noverini, Jablonski, Spiros

NAYS: None

President Spiros declared the motion carried.

President Spiros announced that any action taken will be noted in the minutes.

ACTION ON CLOSED SESSION (if warranted) (7:48 p.m.)

At 7:48 p.m. Commissioner Jablonski moved, seconded by Commissioner Shanks to resume the Regular Board Meeting.

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYES: Shanks, Marchese, Noverini, Jablonski, Spiros

NAYS: None

President Spiros declared the motion carried.

Commissioner Jablonski moved, seconded by Commissioner Noverini to approve the settlement agreement with Judiciocracy, subject to attorney review.

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:

AYES: Jablonski, Noverini, Shanks, Marchese, Spiros

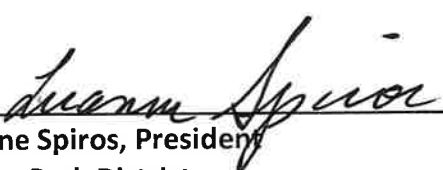
NAYS: None

President Spiros declared the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT (7:49 p.m.)

Commissioner Marchese moved, seconded by Commissioner Shanks, to adjourn.

The motion carried by roll call vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Luanne Spiros, President
Darien Park District



Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District