LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:02 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 Sam White. Bob Thomas was absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Allison Baker, and Jennifer Prather. Angie Coombs was absent.

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the meeting in May were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. No changes needed to be made. <u>Gary Nodine 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.</u>

VISITORS – Doug Ebelherr

- Gary invited Doug to present his ideas and help with possibly adding more trees to Memorial Park.
- Vern mentioned that a lot of trees at Memorial have been dying due to beetles invading them.
- Becky wants to hold off on tree projects due to a potential OSLAD grant for Memorial Park next year.
- Gary asked Vern if we can plant trees that will not be affected by future plans.
- Vern and Doug agreed that they would be able to plant new trees on the perimeter of the park to avoid conflicts with potential future projects.
- Doug suggested starting with planting 75-100 trees to allow for growth.
- Vern and the Board agreed that would be a good number and would also add diversity to the park.
- Gary asked Vern and Doug to make a plan for what and where the best places/trees would be to add.

Sam White on behalf of LCHS

- Sam asked the Board if LPD would be able to put a concrete path at the entrance of their baseball diamond.

- Sam stated LCHS would pay for this project as it is to serve as a handicap entrance to LCHS baseball games.
- Board decided they will vote on the project at the next meeting.

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

GENERAL - $ 314.50
RECREATION - $ 3,322.28
LIABILITY FUND - $ 5,159.00
CAPITAL IMP. - $ 22,079.24

Don asked if anyone had any questions about expenses listed. No questions asked about accounts payable. Gary Nodine made the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented. The motion was seconded by Sam White, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW –

Becky stated that we have had good sales and a steady money flow coming in from pool passes, memberships, and camp registrations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:

- Becky stated that staff are in the middle of the busy summer season:

  - Summer ball leagues are nearing the end of their season, but camps have just begun. The aquatics center is also in full swing after opening on June 1.

 Parks:

- Becky informed the Board there has been ongoing vandalism at Exchange Club park. Unfortunately, while new features at this park (pavilion, sand volleyball and basketball court, playground equipment) have increased usage, we are also seeing increased destructive behavior.
- Becky stated that she has spoken with the police chief about frequent “pop up parties” occurring around town. He informed her that our facilities and parks could become locations for these and they will increase patrol and continue monitoring.

- She also suggests to the board that more signage about park hours (dawn to dusk) be added to all parks per police recommendation.
- Becky also informed the Board of issues that have arisen with park reservations. There have been more frequent requests to reserve pavilions and park space at Exchange Club, Lehn & Fink and our facility.
- Valerie has stated to Becky that it is hard to specify what is actually reserved with the reservation (specifically at Exchange Club) and that we do not necessarily have the manpower to resolve disputes, as recently occurred at Exchange Club when a party had reserved the pavilion and when they came, there was a large group already there to use the park amenities.
- The Board had discussion about possibly eliminating the need for a reservation and changing to "first come, first serve" or only extending reservations to pavilions and not to equipment or courts.
- Becky agreed exploring these options would be beneficial and will continue to work with Valerie for a better system.

➢ Memorial OSLAD

- Becky has been working with the architect/engineering firm on submitting another OSLAD grant for Memorial Park.
- The plan is to include disc golf, new paved road, pavilions, playground and sustainability aspects.
- Becky asked the Board for input on a concept with all elements to present to the State.

 ADA Improvement Project:

- The project is nearing completion with almost all doors being installed.
- Becky informed the board that there have been issues with components and boxes on completed doors.
- Issues include a few sensors on doors are off to enable exiting and timing of doors being open needs extended.
- All contractors will be onsite Friday, June 12 to have a meeting to fix these problems.
- Gary asked if it will end up costing us more to fix even if not our fault.

- Becky and Vern state they are unsure but believe we should not have to because there is confusion why some elements were used to begin with.
- Becky and Vern will continue to monitor the progress and inform the board of further changes.

 Plumbing Improvement Project:

- Last month Becky discussed with Dustin the possibility of postponing some of the originally planned work for the Craft Room until next year, when it will be more cost effective to do work on both the Craft Room and the Railer Room.
- After more discussion this still seems to be the best option. Becky informed the board we will still be moving forward with the plumbing portion of the project and with changing out the sinks and cabinets in the Craft Room in late summer.
- The board agreed with the decision to split the projects to keep it the most cost effective.

