

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 13, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER** – At 6:04 PM, Don Peasley called to order the Lincoln Park District Board of Commissioners' monthly business meeting.

**ROLL CALL** – Commissioners attending were Don Peasley, Dave Perring, Gary Nodine, Bob Thomas, and Sam White. None were absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Allison Baker, Jennifer Prather, and Angie Coombs. None were absent.

**MINUTES OF MEETING** – Minutes of the meeting in May were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Bob Thomas made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

**VISITORS** – NONE

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** – The operating expenses were submitted for approval in the following funds:

<b>GENERAL</b>	-	\$	<b>2,256.58</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>	-	\$	<b>3,734.78</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMP.</b>	-	\$	<b>551,135.83</b>

Don asked about the invoice to Aupperle, which Angie stated was the second payment, and Becky mentioned that quite a bit of work had been done for the period invoiced. Gary inquired about the invoice listed for Hoegger, which he mentioned that he had asked Angie about the expense before the meeting. He questioned the hourly rate, which was significantly higher than the plumber that he had used personally, and proposed finding a plumber with a more affordable rate. Vern explained that Gene Moon provided the service, but he works under a Bloomington company. He also verified that the work was for a toilet issue discovered during the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration events. Bob asked how many hours were billed, which Angie verified that it was 2 hours at the rate of \$225 per hour. Bob then asked what the prevailing wage was, for which Angie had the printout handy, and confirmed that Logan County's prevailing wage for plumbers was \$48.00. Don asked if the labor was for one employee or two, which Vern verified that it was just Gene. The Board asked Vern to investigate why the rate was so high above prevailing wage and requested that he seek other plumbers with more reasonable rates. Gary Nodine made the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented, which was seconded by Sam White, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

**CASH FLOW –**

Angie informed the Board that the Capital Fund will be receiving the funds from the Promissory Note by the end of the month, so the balance was low after paying this month's payables. Becky explained to the Board how she learned that the Tremont CD did not roll over with the higher rate last time, as she apparently had not used the necessary phrase to procure the 4% rate. She discovered this when she called to inquire about the current maturity and to request a 7-month roll-over but specifically asked why the previous term was not at the special rate. It was then explained that one must "specifically ask for the special rate" otherwise it will be rolled into a CD with a lower rate. The Board suggested keeping an eye open for any future competitive rates.

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT**

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- The staff has been busy all summer, and last month was no exception; camps and everything aquatics will soon be wrapping up for the season. She has received a lot of positive feedback on the pool and its management this year.
- Upcoming events include the annual 5K, Foundation Fundraiser at Country Aire, and a fall open house for the public.
- Park Improvement Projects:
  - Exchange Club Park:
    - Becky verified that the few additional playground pieces have been ordered.
    - There is a 3-month lead time for manufacturing and delivery.
    - Dave asked where the equipment would be installed, and Becky verified that there is a section along the play area which has enough room for a rock wall climber and a few spin seats.
    - Dave questioned if the additional equipment was still under budget, which Becky verified that there was enough left in the budget to cover the equipment and installation.
  - Vern and Tony will be working to spread mulch in the parks.
  - Becky explained that some work may need to be hired out, as Vern and Tony are both busy keeping up with mowing.
  - Vern also had an injury that prohibits him from currently spreading mulch.
  - It was suggested that a local company be contacted for a quote to help with the landscaping to be done to finalize the project.
- North Parking Lot Improvement Project:
  - There have been quite a few rain delays throughout the spring and summer season.
  - Thankfully, though, the rains benefited LPD as it showed areas that needed more grading prior to paving that section of the lot.
  - Sidewalks are all poured in place and Aupperle's crew is moving forward to rework some of the subbase, which is currently at approximately 25% of the allotted contingency.
  - The last estimate provided by Aupperle was to be done by the end of August.
- Promissory Note:
  - Becky explained that Chapman and Cutler have done much of the detail work and coordinated with the Bank.
  - Closing is scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> of August, and deposited monies can pay for the Capital Improvement Project retroactively and future invoices, if needed.
- Lot Usage Agreement with Lincoln Community High School:
  - Becky provided each Board member with the updated usage agreement prior to the meeting for their review, and the most recent changes were in red.
  - Bob stated that he thought it looked good.
  - Becky did state that she had asked the attorney to specify a few details that had previously been implied in the first draft, and they are now detailed explicitly.
  - Sam questioned if the agreement prohibited LCHS from utilizing LPD's maintenance road for access to their rear fields.
    - Becky explained that it had been previously discussed that LCHS was planning to install their own access road along their side of the fence.
    - That was one parameter listed in the agreement, which would be pertinent to LCHS' long-term improvement plans.

**Commented [BM1]:** Not sure that I got this part of the discussion close to correct, but I gave it a shot.

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- Becky asked the Board if there were any further recommendations to change the lease.
  - Dave Perring made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement between Lincoln Park District (LPD) and Lincoln Community High School (LCHS) regarding the use of LPD's north parking lot for school and school activity purposes.
    - Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, and the motion passed after a roll-call vote.
    - Sam White abstained from voting, as he is an employee of LCHS.
    - All other board members voted "aye".
- Pool Drain Covers:
- Becky informed the Board that there was a possibility LPD's drain covers were a brand that did not require a permit to replace, but it was verified that brand was not installed at LPD.
  - The next step is to fill out a form that another facility reportedly submitted successfully to obtain the permit from the State Inspector.
  - Dave suggested that LPD check with the Elks, as they have recently had to deal with the same issue and may have some helpful information on the matter.
  - Becky explained that Farnsworth submitted a quote for \$8,000 to do part of the permit application, but the State Inspector told Becky that the price seemed rather high.
  - Becky is requesting clarification on the permit application, as it specifically inquires about the facility's suction system, which LPD does not have.
- Annual Audit:
- Becky informed the Board that the Audit is challenging this year, as the auditors are asking for a lot more information, which the previous auditors have never requested before.
  - Thankfully, they are working to put a system in place which will help Angie track the needed information to later audit the current year.
  - One auditor informed LPD that the previous auditing firm did not pass their last peer review.
  - Michelle Brown, who worked as an accountant with NATO and the Department of Defense, has agreed to work as an independent consultant with Angie to help sort things out.
  - Don inquired about her rate, which Becky verified as \$20/hour.
  - Becky also explained that one auditor previously worked at Champaign's Park District as the Business Manager and is providing Angie with templates to help more in the future.
- Maintenance Position:
- Becky informed the Board that she had received approximately 30 applications, which now requires a more thorough vetting process prior to scheduling interviews.
    - Dave queried how the vetting process would be handled.
    - Becky explained how she was doing a cursory review of the applications' background.
- Bid Threshold – New Law as of 8/1/2025:
- New law split the labor and cost of supplies.
  - Labor is still limited to \$30,000 and supplies are listed separately as a \$60,000 limit.
  - Both used to fall under the previous \$30,000 limit, but lawmakers broke them apart.
  - Becky reported that some companies have had to go out to bid just to buy toilet paper, due to inflation in recent years.
- Lincoln is now listed within the state as a "distressed community".
- Sam questioned what this means for the community and the Park District.
  - Becky explained that it may put LPD in a better position when applying for an OSLAD grant, as the new status would remove the matched funds requirement.
  - Bob questioned the cost to apply for the grant, which Becky explained that the cost depends on the parameters of the project and how much it would entail.

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- Previous applications included \$8,000 - \$15,000 depending on how much Becky did or if the architect did most of the application.
- Becky detailed how much work goes into the grant application and how much time she spent on her part.
- Becky did point out that this would be a good time to consider applying for the OSLAD to improve Memorial Park, as there is so much that can be improved there.
- The Board has previously expressed interest in improving and adding pavilions, play areas, and maybe even a disc golf course.
- Previous grant cycles have been partial towards projects with “green” components.
- Dave pointed out that Memorial Park is an “old forest”.
- Bob asked about the possibility of applying in time to improve the park next year, as has been previously discussed. Becky suggested that the Board consider postponing Memorial Improvements for one more year. This would give LPD time to apply for an OSLAD grant in 2026, for construction in 2027, since the current application cut off date is soon approaching for construction next year.
- Both Becky and Angie suggested discussing the matter at the next meeting since that is when the Capital Improvement Project list will need to be updated prior to budget season.
- Becky asked the Board to think about the matter for September’s meeting.
- Christmas Party:
  - Becky informed the Board that this year’s party is scheduled on either Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup>, if they wish to take part in Jon Young’s offer.
  - Jon Young, who has sponsored several dance fundraisers, offered to coordinate LPD’s Christmas party with one of his events.
  - The Board and Staff would be invited to the dance after the meal in the Ballroom, but he is in the process of getting a caterer for a meal before the dance.
  - Becky stated that the event would be held here at LPD instead of another location as has been done in the past.
  - The Board told Becky that she was free to choose and to surprise them.

**SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley**

- Vern explained how there were issues this year while watering the diamonds. Fertilizer helps, but watergrass is starting to take over. Bob asked if there is an additive that could be used, and Vern stated that they do use something to treat crabgrass. However, watergrass is becoming more of a problem.
- The sandpro motor has been delivered and Tony is working on getting them changed out.
- There are a few trees down at Memorial Park, which may be expensive due to their size. The Board gave approval to remove dangerous limbs/trees.
- Vern stated that Tony was trying to use the last of the Chlorine so that another delivery was not needed to get through the end of the season.

**PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER**

- Allison stated that camps and summer programs are wrapping up for the season.
- Out of the 6 programs offered, 4 had more than 20 participants registered, and many returned for another year. Profits are estimated to be around \$3,500.

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- Greentree Veterinary Clinic is teaching puppy training to 7 participants and their owners.
- Registration is open for Fall SandVolleyball League to be held at Exchange Club Park. The season will be a short 4 weeks in October, with games on the weekends.
- Allison is working with a local artist to offer a Macramé class in September.
- Allison has started to draft the annual Fun Fest Sponsor letters.
- Concession season is wrapping up, but there are still a few games scheduled for this fall.
- The Jr. High has a tournament scheduled during the Balloon Fest weekend.

**FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER**

- Group Fitness Class attendance for June was 1,128.
- The last Meet & Mingle had 7 attendees, and the next one is on Monday at 4:00pm.
- The annual 5K has 106 people registered so far, including 45 kids, which is the most since before COVID.
- The new Escape Room workout was a team event that had to complete fitness challenges to get each clue to escape and was a success. She is planning another for January.
- Water Fitness and Yoga in Memorial Park has finished for the season. She hopes to include yoga in the park next year, too.
- Jennifer is currently working on a Fall Fitness Open House for September, a membership special will be offered for that day only.
- The Foundation will have a fundraiser at Country Aire in Atlanta on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Small Group Training will be promoted in September and October.
- Stay Another Day takes place for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders on September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Elizabeth Parrott will be leaving LPD as an Instructor soon, and a few others have injuries.
- October is suicide prevention month, so a Spin® fundraiser is planned; classes will be free, and participants can donate to participate. Gary inquired if the fundraiser was youth specific, but Jen stated that it would be for all ages.
- Jennifer will soon start planning the Wellness Expo, which will be held in March.
- Sam inquired if there had been a noticeable drop in class numbers after the 2 new Pilates studios opened in town. Jennifer responded that summer numbers are traditionally lower than the other seasons with more people transitioning to water fitness, and while she knows there are staff and patrons who have mentioned attending the Pilates classes, she does not think it has greatly impacted LPD's numbers at this time. Don asked if the owners were known and where they were located. Jennifer explained that one opened on Kickapoo, and that her sister opened the one in the Dugan Center. Becky stated that the costs of classes at the new studios are a big factor, as they are much higher than LPD's fee. Gary questioned if LPD class attendance was primarily members or if there are still people that pay the daily fee. Jennifer stated that there are still some that choose to pay the daily fee, but many enjoy that the classes are included in their membership or Silver Sneakers benefit.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Becky informed the Board that there was a misunderstanding during the pool party scheduled by the local Youth Cheer group. In August, the times are adjusted to earlier in the evening to accommodate the advancement of dusk as the season progresses, and there was less of a buffer between open swim and the party start time. Some of the party attendees came early, pool staff thought they were there to set up prior to the party and allowed entry. The attendees were only there to swim. Once staff realized this, they asked that the party attendees please exit the pool as it was

