

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 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, Gary Nodine, Dave Perring, and Bob Thomas. Sam White was absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Allison Baker, and Angie Coombs. Jennifer Prather was absent.

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the meeting in December were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Dave Perring 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:

GENERAL	-	\$	4,956.91
RECREATION	-	\$	11,365.23
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	9,335.30
AUDIT	-	\$	675.00

Gary inquired about the payment listed to Sportsman and asked if it was an annual renewal, which Angie verified that it was the annual cost for the membership/daily income software. Gary then asked about the \$975.00 invoice from Hoegger HVAC, which Angie stated was for an automatic flush valve. Becky explained that she had discussed the issue with Vern, as there was a significant premium applied when compared to the cost of LPD purchasing elsewhere, such as online. Gary Nodine the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented, which was seconded by Dave Perring, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW –

Angie provided a quick explanation of a suggestion to cover the cost of the audit, which exceeded the amount levied and budgeted. Angie had previously proposed that the Board adopt a resolution to allocate the 2025 Revenue Recapture funds to pay towards the Audit cost, which was included in the Board's packet. That amount of \$5,459.18 Revenue Recapture funds could also be combined with interest earned by the Certificate of Deposit's interest, which matures in early March to help offset the audit cost. The Resolution for the Revenue Recapture will be discussed later in the meeting, but Angie will keep the Board informed about the CD interest. Becky stated that she will follow up with Sally Turner on the matter of the State Legislation reviewing audit requirements for municipalities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- Recent events include Jr. Railers, Kids cooking classes, Nutrition Courses, Candlelight Yoga & an Escape Room challenge.

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- Park Improvements:
 - The work has paused for the season until next spring.
 - Becky contacted Benton Engineering regarding the Board's decision to move forward with the OSLAD grant application this fall for park improvements planned in 2027.
 - She will follow up with them in February.
 - The State recently announced the recipients for the 2025 Application Season.
 - Most of the grants were awarded to communities within and surrounding Chicago, but Champaign and a few other larger, central or southern communities were also included.
 - The OSLAD grant application is due in September.
- Maintenance Staff:
 - Becky informed the Board that William Hutchison had been offered and accepted the position.
 - The search has been difficult, as most of the candidates did not have the required knowledge for the facility.
- City Parks:
 - Becky informed the Board that Vern had mentioned that LPD may want to discuss the IGA with the City about maintenance of their parks again.
 - Vern's concern is that he is only 1 man, and neither of the 2 summer crew members will be returning this summer, which will make it difficult to operate as usual.
 - It was suggested that LPD may want to consider asking the City to reopen the discussion of maintenance of their Parks.
 - Vern estimated that LPD staff spend 32 days mowing just the City parks, which is 2 guys mowing 2 days each week during the season, and the cost is estimated to be around \$6,300.
 - Not mowing City parks would allow LPD staff to focus on our own parks and grounds.
 - Don stated that Logan County tax caps may start to choke LPD's finances.
 - Gary pointed out that LPD was created to maintain parks, and that LPD has limited fundraising options.
 - Becky reminded that LPD had discussed the possibility of the City selling or donating their parks to LPD, which would allow LPD to apply for grants to maintain and/or improve them.
 - The City Aldermen were not interested at that time.
 - Gary expressed his concerns about previous discussions regarding the tax levies restarting.
 - Dave suggested that LPD meet with Walt, the City's Streets & Alley Supervisor, to discuss the issue before going further.
 - Becky and Gary pondered legal fees to obtain advice prior to discussions with the City.
 - Bob stated that a discussion would be beneficial, and Don agreed that with the recent inflation, it would be prudent to revisit the topic.
- Treadmills:
 - Becky informed the Board that the current treadmills are nearly 10 years old.
 - She is looking to get quotes to replace all or most of them, depending on cost, which was included in the budget & planned for 2026.
- Security System Upgrade:
 - Becky informed the Board that she has requested a quote to upgrade the burglar panel.
 - The current system is quite old and is due for an upgrade.
 - Heart Security has already run cables and has begun to install new cameras.
- Aquatic Center:
 - Becky updated the Board on the status of the drain cover replacement permit application.

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- The architect reviewed and approved the design to be submitted to the State.
- The State rejected the application, citing pipes and sumps are oversized and require an engineer's review prior to resubmission.
- The architect is requesting clarification but does work directly with a qualified engineer that can review the plans/application prior to resubmission.
- Becky expressed her concern that timing is running close to the pool opening.

➤ 2026 Price Change Recommendations:

- Becky clarified that the previous discussion of 2026 prices accidentally omitted her recommendation to raise the daily fee for the pool as well.
 - The suggested increase was \$1.00 for each age group.
 - The price adjustment had been listed for review, but it was not openly mentioned nor discussed previously, and Becky wanted to make sure the Board was aware of all changes.
- Also listed previously, but not commented on, was the fee for Small Group Personal Training, which was raised to \$400 for 3 - 6 individuals for 8 sessions.
- Becky informed the Board that she had met with a group of Pickle Ball players to discuss their concerns, and a few expressed their displeasure with the new rates.
 - A complaint was also submitted via email to her directly.
 - Becky explained the increased popularity of the sport and that the designated open play times were an attempt to help guarantee a few times each week dedicated to pickle ball.
 - Part of Becky's research of other facilities' court reservation systems showed that LPD was the only facility that did NOT charge a reservation fee.
 - LPD has also seen an increase in court reservations from people traveling 30-40 miles, for volleyball, tennis and pickle ball.
 - She continued to explain that the court reservation fees were partly to deter patrons from failing to cancel court reservations.

➤ Becky informed the Board that the State of Illinois recently passed a new energy policy that allows utility companies to raise prices without limits, which removed previous, long-standing restrictions.

➤ Becky asked the Board for their thoughts on possibly closing the Administrative Office for the afternoon of the Board meetings.

- Becky explained that Room Reservations have been going very well this year, and membership sales are still going strong.
- This has created difficulty in getting all the necessary communication and planning completed to make sure the facility rentals are a success.
- The short-term solution is to close to the public on the second Wednesday of each month.
- The long-term solution is to hire another part-time staff member to cover the front desk when Val needs to go make phone calls and work on scheduling.
 - Becky verified that there is some wiggle room within the budget.
 - She also pointed out that there have been room reservations almost every weekend since October, and many weekends have had multiple parties scheduled in different rooms.
- Gary asked if Facility (e.g. gym/court) usage was included in the regular Ballroom, Railer, and Craft Room rental fees.
 - Becky explained that, traditionally, not unless previously arranged or they specifically include a court reservation as part of the party.
 - Don questioned if LPD needed to consider charging by the hour, and not just by the day, which is what all the other facilities do.

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- Allison verified that most other locations in town do have limited number of hours for their reservations, and that the public is generally surprised to learn that LPD's fees cover the day.

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley

- Vern reported that Matt may be relocating in the Spring.
- Vern informed the Board that there was an issue with the Marquee Sign at the main entrance. He was recently able to replace the bulbs inside of the LPD logo section. However, the message part of the sign is no longer functioning. Allison stated that her computer, which has the software, is unable to communicate with the sign's receiver. Vern explained that the sign is outdated and asked if the Board wants him to take it down until they can decide about any possibility of a replacement. When asked if IT can do anything, Angie explained that LPD was told just a few years after its installation, that it was out of date, and IT has helped patch the software to continue working until recently.

PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER

- Kids in the Kitchen has another session coming up, registration is almost full. The instructor has agreed to teach another class in February.
- Allison was able to coordinate a tennis clinic for the Jr. High and High School ages. There is a total of 11 students. The instructor is from Decatur, who is happy to have another location to teach students. Becky explained that a few of the students had been traveling to Decatur for lessons with the new instructor.
- The Adult Social rotates each week between tennis and pickleball. Last week, 6 attended the tennis social night. Gary commented that he had received an email from a patron complaining that there was no court availability, and it sounds like the social event is helping. Becky explained that the schedule is now available for court reservations, but otherwise patrons take a chance on whether courts are open for tennis and/or pickle ball any other time. Allison agreed that the courts have been rather busy and it is a hit or miss on finding unscheduled availability.
- Allison stated that she plans to push the Pickle Ball Clinic to start after the Adult Social program ends.
- February 11th will feature a new class with a special instructor, who will teach about overall wellness for a 6-week course.
- Jr. Railers is halfway through the program and going very well.
- Sand Volleyball will be offered at the end of July through August this summer.
- Allison has been busy contacting instructors for summer camps and working on the schedule of all the different sessions.
- March brings the beginning of Baseball/Softball/Tee Ball season.
- She is also busy planning for Easter, the annual Open House, and upcoming Dance Classes.

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FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER (reported by Becky)

- Group Fitness Class attendance for December was 529, with 224 during the free week.
- The last Meet & Mingle of the year is on December 18th, which had 5 in attendance.
- Jennifer sold 32 Personal Training packages in 2025.
- There were 2 special classes offered at the end of December, Holiday Hustle and a New Year's Eve class, which were both well attended.
- The 10-day Video Class Special had 6 purchased.
- The Wellness Expo has 37 vendors registered, and 9 are new this year.
- Jennifer is working on the new class schedule.
- The Wellness Walk starts a new leg of Route 66, with special locations, for which individuals track their miles walked to win prizes.
- The Best Body program started in January with 3 participants.
- Jennifer is working on creating another escape room special class with an Olympic theme.
- Mark will be teaching Candlelight Yoga.
- February will have the annual Football Frenzy event.
- A special class will be offered to teach foam rolling.
- Jennifer has been creating social media posts quoting patrons' and staff's answers to a recent survey and their positive experiences here at LPD.
- March will be the annual Membership Drive, coordinated with our Wellness Expo.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Becky informed the Board that she received the previously mentioned email complaint about the new pickle ball fees and overall court reservation fees having been added.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Capital Improvements: See Executive Director's Report.
- B. Aquatic Center: See Executive Director's Report.
- C. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution#368: Allocate 2025 Revenue Recapture to the Audit Fund.
 1. Gary Nodine made the motion to adopt Resolution#368 to allocate the Revenue Recapture funds to the Audit Fund.
 2. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion.
 3. Motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Fiscal Year 2025 Audit – Scheduled for April 2026.

Executive Session: Bob Thomas made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss and employee matter. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:33 pm.

The Board exited Executive session at 7:21 pm. No vote was needed.

Angie informed the Board that LCHS had sent over the \$10,000 payment per the IGA, and she verified with Chapman & Cutler regarding how that money can be used. She was told that unless the Board included in the IGA specifically what the monies would be used for, which they did not,

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the use was left to the Board's discretion. The Board consensus, without further discussion, was to allocate the \$10,000 from LCHS towards audit fees incurred for FY 2024 audit.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Gary Nodine moved to adjourn the meeting, Dave Perring moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 7:23 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM.