

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER** – At 6:00 PM, Don Peasley called to order the Lincoln Park District Board of Commissioners’ monthly business meeting.

**ROLL CALL** – Commissioners attending were Don Peasley, Bob Thomas, and Sam White. Gary Nodine and Dave Perring 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 January were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Bob Thomas made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sam White 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>614.42</b>
<b>RECREATION</b>	-	\$	<b>6,453.93</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMP.</b>	-	\$	<b>14,598.93</b>
<b>AUDIT</b>	-	\$	<b>1,325.00</b>

Don asked if anyone had any questions about expenses listed. Angie stated that she adjusted the Capital Improvement, as she had previously included a payment to MCSquared from January’s AP. Sam White made the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented, which was seconded by Bob Thomas, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

**CASH FLOW –**

Angie provided a short overview of the report. Since the Bond funds were received, the Promissory Note payment was made on January 31<sup>st</sup>, which was listed on the report. Also, she noted the balance that Recreation Fund owes General for payroll. A summary of the Audit Expenses and available funds was also provided. Angie noted that the Certificate of Deposit is due to mature just after the March meeting, so the Board would need to decide how to proceed and vote on the matter in March.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT**

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- Recent events include Football Frenzy, an Escape Room challenge, Candlelight Yoga, Tennis & Pickle Ball clinic and adult socials, and several room reservations.
- Park Improvements:
  - Becky, Vern, Gary and Bob met with the City’s Mayor and the City’s Park Committee.
  - Becky explained that she discussed the staffing issues and concerns about the summer mowing and park maintenance.
  - Vern is the only staff member with experience.

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- This summer Vern will be busy, as he must teach 4 new staff members, since neither of the summer crew are returning from last year and this will be the first summer for Matthew and William.
  - Becky stated that she advised the City the situation, and to prepare for a possible increase in public complaints but also open to conversation about any ideas and suggestions from the City on the matter.
    - The Mayor asked if LPD was asking to share the maintenance responsibility, for the City to take it over completely, or simply seeking to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the two entities regarding City-owned park maintenance.
    - Becky stated that the Board is open to discussing all options that the City would like to discuss.
    - The City suggested putting out an RFP for just the 4 City-owned Parks, and another for all areas currently mowed/maintained by City staff for comparison.
  - Both entities came to an agreement that it would be best to amend the current IGA.
    - It was decided that Becky would draft the amendment and both parties would review prior to voting on the matter.
    - LPD's Park Committee met on Tuesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the amendment.
    - The Board has a copy of the amendment for review.
    - If there are no comments or concerns, Becky will send it to the City for their review.
    - The City would like to expedite the process, as they need time to discuss before they pass their next budget in March, which starts in April.
  - Becky summarized the amendment, stating that it says LPD will still take care of trash and limb pick up, but the City will mow and trim their parks for the summer of 2026.
  - Both parties agreed that the topic will need to be revisited at the end of the season.
  - Sam asked if Walt, the City's Street & Alley Department Head, was present, which he was.
    - Sam questioned if Walt had any input to the discussion and if he expressed any concerns.
    - Becky stated that Walt was present and did not think that their staff would be able to easily add the maintenance of the 4 parks.
    - Becky continued to explain that Walt was reportedly open to the idea of the City contracting out the mowing of the parks (regardless of if it was just the 4 or all areas) so that his crew could focus more on the streets and other responsibilities.
  - Sam questioned if there was verbiage on the terms of the original IGA, which Becky verified that a 90-day notice clause was included for both parties.
  - Bob stated that he found the City to be very receptive to the idea of what could be used as a year trial where the City maintains its own parks.
  - Sam queried if Scully and Latham parks were maintained by City or County, and it was verified that the County maintains those parks.
  - Becky added that Alderman Bateman spoke about previously wanting the City to contract out the mowing and is interested to see what RFPs come back for their consideration.
  - Seeing no further discussion, Don recommended that the IGA amendment be sent to the City for their review prior to their next meeting.
- Treadmills:
- Becky reminded the Board that it was mentioned in January LPD's plan to replace the treadmills, since they are nearly 10 years old and a few are beginning to require regular maintenance.
  - She confirmed the order of 8 treadmills, which are certified pre-owned, and there is enough left in the budget to also replace a recumbent bicycle, some dumbbells and add another bench.

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- Security System Upgrade:
  - Becky informed the Board that the new cameras have been installed, which allow the viewer to zoom in, where that was not an option before.
  - Sam asked if she liked the upgraded system better than the previous one, which she verified that it provided much better visibility and was easier to use.
    - Becky stated that Heart's staff were very capable and easy to work with, as she had to request a few adjustments, and it was prompt and easy.
    - The new system and cameras even provide some coverage out to the playground and Breezy concession from the pool location.
  - Becky had requested a quote to replace the burglar panel and phone system.
    - Heart can use the existing phone hardware for the time being and upgrade that in the future if the Board would prefer to replace the burglar panel first.
    - However, Frontier is being difficult and refused to honor the month-to-month finance option that they quoted Angie in January.
      - Per the Frontier Supervisor that spoke with Angie, the employee should not have offered that option had he read "an email", and that was not a term available in January.
      - Becky reviewed the data for the Board where Frontier's prices doubled during 2025.
      - Per a 2024 conversation that Becky had with a Frontier Rep, and Angie's most recent discussion, Frontier is phasing out copper lines and intending to price out users to prod them into switching to other options.
    - Heart sent a tech to review LPD's current system, which is an antiquated Frontier system, but provided assurance that they can work with it.
      - The phone system replacement quote came in at around \$10,000, but the burglar alarm panel replacement quote was around \$6-7,000.
      - There would be a one-time fee of \$800 to upgrade a telephone system component and transfer the phone provider, but monthly service would then be \$220 each month compared to Frontier's current \$1,000 per month.
  - Sam White made the motion to approve transferring telephone services to Heart Technologies and replacing the burglar alarm this year, with plans to replace the phone system next year.
    - Bob Thomas moved to second the motion.
    - The motion passed after a unanimous, roll call vote.
- Aquatic Center:
  - Becky updated the Board on the status of the drain cover replacement permit application.
  - The engineer was recently on site to take measurements for the needed calculations to submit as an attachment to the original application to the State.
  - Becky expressed her concern that timing is running close to the pool opening.
- Foundation:
  - A breakfast fundraiser will be held (7 -10a) the morning of Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, as there will be a crowd here for the John Welsh Memorial Basketball tournament.
  - Vern has been working to prepare the signs to sell baseball advertising this spring.
  - Adult Prom Fundraiser is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-10p.
  - Avanti Sandwiches will be sold prior to and during the Wellness Expo on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Becky stated that a document was added to their Board Packet for review.

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- As Angie is already preparing for the FY2025 Audit scheduled for April, she prepared an official policy to record what was already taking place, and added some recommendations provided by the auditors for areas that needed some improvements.
  - Monthly, Quarterly, and Annual checklists are also included to help staff track progress.
  - Becky reminded the Board that there were no issues with the current procedures, but the auditor did request a more formal policy to refer to during the audit process.
  - Becky asks that the Board review the proposed document prior to voting on the matter in March.
- Becky stated that she and Angie had reviewed LPD's Board Meeting Minutes from 1960's-1970 and recorded important information and dates. Becky had included a summary in the Board's packet, and a few interesting tidbits of history were also included in the list.

**SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley**

- Vern stated that he and staff have been busy doing the odd and ends of routine seasonal maintenance.
- The new lights have been installed at Breezy Field, but they still need to be hooked up and aimed correctly. Vern stated that the other 3 poles will need the same update at the end of the season. Angie asked if she should make a note to budget doing the same for the remaining fields next 2 years, updating one per year. Sam did add that LCHS may be adding lights to their diamond within the next few years. Allison asked if Sam had an idea of how many LCHS games might be scheduled to play on LPD's Legion field this summer, which he estimates to be around 7 games. Vern pointed out that without a summer Legion League, that Allen Concession stand does not get used much during the summer. Jen asked if Carroll Catholic still used it for their season, which Allison verified, and Angie pointed out that they bring their own stock after LPD clears out. Becky and Allison both agreed that Allen is used to store extra supplies for Breezy and the pool. Allison pointed out that Pony is used a lot in that tri-plex of diamonds.

**PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER**

- Tennis Lessons and Clinics have been well attended. A few more participants signed up for the remaining sessions.
- The Adult Tennis Social is averaging 10 participants each week. There have been quite a few names from out of town participating.
- Allison plans to ask if the tennis instructor would be interested in doing a youth pickleball clinic.
- The Spring (Adult) Pickle ball clinic will start soon.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>, and will be a little later so that it is darker for the event.
- Allison is coordinating Dance Lessons to be offered later this spring.
- Jr. Railers just ended and there were no issues nor any serious complaints. Sam stated that not one team missed playing their assigned half-time game this season. Sam reported that he found Michael to be well-prepared for each event at the High School's games.
- Baseball, Softball & Tee ball registrations will begin the end of February and end on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Allison already has been contacted by other towns/teams to schedule

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games/tournaments on LPD's fields. The scheduling meeting is set for April, and updated rules have already been sent out for review prior to the meeting.

- Spring Open House is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, when summer camp registration will open. Camp Invention will be held in July with the same instructor returning.

**FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER**

- Group Fitness Class attendance for January was 849, which was less than in 2025, but there has been quite a bit of illness going around this year.
- The Escape Room Class was rescheduled due to weather but still had 10 participants.
- Football Frenzy had 9 participants this year.
- The Wellness Walk has had 3 participants reach the 57-mile mark and continues through March.
- Candlelight Yoga was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> and had 9 participants. Sam inquired about who the instructor was, which Jennifer verified that it was Mark Graue. Jennifer also stated that Sheralynn is also certified to teach Yoga. Sam is considering some ideas for the Football team, and had recently been looking at yoga as an option.
- Spring Into Action begins on March 1<sup>st</sup> with Jennifer and Amanda coordinating class instruction. So far, 4 people have registered for the program, and 1 is a non-member.
- There is an online store where patrons can purchase a shirt showcasing this year's theme for the Aerobic Classes. The store is a Fundraiser for the Foundation and ships directly to the customer.
- The Wellness Expo has 45 vendors registered, and 14 are new this year. Sam queried if any of last year's vendors were not returning. Jennifer verified that there had been a few opting to decline participating, but a schedule conflict was the prevalent reason, and they requested to be included on the list for next year.
- Jennifer is scheduling some open dates for equipment training sessions that might be requested after the expo.
- The March/April Group Fitness Schedule is ready to be disbursed & posted.
- Jennifer is discussing this summer's Water Fitness schedule and instructor availability.
- The paperwork has been submitted and approved for this summer's LMH-sponsored kid races.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Capital Improvements:

1. Vern stated that the manhole in the Sports Center hallway had been removed.
  - a. It has been a trip hazard for a while and recently verified to serve no purpose.
  - b. It was removed and the area made to be even.
2. Vern informed the Board that the parking lot as you enter the Fit Zone was cracking, dangerously so, as it was not made for parking.
  - a. When asked about the size of the area, Vern stated 30' x 60', and that the entrance to the dumpster was in the same condition.

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- b. The Board agreed that the cement needs to be repaired to avoid any trips and falls to patrons and staff.
  - c. Seth Thomas provided an estimate to repair the area, and Vern inquired about the cost of removing the islands in the back lot (~\$9,000), but is still waiting for the quote on the rest.
  - d. Bob speculated the high cost to remove islands due to the risk of damaging the surrounding concrete, and prevailing wages.
- B. Aquatic Center: See Executive Director's Report.
- C. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property:
- 1. Vern stated that he would like the Board's permission to sell the tree spade.
    - a. He estimates its value to be between \$6,000 and 10,000, as it is in good condition and runs well.
    - b. His desire to sell it stems from the lack of use and storage restrictions.
    - c. Due to its weight, it requires 2 staff members minimum to operate it safely, and LPD can hire out for any future tree replacement needed.
    - d. The Board was unanimously approved of the sale.
  - 2. Becky stated that Jake from Lincoln Land Communications had recently replaced the mixer for the Ballroom Sound System.
    - a. The previous unit was purchased as part of the remodel and is more suitable for home theater systems.
    - b. Jake installed a commercial grade mixer and adjusted the settings for the space.
    - c. The Board was unanimously in favor of selling the previous unit for the best price.

**NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**Executive Session:** Sam White made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss an employee wage matter. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:55 pm.

The Board exited Executive session at 7:33 pm. No vote was needed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Seeing no further business, Sam White moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 7:37 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM.