STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF DUPAGE
DARIEN PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 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

PUBLIC COMMENTS & GUESTS (6:31 p.m.)

A resident on Gigi expressed his concerns regarding large cottonwoods near his property and noted that nearby trees have fallen as whole trees rather than as small branches, creating a potential property and safety concern.

Director Matt Henderson reported that staff has identified trees that had already been removed and additional trees that may need cleanup or evaluation and that the park district is actively developing and maintaining a tree inventory and management process covering more than 1,000 trees on district properties. He further reported that community input is being used to identify priorities and supplement the district's inspection efforts. Director Henderson confirmed that the park district would place the reported trees on the priority list and have the appropriate team follow up.

The resident expressed concern regarding certain native landscaped areas near the parks and that they are overgrown and unattractive.

Director Henderson explained that certain landscaped areas near the parks are intentionally designed for stormwater management and that residents may view them as overgrown or unattractive but that they are designed to collect and convey stormwater, preventing water from entering nearby basements. He reported that the district plans to cut back the relevant vegetation in the fall to four to six inches rather than burn it, because of the site location and the trail running through the area. He further reported that the vegetation will be allowed to regrow in the spring while continuing to support drainage.

COMMUNICATIONS (6:38 p.m.)

There was no communication to report.

OFFICER REPORTS (6:39 p.m.)

a. President – President Luanne Spiros reported she continues to work with Alderman Ralph Stompanato on liaison roles, seeking feedback from commissioners and alderpeople before deciding whether another checkpoint meeting is needed next year. She asked Executive Director Stephanie Gurgone and Commissioner Steve Shanks to use their respective connections with District 66 and its superintendent to gather information about the school district's strategic planning process with a purpose to better understand community developments and identify opportunities for coordinated work.

b. Treasurer

Commissioner Cathy Marchese presented the August 31, 2026, Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Noverini moved, seconded by Commissioner Shanks, to approve the August 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

Commissioner Ray Jablonski reported that he will be attending the Darien Action Committee Meeting on September 26th.

ATTORNEY REPORT (6:41 p.m.)

Because Attorney Madden was absent, Executive Director Gurgone reported that Attorney Gina Madden is revising the existing ordinance governing political activity in district facilities. She reported that the revision is expected to be presented for approval in October, after which it will be incorporated into the broader update of park ordinances.

STAFF REPORTS (6:42 p.m.)

a. Executive Director/SEASPAR

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. She reported that DuPage County informed the district that it may pursue a drainage project at Lindenwood Park. She stated that although the county owns the property and the district leases it, county staff indicated that the work could be located closer to Cass Avenue so that usable park areas are not affected. She further reported that the park district staff are providing the county with observations from prior heavy-rain events and will share updates when the project scope is clearer.

b. Finance Report (6.44 p.m.)

Executive Director Gurgone reported that the financial report included financials through July and that the final audit draft was still being completed, so approval was deferred until the October meeting.

c. Sportsplex General Manager (6:454 p.m.)

Sportsplex General Manager Jordan Rossi discussed the Chicago Mission's move of its primary program to a new Rosemont facility and clarified that the district expected the related revenue to decline after the initial contract period rather than continue permanently. He explained that Chicago Mission's transition had been anticipated because the original arrangement was expected to last one year and was extended when development was delayed and continued for three years.

d. Director of Parks & Facilities (6:45 p.m.)

Director Henderson reported on the summer programs and the Splash Pad water usage comparison with the prior year. He reported on the remaining Westwood Park construction work, including dugout shade structures and other finishing items, with completion expected in approximately four to six weeks and a possible opening before winter and confirmed that construction updates presented at board meetings are also be posted on the district website.

Director Henderson and the board discussed the fire-damaged facility, the ongoing police investigation and insurance process, and temporary restroom arrangements. He reported that the facility's interior was extensively damaged and that the adjuster anticipates a full tear-down and rebuild rather than a limited repair and that the district is waiting for a definitive insurance assessment and a detailed cost estimate. He further reported that the police investigation remains active, and staff are working to provide a final damage number that can support any enforcement action.

The board discussed posting factual signage at the site, including a statement that a fire occurred and contact information for the relevant police investigator, while avoiding unconfirmed details.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6:55 p.m.)

There was no unfinished business.

PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR CONSENT AGENDA) (6:55 p.m.)

No public comment was presented.

CONSENT AGENDA (6:56 p.m.)

a. Resolution 2026-27-03: A Resolution approving an agreement for use of Darien Park District Sportsplex Facility with Chicago Hawks Hockey Club (Concession Stand)

b. August 10, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

c. Warrants

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

Upon roll call, the Commissioners voted as follows:
AYES: Noverini, Shanks, Marchese, Jablonski, Spiros
NAYS: None
President Spiros declared the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (6:56 p.m.)
There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT (6:57 p.m.)

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

The motion carried by roll call vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Luanne Spiros, President
Darien Park District

Frank Noverini, Secretary
Darien Park District