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not yet time for the party. Naturally, they were upset and did complain. Staff did try to explain the matter, but not to their satisfaction, so Becky received an email. Becky spoke to the individual who sent the email, apologized for the confusion, and attempted to explain the situation necessary due to sunlight being a factor. Becky offered her a few day passes to help mitigate the upset of the situation. She then explained how she will be working to troubleshoot the problem.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Capital Improvements:
  - 1. Park Improvement Projects: See Executive Director's Report.
  - 2. North Parking Lot Improvement Project: See Executive Director's Report.
  - 3. Promissory Note: See Executive Director's Report.
- B. Aquatic Center: See Supervisor of Operations' report.
- C. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: NONE.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Prevailing Wage Ordinance#364:
  - 1. Gary Nodine made the motion to adopt the Prevailing Wage Ordinance#364.
  - 2. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Contract renewal for 2026 Fireworks:
  - 1. Becky started by saying that Gary had previously asked about Mt. Pulaski's fireworks.
  - 2. Their budget was reportedly less than LPD's at around \$14,000.
    - a. Mt. Pulaski's contract included a stipulation to only use cakes no bigger than 4 inches.
    - b. The 5-inch cakes cost more, and therefore fewer cakes can be purchased for the show.
  - 3. Dave inquired about the City's contribution, which was verified as \$5,000 this year.
  - 4. Gary pointed out that LPD can get more of a show if a similar stipulation is in place within the contract for future shows.
    - a. Becky stated that Angie, from American Patriot Pyro, is willing to come and speak with the Board about the fireworks show options.
    - b. If the Board is open to a discussion, Becky will invite her to the September meeting.
  - 5. Gary asked if the Foundation had also donated towards this year's fireworks show, which Angie verified that the Foundation did not donate for 2025's show.
  - 6. Don commented that he had heard some complaints that the Lincoln show was too short.

Gary inquired about the IPARKS playground inspection, and Becky informed the Board that it went well. Gary then asked about the issue with one curtain in the Sports Complex, which Becky explained that a cable fell off the top spool when it was raised and Vern needs a taller lift to reach it. However, due to the parking lot construction obstructing access to the garage door on the courts, that will need to wait until the door access becomes available. Gary then mentioned that he has been comparing the Ameren bills over the past few months and noticed that the bills have decreased recently, which he was happy to see.

- C. Ordinance #365: An Ordinance authorizing and providing for an Installment Purchase Agreement for the purpose of paying the cost of purchasing real or personal property, or both, in and for the Lincoln Park District, Logan County, Illinois, and for the issue of \$600,000

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Debt Certificates, Series 2025, of said Park District evidencing the rights to payment under said Agreement, providing for the security for and means of payment under said Agreement of said Certificates, and authorizing the sale of said Certificates to Heartland Bank and Trust Company.

1. Gary Nodine made the motion to adopt Ordinance#364 pertaining to the Promissory Note/Debt Certificate with Heartland Bank & Trust.
2. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

**Executive Session:** Gary Nodine made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:31 pm.

The Board exited Executive session at 8:04pm.

Bob Thomas made a motion to keep the minutes from the previous meeting over the last 6 months closed. Sam White moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Seeing no further business, Dave Perring moved to adjourn the meeting. Sam White moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 8:06 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM.