

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2025**

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, Dave Perring, Gary Nodine, and Bob Thomas. Sam White was absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Allison Baker, and Angie Coombs. Jennifer Prather was absent.

PUBLIC HEARING – At 6:01 PM, Don Peasley, Board President, called the Public Hearing Open and proceeded to read aloud the legal notice that was published for the hearing. This hearing was held to discuss the intent of the Board to sell \$840,000 General Obligation Bonds. As there were no visitors present to discuss the Bond Issuance, at 6:03 PM, the Public Hearing was closed.

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the meeting in September were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Dave Perring made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bob Thomas 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	-	\$	9,095.27
RECREATION	-	\$	25,312.38
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	155,063.91

Don inquired about the \$22,000 payment listed to Homefield Energy. Angie explained that this was the Electric Provider selected in lieu of Ameren Illinois. Becky continued to explain that this was part of the issue with providing the Board with the energy comparison that had been requested, as this was the first invoice received, which encompassed the first 8 months of service under the contract. Don pointed out that billing 8 months at once could be an issue for budgeting. Don then asked if anyone had any other questions on items listed within Accounts Payable. Gary Nodine 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 informed the Board that she had waited to disburse the Real Estate Tax monies until the new auditors had time to review and make a recommendation. The previous auditors had requested that they be recorded differently, but the current auditors were kind enough to provide a template to track the transactions more accurately within the accounting software, which is more accurate for the audit purposes. With those monies in the proper accounts, Angie as able to reimburse the Recreation Fund's portion of payroll back to General Fund through most of the year. Otherwise, program and facility income is still going well.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- Becky began by thanking Gary and staff for all their work for the Foundation Fundraiser, which brought in around \$500.
- Recent events include the Stay Another Day with local 7th graders, which Jen organized with an organization from Bloomington. Becky stated that she felt it benefited the kids and teachers to hear the Founder's story about how important mental health is. The proceeds from the 5K and children's races went towards sponsoring this event, including some of Memorial Health's donation. Part of the program was LPD handing out journals to all the participants. This may be a program to consider providing annually.
- Park Improvement Projects:
 - Exchange Club Park:
 - Becky received a complaint from a neighbor about how long the project took to finish.
 - Once Becky explained about the situation with the weather and contractor delays; the resident seemed to be more understanding.
 - She also informed the resident of the upcoming addition of play equipment to be installed.
 - Becky informed the Board that the resident also noted how much the neighborhood has been enjoying the new courts, pavilion, and walkways.
 - Becky reminded the Board that the court will soon have the lines painted for basketball and pickleball, which was quoted at \$1,700.
 - The quote also includes fixing the Front Parking lot lines where the island was removed for an additional \$850.
 - Gary inquired about why the original company isn't paying to fix the mistake.
 - Becky explained that it was painted as Farnsworth planned it, but once executed, it did not look right and created a narrower driving space than before.
 - Gary asked about the far side only having one direction/drive lane, but Becky explained that Farnsworth designed it to spec, and the existing islands caused the issue as it made everything look odd.
 - Becky stated that she had inquired about options to reduce the yellow striped section where the islands used to be connected, which would expand the driving area beyond the minimum requirement.
 - Gary Nodine made the motion to approve the \$1,750 + 850 quote to repaint the parking lines where the front island used to be, and the Exchange Club Park court lines.
 - Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
 - North Parking Lot Improvement Project:
 - Dave inquired about who was contracted to do the Ballroom Driveway & extension.
 - Becky reminded Dave that the Board had considered adding the driveway to the North Parking Lot Project but opted to wait.
 - Becky explained that since the State had changed bid limits, that the project could be done without needing to undergo the entire bid process.
 - Regardless of the bid limit, the Board was reviewing the bids submitted by Aupperle to add it as a change order in comparison to Thomas Construction's bid.
 - Thomas Construction's bid came in lower than Aupperle's and fell under the new bid limits set by the State.

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- Seth did report finding a few issues that needed to be dealt with once they began removing the old slab.
- The original slab had no sub-base or rebar, and the doors' footings needed to be fixed and joined correctly.
- This will increase both labor and material cost.
- Gary asked if the concrete would be 6 inches, but Vern & Becky both verified that the plans included 5 inches with rebar.
- Becky also reminded the Board that there is no need for large garbage trucks to drive on the new driveway, since the dumpster was moved to its own pad along the road.
- After finishing the driveway, Seth plans on fixing the concrete pad at Exchange Club Park, and he will see to repairing the 9-square pad at Lehn & Fink Park.
- Seth stated to Becky that he is willing to compromise on that repair by charging for labor only regarding the 9-Square pad repair.
- Seth did suggest leaving the fence off the dumpster pad and then replacing the chain link fence around the electrical component between the Ballroom Door and Cold Storage with a privacy fence.
- Seth also mentioned that he used some of the salvaged gravel from the North Parking Lot project for the driveway to help save LPD some money on the project.
- Pool Grate Replacement Permit:
 - Becky has been coordinating with a company to proceed with the project.
 - Weather prohibited the site inspection scheduled for October 7th but will be rescheduled.
 - Jason Reynolds, a Morton pool contractor, works with Gene Kelly, a pool Engineer, to provide the services needed to submit the State's new permit application, but at a more reasonable cost when compared to quotes received from other companies.
 - Mr. Reynolds will inspect the pool and submit his measurements, and system notes to Mr. Kelly for the calculations to complete the report for the State.
 - Gary inquired about the main issue which prompted this new permit application system.
 - Becky explained that there is a Federal law regarding pool systems that include suction, the Virginia Graeme Baker Law, in which there is risk of insufficient drain covers being a problem.
 - The law requires the covers to be replaced every 10 years to make sure everything is within compliance with safety standards.
 - Gary questioned whether replacing covers like for like would be exempt, which Becky explained that the current covers are like for like, but still fall under this new State-issued permit process.
 - Becky continued by saying that the State implemented this new process this year, and since the pool was installed 10 years ago, this is the first time the cover renewal has been a factor when the pool has been inspected annually.
 - Becky speculated that it could be a way for the State to monitor the manufacturing side of the pool product & operation.
 - Angie pointed out that there is validity in the concept, as the new covers were reportedly delivered by the manufacturers with screws too short to secure them properly to the pool. Other facilities may not have staff that would have taken the extra steps to order longer screws like LPD's staff did.
 - Bob questioned the cost of the process, which Becky explained that these two gentlemen are willing to do the same work for a 10th of the Farnsworth quote, and are certified.

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- Pool Hours / 2026 Season:
 - Becky asked the Board to consider the possibility of postponing the pool opening until June 1st next year, which can be discussed in depth later.
 - The trend of the past 4 years, the weather has been too cold to open on Memorial Day.
 - The option of already planning to open later will give LPD more time to train staff and the temperature has more time to warm the water.
 - State temperature regulations were questioned, which Becky verified that it varies, but the most common rule is that the air and water temps need to be above 70°F.
 - The Board reached a consensus to consider delaying the opening date.
- Fiscal Year 2024 Audit:
 - Becky informed the Board that the auditors are making progress but are still asking Angie for further documentation or subsequent questions almost daily.
 - Dave inquired as to where the firm is located, Becky answered that this firm is from Champaign.
 - Angie stated that these auditors are being very thorough.
- Maintenance Position:
 - Matt has been working for 2 weeks now and it's going well.
 - Doug is scheduled to start next week.
- OSLAD Grant:
 - Becky reminded the Board that Lincoln was recently determined to be a "Distressed Community" by the State, which might benefit LPD's future applications.
 - Part of the OSLAD Grant application is to include a 5-year plan, of which LPD's current plan will soon be expiring.
 - Becky has been researching for a company or individual that can assist with both, if possible, like Tod Stanton of Design Perspectives.
 - The last 5-year plan cost \$9,000.00, but Tod has quoted \$40,000 to update the plan.
 - Becky even pointed out that this plan would not include the City parks, but that was still the amount quoted.
 - Becky did use this plan to complete the last OSLAD grant application, but it still took a long amount of time for her to complete the lengthy document.
 - Gary asked about the odds of LPD's project getting chosen, which there is no good answer.
 - Dave suggested using the \$40,000 towards improvements instead of a plan or application.
 - Becky stated that the cost of the plan could be used to apply for up to \$600,000 in Grant funds, if awarded, and offered to keep researching for another possible company that can provide the plan preparation for a lesser fee.
 - Gary pointed out that if you think of it as \$40,000 for a 5-year term, then it isn't as bad.
 - Don asked for a motion regarding the 5-year plan.
 - Gary Nodine made a motion to keep researching other options before proceeding with Design Prospects for the 5-year plan.
 - Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
 - Dave suggested possibly speaking with State Senator Sally Turner about the issue, as perhaps she has some leads or suggestions.
- Security proposal/quote from Heart, out of Decatur:

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- Sam had provided the name of the company that the High School contracted with.
 - Becky contacted them about a site visit to obtain a quote for LPD.
 - After the visit, they determined that they could take over the George Alarm account and update the hardware for a better system.
 - The current system with George Alarm has issues with reviewing the camera footage, for which a screenshot was provided.
 - This is an issue when there is an incident that requires review or footage requested by the police department for a specific matter.
 - There is a typical delay in service provided by George Alarm.
 - However, a tech was on site recently that reported the current system installed in LPD is antiquated and unable to keep up with technological updates.
 - The cameras are also on the US government's banned list, which had been previously questioned by LPD to George Alarm, but they were not concerned about replacing them.
 - Heart will not use equipment banned by the US government.
 - Gary asked if LPD has to pay for every service call, which yes LPD does, and for security monitoring as well.
 - Becky also explained that if we wanted to add or upgrade the cameras, LPD would have to pay for that, not George Alarm.
 - Gary inquired about what LPD pays George Alarm, for which Angie explained that they bill LPD quarterly, which is listed in Accounts Payable, for around \$6,000 per year.
 - Becky explained that Heart will provide monitoring for around \$4,000 per year, but the upgraded equipment and installation would cost around \$20,000.
 - Becky also requested a quote for updated equipment to be installed and the estimate was around the same price.
 - Gary inquired about the security company competition in the area, but Becky stated that there is not much of one outside of national companies.
 - Gary Nodine made the motion to approve signing the contract with Heart for Security services and installation of upgraded hardware as listed in the quote.
 - Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- Becky reminded the Board that the Christmas party will be December 20th, in conjunction with Jon Young's Winter Dance and its catering.
- Ameren / Solar Review:
- Becky handed out a spreadsheet for the Board's review.
 - The main Sports Center and Administrative Office are on the same meter, which has the solar panels installed as part of the system. (out of 5 meters)
 - In 2024, the February – July usage was around \$26,209.
 - Everyone has seen how Ameren's rate skyrocketed this year, and Becky did the calculations to show that the same usage would have cost \$43,010 from Ameren for the same term this year.
 - This year's totals billed for the same period was \$33,558, which is a \$11,225 savings.
 - Becky stated that Adam Schmidt confirmed that LPD got in at a good time to miss the skyrocketing fees implemented by the utility companies.
 - Gary stated that this was not quite the savings that was promised by the solar salesman, but better than nothing, and no one predicted the hike in Ameren's rates.
 - Becky stated that she and Angie plan on tracking the usage and fees for comparison.

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Dave asked how the traffic flow was now that the Parking Lot project was complete. Gary stated that when he was around during the school pick up time, that it seemed to go better than before. Becky stated that there are still a few things that need to be completed, such as Angie pointing out that a yield sign needs to be replaced. Vern stated that the rocky drainage area needs to have yellow paint bordering it and possibly adding strategically placed boulders and/or delineators for safety. Gary pointed out that snow will cover the current rock, making it dangerous. Bob asked when the rear gate would be replaced, but Vern stated that the retention pond needs to be finished before the fence and gate can go back up. Becky added that there is some more landscaping to be completed. Dave suggested holding the final payment to be released upon completion.

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley

- Vern was happy to report that the grass seed took well at Exchange Club park.
- The lights on Breezy needed looked at, so he hired a crane to take down one pole's light branch. The light system is antiquated, but not as old as the one on legion's field. It is a smaller field and suggests starting with it to replace them all eventually with LED lights. RAB quoted \$24,000 for 16 heads, which would do the one field. Becky stated that she would need to look at the budget to see if there were funds available this year or adjust the FY 2026 budget. Gary inquired about the field used the most, which Allison verified that Breezy was in the top 3. Angie drew the Board's attention to the Capital Improvement Plan page in their packet. Becky explained to the Board, that per previous discussion, it was planned to proceed with the plumbing update, which also included remodeling the Craft Room since it also has sinks. Dustin, of Givisco, provided an estimate of \$35,000 for the Craft Room, \$60-75,000 for the remaining plumbing upgrade. Also previously discussed was the ADA entrances to be installed in stages, for which \$140,000 was allocated for FY2026. These projects would utilize the balance of the tax-exempt bond funds once the \$300,000 Promissory Note payment was made. Don inquired about the balance of the Capital Improvement Fund, which Angie referred to in the Cash Flow report, including the amount listed that is currently invested in a CD. Don stated that he was comfortable with paying \$30-50,000 out of the Capital Fund. Dave asked for clarification on what the ADA plan entails, which Becky recounted how the doors need to be upgraded to mechanically operated systems to assist patrons with mobility issues. Dave questioned if all doors need to be upgraded at once, but Becky explained that the plan is to do the upgrade in phases, starting with those with higher traffic, and have a plan to move forward. Gary and Becky agree that the focus should be on the front doors, and Gary pointed out that there are more handicapped parking spaces in the front when compared to the rear parking lot. However, due to the increased facility hours in the Fit Zone entrance, the consensus was to start there. Becky suggested adjusting the Capital Improvement plan to allocate \$100,000 for ADA doors and then \$40,000 for field lighting upgrades. Becky pointed out that the Board is presenting to the public the preliminary Budget & Appropriation to the public, and it needs to be decided so that the correct document is available for public review upon request. Gary and Becky questioned Vern's plan to put the light bracket back up only to take it back down in the spring and spend the time & money, but Vern said that he could put up the existing light bracket to be used next season with plans to take it down to replace the bulbs next fall.

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PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER

- Allison informed the Board that the fall session of Kids' cooking classes filled up at 15 within the first few days, and the December Session already has 3 registered.
- Jr. Railer registrations opened to the public on the first of October, and 7 children have already been registered. The YMCA scheduled their Biddie Basketball camp, which conflicts with our program this year.
- Halloween Fun Fest is on the 23rd this year, which is in 2 weeks. The High School students will help stuff the treat bags, and NHS has had 12 students sign up to help the night of the event. Vendors are still signing up or donating towards candy and prizes. So far, \$750 has been donated to help with the event. She plans to start getting the games out of storage next week.
- Jon Young is helping Allison coordinate a possible Santa for this year's event since our previous Santa had to move. D.A.R.E. has also generously donated to this year's Santa event.
- The Open House's Membership special brought in 7 new memberships, 18 people renewed and 21 of those memberships were annual terms. Becky added that LPD offered \$25 off annual membership or \$10 off any other membership purchased or renewed during the event.
- Allison met with a supervisor from the newly constructed Monarch Center. He had reached out to inquire about possibly coordinating some programs with LPD and their facility patrons. Don asked if the idea was to bring the patrons to LPD as a reward system, which Becky verified that it might be considered for use as an incentive or reward for good behavior. Allison stated that Andre, her contact, spoke about possibly reserving a court for a game, and Becky explained that the new center does not have any workout equipment except for what is installed outside of the facility. Andre is proposing to vet any of their patrons to select who would be eligible to utilize LPD's facility. Don inquired about what the State would pay for usage, a daily fee or another arrangement? Bob questioned if all of the Center's patrons would need to be supervised 100% of the time when off site, and worried about the supervisor's understanding of what would be involved. Dave stated that he would take the "Devil's Advocate" stance for a moment and speculated on what would be greater; the potential danger for LPD's regular patrons, or the privilege for the Center's patrons? Gary stated that he would like more information from the Monarch Center before making any decisions on the matter. Dave stated that this is a new program and Becky agreed that there are many factors that need to be discussed and considered before moving in any direction on the matter. Allison stated that there are already members of the public that have restrictions from felony convictions that LPD staff are becoming aware of. Don pointed out that all of the Monarch Center's patrons would be juveniles, and therefore, LPD would be unable to do any research on their own and would depend on the Monarch Center Staff. Allison stated that Andre mentioned that he was reaching out to try and familiarize himself with the community and what it had to offer. Bob suggested that they use the new courts at Exchange Club Park, which is open to the public, and both Becky and Allison liked that suggestion.
- Allison is working to get the concession stands closed for the season and inventory dealt with.
- Lincoln Jr. High School has their Career Spark event coming up for all 8th grade students. LPD will be hosting this year's event to provide more space for the attending vendors.

FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER (presented by Becky)

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- Group Fitness Class attendance for September was 938 compared to last year's 703.
- The first week of October was a free Group Fitness Class week, which had 226 attendees, and last year's attendance was at 173.
- The last Meet & Mingle had 5 attendees, and the next one is on the calendar for this month.
- Stay Another Day was held at LPD for all 7th grade students in the immediate area. It was very well attended and received by both students and teachers.
- Jennifer is looking for a few new instructors.
- Spin® Class attendance is picking up with 8 new riders on Friday. October has themed rides.
- Active Agers had a potluck on September 19th, with 12 in attendance.
- Equipment Orientation was offered as a special at the Open House, and 3 are scheduled for next week.
- Allison and Jennifer attended a Wellness Expo at Heartland Community College in Normal. Jennifer invited a few vendors to come to LPD's event next spring.
- Jennifer is working on the new Group Fitness Class schedule for November & December.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Becky informed the Board that she received a phone call that day from a neighbor of Exchange Club Park, who wanted to know why it was taking so long to complete the project. Becky spoke with the resident and listened to their concerns about the pile of mulch obstructing play. Once she explained the plans for more equipment to be installed before spreading the mulch, after all the previous delays last fall and issues with the first contractor, the resident apologized for his complaint. The resident proceeded to tell Becky how much he has seen the park get used since the improvements were made, but they didn't understand why everything took so long. Now that they know of the delays, they were reportedly happy with the improvements, and look forward to the new items being installed soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Capital Improvements:
 - 1. Park Improvement Projects: See Executive Director's Report.
 - 2. North Parking Lot Improvement Project: See Executive Director's Report.
 - 3. Promissory Note: See Executive Director's Report.
- B. Aquatic Center: See Supervisor of Operations' report.
- C. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Contract renewal for 2026 Fireworks:
 - 1. Gary said that he called and spoke to Clint.
 - 2. Gary suggested that LPD consider adjusting the number of the larger shells to allocate more for the slightly smaller ones, which would literally give more "bang for the buck".
 - a. The consensus was to keep a few of the larger shells for the salute/finale.
 - b. Gary stated that Clint could not guarantee any special shapes if that was a consideration.
 - 3. Becky explained that she and Angie had worked on the budget to allocate \$20,000 for 2026's fireworks show, which would add more smaller shells to the previous show.

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4. Gary Nodine made the motion to sign a new contract with American Patriot Pyro, including a \$25,000 budget for 2026's US anniversary, with hopes that either the City or the Foundation would be willing to contribute \$5,000 if LPD pays for \$20,000.
 5. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.
- B. Capital Improvement Project Schedule: See Executive Director's Report.
- C. Ordinance#366: Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Levy; Available for public review.
- D. Ordinance#367: Fiscal Year 2026 Budget & Appropriation; Available for public review after Angie makes the necessary Capital Improvement changes as discussed during the Supervisor of Operation's report.

Executive Session: Dave Perring made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss an employee matter. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, and the motion carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:40 pm.

The Board exited Executive session at 8:04 pm.

Dave Perring made the motion to approve 2026 salaries as presented. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Gary Nodine moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Perring moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 8:05 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM.