

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 8, 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 in attendance were Don Peasley, Gary Nodine and Dave Perring. Bob Thomas and Sam White were absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, William Hutchison and Angie Coombs. Vern Haseley, Allison Baker and Jennifer Prather were absent.

MINUTES OF MEETING - Minutes of the meeting in June were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. No changes needed to be made. Gary Nodine made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dave Perring 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	-	\$	2,649.93
RECREATION	-	\$	11,173.01
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	32,537.31

Don asked if anyone had any questions about expenses listed. Angie informed the Board that Givisco submitted an invoice that day for 50% of the Craft Room cost to purchase cabinetry and other necessary materials, which was included in the packet for their review. Dave Perring made the motion to approve Accounts Payable, including the additional Givisco invoice, as presented. The motion was seconded by Gary Nodine, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW-

Angie reported that LPD has received the first Real Estate Tax Distribution of the year, which was nearly half of the expected total. Angie also reported that the Recreation Fund had reimbursed General Fund for all payroll to date.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - BECKY STRAIT

➤ A Slideshow presentation was displayed:

- Becky stated that the summer is in full swing and staff have been busy.
- Becky thanked Gary and the Masonic Lodge for donating their time during the July 4th celebration by cooking the pork chops, brats and hot dogs that were sold at LPD's concession stand. She thanked William for his hard work to help get the grounds ready for the event, and Angie for making sure staff had what they needed as well. Becky stated that the event went smoothly this year, it was just very hot. Don inquired about the total cost, which Angie verified to be between \$17,000 & \$18,000, due to

the additional contributions made by the City Council and ME Realty. Becky reminded the Board that the City contributed more this year than previously, once they learned that LPD planned a larger, more expensive show for the nation's 250th anniversary. Becky did state that she was interested in the Board's consideration about keeping the same show moving forward. Dave stated that he would love to know the true number of spectators, but that is a difficult question to answer as the crowd is disbursed around the area. Gary pointed out that the roads were packed with vehicles. Becky did report that concession sales were down a little from the previous year but speculated that the heat may have had a hand in that. LPD will consider moving the concession location for next year's event.

- Summer Camps and programs are keeping the facility full. Theater Camp, Swim Lessons, and Family Fun Days have been well attended.

➤ Parks & Pavilions:

- Becky stated that the Board had briefly discussed how to handle requests to reserve pavilions at the parks, and it was suggested that it be on a first-come-first serve basis.
- Currently, patrons are told that only the pavilion can be reserved, and there is no guarantee that the public will not be also present to use the playground features while the pavilion is being used as arranged.
 - Dave asked if there have been any problems to date.
 - Becky and William explained that a group was already using the pavilion at Exchange Club when the group that had "officially" reserved the day/time with LPD arrived.
 - There was a little back and forth between the two groups, and it was relayed that once it was said that LPD was sending staff to verify the one group's reservation, the other group left.
 - The draw at that park is the sand volleyball and basketball court.
- Gary stated that he would prefer that staff not get caught in the middle.
- Dave inquired if there was a fee associated with park pavilion reservations.
 - Becky verified that the pavilions are free to use, and LPD staff typically post a sign with the name of the group and date/time of reservation.
 - Becky stated that LPD staff are unable and have no plans to police the pavilion usage, as well as the playgrounds and public/open areas in the parks.
- Memorial OSLAD
 - Becky informed the Board that the State has officially opened the grant cycle for applications.
 - Becky is in discussion with the engineer to design the plan, which may include disc golf, a new paved road, pavilions, playground and sustainability aspects.
 - Becky reported to have received a public request for disc golf not long after the June meeting.

➤ Lincoln Community High School:

- Becky displayed via the projector an aerial image of the parking lot in question, which was taken prior to the project last year.
- The Board will continue to discuss the matter under New Business.

➤ ADA Improvement Project:

- The Fit Zone entrance requires a pedestal installed in concrete before the access button can be installed.

- Becky reported that the contractors will be fixing boxes and some of the connections.
 - Some of the materials used are not designed to be exposed, but within walls instead, which is part of the issue.
 - Becky explained that Dustin is facilitating the project to be completed properly to meet ADA standards, and Vern is very happy to have Dustin handling the matter.
 - Don asked if LPD would have to pay to have the work redone, but Becky explained that it would be the responsibility of the contractor since it does not meet ADA specifications.
- Becky did inform the Board that there are 2 changes coming that were not part of the original plan.
 - The wear and tear have added the necessity that the hinges be replaced.
 - Both the Fit Zone and Front Entrance need this update to proceed.

➤ Plumbing Improvement Project:

- Becky is working with Dustin to schedule the pre-bid meeting.
- Val is coordinating with Becky dates that need to be blocked for the project.
- Becky reminded the Board that Vern informed them of the fact that LPD's interior water main has a very old valve, which controls the entire building.
 - The project will require Dustin to coordinate port-a-pots for the day(s) that the water will need to be shut off to transition from the old plumbing to the new.
 - The plan is to reduce the time shut down to as little as possible.
- Dustin did take measurements of the space for the new cabinetry, which need to be ordered shortly to allow for lead time.
- The plumbing supplies are standard and should not require any additional lead time.
- The plan is to schedule events so that the Board can review and award the project at the August meeting.

➤ Memorial Park / Elks boundary issue:

- Becky asked if there were any requested changes to be made to the letter or if they authorized sending it to Lincoln Elks as is.
- Gary Nodine made the motion to send the letter as presented to the Elks' leadership.
 - Dave Perring moved to second the motion.
 - Motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

➤ Foundation:

- Becky stated that she will be scheduling another Foundation Board meeting, where she plans to request permission to utilize the extra pork chops for the end-of-season staff party.
- All of the July 4th Celebration sponsorships and donations went through the Foundation.

Dave asked a follow up question to the brief discussion of the Memorial Park boundary issue, as he inquired about any correspondence received from the Elks. Becky stated that she hopes to open that discussion after she sends the letter. William did verify that the dumping continues to be an issue. Becky stated that she had ordered more signs to be posted.

➤ Seasonal Staff:

- Becky informed the Board that LPD did not have the greatest luck this season, as the two most eligible were only partially available.

- She expressed her gratitude that the Board approved contacting the City earlier regarding the mowing of their parks.
- Without the usual seasonal help, the 3 Full-Time staff have been kept quite busy mowing LPD parks and grounds.
- Gary commented on how garbage the public left on LPD grounds after the fireworks show and asked who was responsible for the cleanup.
 - William verified that he and Garrett had emptied all the garbage barrels before leaving that night, and they returned for a few hours the next day to pick up the scattered trash.
 - Gary suggested coordinating with an organization to help with the event clean up.

➤ City Parade/ July 4th Celebration:

- Becky reported that she heard that it went well.
- Gary stated that it was not as well attended as other parades in town, by both observers and participants/floats.
- Becky stated that LPD may need to rethink the Children's parade for 2027, but she was happy to give the City the spotlight this year.
- Becky opined that it works to keep the fireworks on the 3rd, so that the public can do their own activities on the 4th, however, next year the 4th does fall on a Sunday so the children's parade may need to be rescheduled.

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - presented by William Hutchison

- William verified that staff had been busy mowing this season, as the rain seems to come at the right time and sporadic enough to keep it growing well.
- It was asked if anyone had heard who the City had hired to mow their parks, but Becky had only heard that it was a company out of Bloomington.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Report Attached as Addendum#1

FITNESS MANAGER: Report Attached as Addendum#2

CORRESPONDENCE: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Capital Improvements:

1. ADA Entry Upgrade: See Executive Director's Report.
2. Plumbing Improvement & Craft Room Remodel Project: See Executive Director's Report.

B. Aquatic Center: None.

C. Memorial Park Property Line/ Lincoln Elks: See Executive Director's Report.

D. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Lincoln Community High School ADA Baseball entry request:

1. Don stated that LCHS would be responsible for the upkeep/maintenance of said ADA pathway.
2. Becky stated that a caveat can be added to the official IGA regarding the matter.
3. Gary Nodine made a motion to approve LCHS' request to install an ADA pathway on LPD property for their subsequent usage of the parking lot per the IGA, with a few criteria:

- a) LCCHS understands that LPD is not relinquishing the property utilized by the path.
- b) LCCHS accepts the responsibility of maintaining the path and to replace it as needed.
- c) Three (3) designated handicapped parking spaces are being allocated.
- 4. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, including the criteria listed.
- 5. Motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Sauna situation: To repair or replace(?):
 - 1. William stated that he had spoken with Thera Sauna, the manufacturer of the current unit.
 - a) The controllers and system are outdated, as this is one of the first models of its kind.
 - b) The sauna and the system are not designed for commercial use.
 - c) The unit can function without the controllers, as the system can be controlled by the iPad.
 - 2. Gary stated that the sauna is not as hot as it was initially.
 - a) William reported that the heating coils do have a lifespan.
 - b) Gary agreed that if the unit was not made to be used in a commercial environment, then the lifespan will be decreased since it is currently be used 15 hours/day.
 - c) Becky opined that it was a wonder that it lasted this long.
 - 3. William is currently researching commercial saunas, but the majority are custom built and/or strictly for in-home use.
 - 4. Gary did request that infrared be the system, which Becky verified that it is reportedly better.
 - 5. Becky informed the Board that this will likely be expensive to replace and will likely need to be part of the 2027 Budget.
 - a) Gary questioned the currently available Capital Funds should the unit need to be fixed or replaced before 2027.
 - b) Angie stated that the HVAC issues have used the majority of the miscellaneous funds set aside for unplanned events such as the Sauna and HVAC issues, and that she was still waiting to receive the most recent invoice for the HVAC repairs just finished.
 - c) Becky suggested that LPD proceed with researching options in preparation for the budget process and possible repairs.

Executive Session: None.

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

Adjournment: 6:52 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

It was recommended that there be a trial period where the Program Coordinator and Fitness Manager submit their reports for Board review in lieu of attending the meeting. If there is a specific topic that they feel warrants a discussion, they are welcome to attend the meeting. The Board reached a consensus of trying this for some time to simplify the meetings.

July 8, 2026

- Summer programs
 - Putting on a Play happening this week (28 kids)
 - Nature Camp next week (11 kids)
 - Dr. Campbell can no longer help in the same capacity (Creekside is no longer available)
 - I am hoping to use to Kickapoo or Memorial Park instead
 - Camp Invention in 2 weeks (25 campers, 11 alumni and 14 new)
 - Almost all of the scholarship funds (2 in total) were used for campers to be able to attend at no cost!
 - Guest for one of the foundations that helped with these will be visiting one day of camp
 - Cheer Camp with High School girls first week of August (10 so far)
 - Rec baseball has wrapped up for the season
 - 8u girls won 1st in their tournament
 - 10u girls participated in a summer olympic games night in Tremont in place of a tournament due to only 3 teams (they had a blast)
 - 12u boys are still playing scrimmage games against each other until next week
 - League pool party is this Friday
- Adult Kickball is going well everyone after many schedule changes due to rain outs in June
- 4th of July concessions went well had \$738 in sales and also gave out free popcorn and popsicles

Fitness Manager Report

Jennifer Prather

July 2026

- Group fitness class attendance for June was **1025**. 1004 in 2025
- **283** for the first week of free classes for June
- Race registration. We have **63** 5K and **32** kids registered.
- Race medals have been ordered and will be here begin of Aug
- Solid Strength has ended however they wanted to continue so I have created more workouts to continue in July. We have some new people joining us for the next round of classes too. We had **8** participants in June. July we have **6** registered so far.
- Water fitness will end at the end of this month,
- Active Agers Remember When potluck had 15 in attendance
- The August schedule will be out next week
- I have been working on the Stay Another Day event for the 7th graders and finally got a presenter scheduled for the event. All schools in Lincoln with a 7th grade class have been invited to attend.
- Fall fitness programming is underway. Outdoor spin, intro to spin, weight room course, free week in sept. just to name a few.