 Memorial Park / Elks boundary issue:

- Becky presented the board with a new draft of the letter to present to the Elks with a few changes per the board's suggestions at last month's meeting.
- It was agreed that the letter be reviewed and approved at the next board meeting.
- Vern stated that all trash that was around the burn pile on LPD property has been removed.

 Fiscal Year 2025 Audit:

- The Auditors are still working on the audit with continued information being provided by Angie.
- Becky mentioned that we will need to request another extension as it is taking longer than expected due to more thorough work than previous years.

 Paid Time Off Policy:

- After the Board's review, the staff PTO policy was approved.
- <u>Sam White made the motion to approve the proposed changes to the staff PTO policy.</u>
- <u>Gary Nodine moved to second the motion.</u>

- <u>The motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.</u>

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS – Vern Haseley

- Vern stated that the guys are busy keeping up with all of the properties and fields this summer.
- Vern mentioned that a shaft broke off in the bat wing mower.
- He is unsure of the cause, possibly a bad CB joint that broke while turning.
- Estimated cost of $5,000 to fix
- Board agreed to allow Vern to spend what was needed to fix it as this is an important piece of equipment in the summer months.
- Vern also said the AC unit in the pool concession stand is no longer working, have a temporary unit in the meantime.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: ALLISON BAKER

- Allison reported that Art Camp had a successful week with 18 campers in the younger group and 12 in the older.
- Allison also stated that she was able to find 4 teams for the adult Kickball league.
- Austin (concessions manger) has been doing well navigating and stocking all stands for tournaments and the pool.
- The front office has been extremely busy selling pool passes, memberships, swim lessons and camp registrations.
- Allison reported that the summer Rec League season was nearing the end. She was able to add more games to the 12u boys' schedule with Mason City and Mt. Pulaski.
- After learning from other coaches, Allison let the Board know that the field lights on Legion Field actually work.
- Vern agreed that they do work, but the lumens are low and are still unsafe to play under.
- The Board asked if there was a way to fix the old lights instead of getting new.
- Vern stated it would be possible but expensive for the amount that the lights get used and it's unpredictable whether just fixing the lights (versus replacing them)

would even be supported by the old components in place. For instance, we may get new light bulbs only to find that the old components are faulty.
- The Board does not want coaches to have access to the lights and they should remain unused for safety reasons.

FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group fitness class attendance for the month of May was 618.
- Jennifer mentioned that 283 participated in the first week of free classes in June.
- Jennifer has submitted the 5K race onto the Route 66 centennial page and it is now listed as an event for Illinois.
- Race registrations are at 29 for the 5K and 11 for the kids race.
- Jennifer submitted a different race route plan to the city. This is in an effort to avoid the busy intersections with the runners and hope to have them now end at LPD.
- Jennifer has been working on a new shirt design for the 5K to celebrate the 100 years of Route 66. She and Molly from the hospital have been working to design a new design for the kids' race shirts.
- With more demand, Jennifer has added a Solid Strength course in the evening along with the morning class.
- Jennifer worked on a video series during the off week of classes at the end of May to launch in the fall or January in the new year.
- Water fitness started on June 1st and classes have been steady so far, with 103 participants in the first week.
- Jennifer is hosting an Active Agers Potluck (70s theme) on June 12th.
- The Active Ager instructors and Jennifer had a meeting to discuss potentially adding more Active Agers classes to the schedule due to the need for more.
    - Currently at 70 active participants
- Gary asked Becky if some issues had been resolved with water fitness participants.
- Becky said she and Jennifer had come up with an idea to allow water fitness participants to stay in a certain area of the pool deck for swim lessons and clear

the deck for a guard break.

- Next year Becky and Jennifer will look at changing water fitness and lap swim times to be back to back.

CORRESPONDENCE: Becky mentioned to the Board she has been receiving complaints about the heat in the gym. She has advised patrons that it is on, it is just having a hard time keeping up with humidity outside. The board agreed that it is too expensive to heat and cool to keep it low.

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: See Executive Director's Report.

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

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

Don verified that LPD still has the tree spade listed for sale, which Vern confirmed.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ordinance #369 - 2026 Prevailing Wage

Dave Perring made the motion to approve Ordinance #369. Sam White moved to second the motion and passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

B. Sauna repair

Vern addressed the Board with ongoing issues with the infrared sauna in the Fitzone. Vern stated that the control panel part is out of date and cannot find a replacement. The sauna is still maintaining heat, Becky will be looking into costs for a new possible commercial sauna.

Executive Session: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Gary Nodine moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Perring moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 7:29 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 at 6:00 PM.