

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

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the meeting in February 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	-	\$	9,333.81
RECREATION	-	\$	4,984.28
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	26,044.75
LIABILITY	-	\$	5,159.00

Don asked if anyone had any questions about expenses listed. Gary asked about the payment issued to Nextera, which Angie verified that it was for Natural Gas for the Sports Complex. Gary Nodine made 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 informed the Board of the recent PPRT funds received, which is only \$50 less than funds received at this point last year. Angie pointed out that she had also included a breakdown of expenses due from the Audit Fund to reimburse General for the FY 2024 Audit. She reminded the Board that it was on the agenda for them to discuss the Certificate of Deposit, which she recommended cashing out the interest to then allocate towards repaying the Audit expense.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- Becky stated that staff have been busy organizing the Tennis Social & clinics, registration for upcoming events such as Pickleball and the new Toxins class and preparing for the upcoming Wellness Expo. Next month will be busy with the Foundation Early Bird Breakfast Fundraiser and our Spring Open House.
- Park Improvements:
 - Becky provided a quick re-cap of the previous discussions pertaining to City parks this summer.
 - Walt provided the City with an estimate of \$20-25,000 to contract out the mowing for the season, but it was not clear if that was just for the parks that LPD mowed or all the properties owned by the City Street department including the 4 parks in question.
 - Some of the City Council did question the reason why LPD maintains the 4 City-owned parks.

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- Both Tracy and Walt explained to the Council that the agreement was antiquated, and recently reviewed only for the second time since its original date from the 1960's.
- The Council did support putting the work out for RFP and adding it to the agenda as well as adding it to the annual budget.
- Gary stated that having LPD mowing City parks was not part of the original purpose of creating the Park District.
- Becky verified that the original agreement was not worded that way, yet the language was rather ambiguous, which led to the ability to interpret and evolve as such.
- Reportedly, the City Council discussed how it was noted during previous discussions and council meetings the City's prior lack of attention and recently began actively improving their own parks when they received COVID funds.
- Dave provided a summary of the agreement history between the two entities.
- Angie reminded the Board that LPD had installed a playground in each of the City Parks back in the early 2000s, which started the discussion when it came time to replace playgrounds.
- Becky stated that Alderman Bateman said he has wanted the City to contract out the mowing for years, so he is interested in how that will benefit both entities.
- Construction Projects:
 - Becky informed the Board that she has been working with Dustin, of GIVSCO, to review and compile specifications to progress to the bid process for the ADA project.
 - The concrete area (30x60') at the Fit Zone entrance will need to be replaced.
 - Seth Thomas provided an estimate of \$23,000.00 for that part of the project.
 - \$11,875.00 for materials and \$12,025.00 for labor.
 - Vern reminded the Board that the area in front of the dumpster will also need repaired.
 - Becky stated that the dumpster area will need to be added to the 2027 schedule.
 - Dave suggested moving the dumpster in the meantime, or permanently.
 - Vern explained that the portion of the lot was pre-existing the 2003 remodel and included in the 2020 Rear Parking Lot project that received the texturizing treatment.
 - Becky informed the Board that the original ADA estimate was \$100,000, but Dustin was able to do some research, which brought it down to around \$84,000, and leaves room for a portion of the additional concrete repair.
 - Becky stated that any balance could be covered by the Miscellaneous line item or Building Improvements.
 - One area that saved money was Dustin finding an upgrade option in lieu of completely replacing the Front Entrance doors, which were about \$19,000 just for new doors.
 - Gary asked if LPD starts to update doors for ADA compliance, would that necessitate a plan to continue to update all doors.
 - Angie pointed out that completing one door out of each set meets ADA requirements and helps to keep the cost lower.
 - Becky stated that the current plan includes all main doors, but LPD can later opt to update other doors in the following years.
 - Sam White made the motion to approve the ADA quote, to move forward with the project, and accept the quote from Seth Thomas for the concrete work at the entry.
 - Gary Nodine moved to second the motion.
 - Motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

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- Staff:
 - Kayla Berglin was hired to help at the Front Desk.
 - Austin Huerd was hired as Concessions Manager.
 - Matt White put in his notice.
- Software Outage:
 - Sportsman, our membership and daily activity software, was down for almost 5 days.
 - Thankfully, it occurred the weekend of the Welsh Tournament, which is usually a very slow few days for LPD transaction-wise.
 - They did verify that it was due to a cyber-attack, but have informed us that there was minimal security risk, and are working with the FBI on the issue.
 - Sam inquired if LPD was advised to notify patrons of a possible breach.
 - Becky stated that they were only confirmed to gain access to some of the attached documents, which patrons are allowed to upload themselves, too.
 - Becky is working with staff to verify what attachments were connected to the few patrons listed and whether or not they contained any sensitive information.
 - Don stated that it would be prudent not to attach documents as files from now on, and Becky agreed that LPD can make notes in patron profiles that hard copies are on file.
- Pool Drain Covers:
 - Still waiting to hear from the State officially.
 - When they requested the additional information, it was stated that the State has over 200 permit applications in the queue, and LPD was near the top at that time.
 - The Engineer stated that he sees no reason why LPD should be denied, as other locations that he is working with have much more required to meet the standards.
- Security System Upgrade:
 - Becky informed the Board that she had signed a contract with Heart to replace the burglar panel and to proceed with switching the telephone service through their provider.
 - LPD will be receiving the equipment delivery from the provider, and Heart will send a tech for the installation.
- Foundation:
 - Avanti's Sandwich tickets are being sold for pick up on Saturday, during the Expo.
 - Another breakfast fundraiser will be held on the morning of the Open House on April 25th.
- Policy Update:
 - Auditors request a more formalized document to review as part of the audit process.
 - Becky asked the Board to review the proposed document, which details what is currently being done, and includes the protocols and procedures previously discussed to improve bookkeeping practices.
- Staff Request:
 - Troy Brown requested that Becky put the matter before the Board, but he has requested permission to frame Aaron Leesman's "Pump Fe" License Plate to be displayed in memorial in the Fit Zone. The frame would also include a plaque with verbiage stating how he was a long-time dedicated patron of LPD prior to his passing.
 - The consensus of the Board was to decline the request, to prevent setting a precedent for future requests, which may create issues in the future.
 - It was pointed out that there is a memorial rock out front, which has been the topic of concern from the family while construction was in progress, and the issue with the Memorial Park In-Memory Bench needing replaced this past summer.

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- Letter from SCA, Inc. requesting permission to serve alcohol during their June event.
 - Becky read the letter to the Board, explaining that this is the group that reserves much of the facility for their bi-annual events.
 - Becky explained that the organization is part of a nation-wide entity that has insurance that covers this local chapter, which can provide the dram shop policy.
 - The event will include wristbands to identify those carded and eligible for service.
 - The Board reached a consensus to approve the request.

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley

- Vern informed the Board that the Driving Range is scheduled to open April 1st.
- Vern spoke to the Board about how Pony field is difficult to maintain, as it “takes a beating each summer”. He recently filled the divots for the rain to settle, but he would like to change it to a multi-purpose design like the Breezy Tri-plex. John has agreed to come and help get the diamonds ready for the season and he is talking about the issue with him.

FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group Fitness Class attendance for February was 802, but the number may be off slightly due to the outage.
- The Wellness Walk is in the last week for participants to track their mileage.
- Best Body event is wrapping up
- Candlelight Yoga had 11 participants and 5 were non-members
- Spring Into Action began on March 1st with Jennifer and Amanda coordinating class instruction. There are 14 participants, 2 of which are staff, and 4 non-members.
- The Active Agers Potluck is scheduled for March 20th.
- The Wellness Expo has 55 vendors registered, and 21 are new this year. The Foundation has sold 60 sandwich tickets so far. Gary asked how many sandwiches were sold last year, which Becky verified as 150, and Becky is ordering more for this year.
- April's Group Fitness Challenge has a punch card, where participants can get prizes for attending 20 classes.
- Both the City and High School are scheduled to vote on LPD's permit request to hold the annual 5K and kids' races on their respective grounds. Don inquired if the Balloon fest was being coordinated with Open Arms, which Jennifer verified that Seth had recently published the upcoming changes to the event.
- Jennifer is working on the summer Water Fitness schedule.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Becky stated that there was a slight issue with a rental, which was resolved, but she would not have been surprised if someone had reached out to complain prior to the event. There was confusion on their DJ needing a certificate of liability, and they were told that there would be a fee required to get the certificate. However, it turned out that the DJ had quit the business and was doing this event for a friend, and therefore no longer had insurance. Becky was able to provide a waiver for this circumstance.

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Vern mentioned that the Range needs new mats for the tee boxes.

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. Certificate of Deposit: \$250,000.00 & \$8,003.46 interest which matures on March 13, 2026.
 - 1. Dave Perring made the motion to approve reinvesting \$250,000.00 into another 7-month Certificate of Deposit at Tremont Bank and allocating the withdrawn interest to the Audit Fund for FY 2024 audit fees.
 - 2. Sam White moved to second the motion.
 - 3. Motion passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Investment Policies: Tabled for further review by Board.
- C. City of Lincoln IGA: See Executive Director's Report.
- D. ADA Door Upgrade: See Executive Director's Report.
- E. Fit Zone parking Lot Repair: See Executive Director's Report.
- F. John Welsh Memorial Basketball Tournament Contract renewal.
 - 1. Becky informed the Board that she reviewed the current contract, which was signed by John Andrews in 2019, and terminates in 2028.
 - a. The contract includes 2 days for \$600, which is discounted to include LPD advertising on the LJHS gym scoreboard and as a Tournament Sponsor.
 - b. LJHS also paid around \$4,000 to upgrade the Court#2's backboards.
 - 2. It was pointed out that LPD loses income to close the courts to the public for the weekend.
 - a. Sam questioned if LPD would be permitted to sell their own concessions for future events to help offset that loss.
 - b. Becky also pointed out that, this year, the last game was scheduled to start at 9:00 pm, which is when LPD closes, so staff had to stay later than scheduled.
 - c. Becky added that LPD also pays for extra security and staff to clean during the tournament weekend.
 - 3. Sam commented that Lincoln College's Gym was opened for this year's tournament.
 - 4. Gary questioned whether other schools get paid for the use of their facilities, but it was unclear since they typically sell concessions at their facilities as fundraising.
 - a. It was suggested that LPD ask if concessions could be renegotiated.
 - b. Becky will search for more information on the matter.

Executive Session: Sam White made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a matter pertaining to the Paid Time Off Policy. Dave Perring moved to second the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:55 pm.

The Board exited Executive session at 7:07 pm. No vote was needed.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Dave Perring moved to adjourn the meeting, Sam White moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 7:08 P.M.

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