

**LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Dave Perring, Bob Thomas and Sam White. Gary Nodine was absent. Staff in attendance included Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, William Hutchison and Angie Coombs. None were absent.

MINUTES OF MEETING - Minutes of the meeting in August were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. No changes needed to be made. Dave Perring 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.

VISITORS – Kevin Wills, Bernardi Securities, Inc. – Annual Bond Issuance.

Kevin greeted the Board as he distributed a handout. Kevin discussed the market trajectory displayed on page 3, citing that the previous bond was sold in January, and the rate has increased since then. He did point out that LPD is lucky in that the terms are typically for one-year increments and not a decade or more at the higher rates. The rates are approaching the highest points in the last 10–20-year periods. The plan is to follow the same schedule since there is no payment due on January 1st, but rather in February. Kevin continued with the handout pointing out that the LPD's current bond was detailed on page 4 for their review. The total bond issuance was \$853,601, which was split between taxable and tax-exempt bonds. The \$200,000 taxable bond was used to finance standard operating expenses, and the tax-exempt was utilized for Capital Projects such as the parking lot project. Time Bank purchased the last bonds issued and will likely bid for this year's issuance as well.

The process is as follows:

Bernardi and Securities, Inc. will work with Becky and Angie to prepare the term sheets, which will be distributed to potential investors with a deadline to submit their bids. Submitted bids will include proposed interest rates, and 3-4 bids would be considered a competitive bid. Consistently, Time Bank has submitted their bid with an aggressive lower rate compared to others. However, Kevin will be sure to invite local and other established investors to submit bids for both bonds. On page 5 of the handout, Kevin reviewed the debt limit detailed and discussed how Debt Capacity and EAV come into play with LPD's statutory limit of \$6.2 million. Kevin reminded the Board that there is a limit for non-referendum bond issuances, which lowers the maximum issuance to no more than \$1.2 million.

Kevin brought the Board's attention to page 6, where the Logan County's capped status also affects the limit for the bond, which must be below \$877,595.00, including all principal and interest. Kevin explained how the CPI also affects the calculation. Page 7 describes General Obligation Bonds, and page 8 details the timeline. The public hearing is typically in October or November, for which the bond attorney will coordinate in preparation for with the LPD Admins. December will be when the Board reviews the parameters and passes an Ordinance, which "sets the ground rules" for Benardi & Securities, Inc. and delegates the authority for the President and Becky to sign off on the bid award without requiring another meeting, if everything meets the criteria set by the Board upon approving the ordinance.

Typically, the lowest bid is awarded the issuance, and funds are deposited within a week or two of the sale. Kevin asked if the Board had any questions. Becky informed the Board of how valuable Kevin's expertise and consultation have been in the transition from 100% tax-exempt to a portion sold as taxable bonds. Kevin would like to invite Kent Floros, the bond counsel, to attend a meeting, as he was also vital in the process. Seeing no further questions, Kevin thanked the Board for their time before exiting the meeting.

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

GENERAL	-	\$	12,312.66
RECREATION	-	\$	174.65
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	22,912.37

Don asked about the payment listed to Chicago Title Company, which Becky verified was for the title search/legal paperwork required for the OSLAD grant application for Memorial Park. Seeing no further questions, Don asked for a motion. Sam White made the motion to approve Accounts Payable, including the additional Illinois American Water invoice, as presented. The motion was seconded by Bob Thomas, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW-

Angie reported that a report detailing the Real Estate Tax Distribution was included for their review. Typically, there is payment issued in mid-September, and another payment and interest deposited in November.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
 - Becky was happy to report that now that the pool has closed for the season, LPD staff are preparing for all the fall activities.
- Pool:
 - A leak was suspected when Angie received the most recent bill, and William worked to troubleshoot the issue.
 - Part of the process was comparing the average water usage from 2025 to 2026, and William used the meter to track it daily.
 - William plugged the bubblers in the north side of the toddler pool, which were suspected of being the source.
 - Vern recapped the previous leak suspicions and attempts to locate any leak(s).
 - Becky explained that there is concern whether this will need to be added to next year's budget, and would like to complete an investigation this fall so an amount could be estimated for next year's budget.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Outdoor movie with the City on Friday September 11th to show Space Jam.
 - Stay Another Day with all the local 7th graders.
 - Sally Turner and Bill Hauter will host their Senior Fair in the Ballroom on the 24th.
 - Halloween Fun Fest is scheduled for October 29th.
- OSLAD Grant Application for Memorial Park:

- Becky reported that the application has been submitted.
- The public hearing was a success with around 20 people in attendance, which the engineer said was the biggest turnout he's ever had for any project's public hearing.
 - Several local disc golfers attended and subsequently submitted letters of support to be included in the application.
 - Many stated that they would like to be part of a committee to discuss the design of the course.
 - The Engineer stated that Memorial Park was a fit for a more challenging course, which excited the disc golfers.
 - Becky explained that the next step in the process is for the State to announce the grant winners, which is proposed to take place in November instead of the usual January/February timeline.
- Upcoming Board Vacancy:
 - Becky informed the Board that she has received 2 responses so far.
 - She asked the Board for their availability so that she could schedule interviews.
 - Sam stated that someone had asked him about the commitment that the Board required, as a possibly interested party.
 - The Board settled on October 7th, beginning at 6:00 pm.
- ADA Entry Improvement Project:
 - Becky explained that a new electrician was on site and fixing all the work that was found to be at fault or unsatisfactory.
 - It has been speculated that the previous electrician was an apprentice.
 - More supplies were needed and he is working to put as many controls in the walls as possible.
 - The extra work will still be part of the original budget.
- Plumbing Improvement Project:
 - Becky informed the Board that the project is moving along and that the plumbers have been on site daily.
 - The water heater has been delayed, as well as the cabinetry.
 - Dustin verified that the facility will need to be closed to the public on September 16th, when the plumbers change the water over to the new system.
 - Becky confirmed the decision with both the City and County Health Department.
 - The facility should be able to reopen at the end of the business day, which is at 5:00 pm.
 - Sam inquired about notifying the public of the closure, and Becky assured the Board that she would begin posting tomorrow as she will verify that the plumbers are still on schedule.
 - Becky continued to discuss the delay with the Craft Room's cabinets, which was caused by government contracts taking precedence in the production schedule.
 - Dustin estimates the cabinets to be delivered in early October.
 - Becky explained that currently scheduled events can continue to make do with the existing cabinets, and the plumbers can return to install the new fixtures.
 - Becky informed the Board that the plan is to remove/demolish the existing Craft Room cabinets, but Garrett has expressed interest in attempting to salvage them if possible.
 - If the Board approves, Garrett would like to remove them himself for personal use instead of going into the landfill.
 - The Board approves of Garrett removing and taking the old Craft Room cabinetry prior to the new pieces being installed.

➤ HVAC issue:

- Becky informed the Board that the east HVAC unit has been ordered and reminded them that the hope is that the part will help the unit last until it can be replaced next year.
- As of this evening, there was no update available from ENTEC on a possible date.
- Sally Turner's Office passed along information about a possible efficiency grant.
 - It details eligibility for window and HVAC updates/replacement projects.
 - Does not state if it is offered annually or just once.
 - LPD received the information today, and the application is due by the end of November.
 - Becky did reach out to request an energy audit from Ameren, as the application inquired about one having been done within the past 5 years.
 - Vern and Dave speculated on whether one had been done in 2020 or 2021 as part of the previous Ameren grant application.
 - Becky stated that Ameren had already responded to her inquiry, but she had not yet had time to read the response.
 - Becky pulled up her email, verified that it was an IL EPA grant and listed possible projects that could be included in the grant application.
 - The Board reached a consensus to apply for the IL EPA grant if the audit can be done in time for the application, for which updating the windows would be a good fit.
 - Sam inquired if LPD would be better suited to hire someone to fill out the grant application, but Becky speculated that she may be able to get help from LEAD's Board.
 - Becky stated that it would be prudent to start planning.

➤ Field Lights:

- Becky informed the Board that it has been brought to her attention that the concession mechanical rooms were still being made accessible to coaches after the Board had stated that there was to be no coach access, and only employees were to control the diamond lights.
- Sam inquired if the lights had been tested yet to see if they truly do need to be replaced and if they are currently unsafe to use.
 - Becky stated that she will need to find someone that can do the testing.
 - She may add that to discuss with Ameren when she deals with the audit inquiry.
- Becky explained that the need to turn the diamond lights on and off when there is no staff scheduled to work the concession stand does place a burden on the other staff, and the lights do get used a lot.
- Becky would like to research and for the Board to consider locking the panel's other breakers and possibly limiting which coaches can control the lights after staff training.
- Also, there is speculation that there are other keys floating around, which will require locks to be rekeyed if that is the case.
- Becky suggested that the topic be revisited before the next season starts in the spring.

➤ Capital Projects:

- Becky brought the proposed schedule to the attention of the Board, as a copy was included in everyone's packet.
 - She reminded the Board that this discussion is central in preparing the budget for next year and reminded them that some miscellaneous funds are allocated to prepare for situations like the sauna and HVAC needing replaced suddenly.
 - Becky stated that she made sure the public was informed that the Memorial Park improvements are planned whether LPD is awarded the OSLAD grant or not, but that the process would be extended without the matching funds.
- The current year's projects and budgets are listed at the top of the page, including the amounts received from the bonds (just the tax-exempt portion).

- The proposed 2027 projects were listed below that, including the repair and sealing of the rear parking lot, which was pushed back from this year.
- Memorial Park is included in the plan, with OSLAD's matching funds also listed.
- The phone system was reported as needing the main infrastructure replaced when Heart took over, and the phones themselves need updated.
 - Dave inquired about the possibility of a discount with multiple services being provided by Heart.
 - Becky stated that she can investigate that when she discusses the phone upgrade process with Heart.
- Andrews Tri-Plex was previously listed in the schedule of Capital Projects allocating funds to update the well's pump, pump house, and reservoir tank.
 - The update was never completed within that year nor subsequent years but still needs to be done.
 - More recently, the public has been accessing the well's pump and messing with everything as the shed no longer secures it.
- The HVAC update is included in the 2027 plan for updates as previously discussed.
- Becky explained that Angie also included the final payment for the sauna, just in case it was pushed back to after the first of the year.
- Suggested considerations for the fiscal year 2028 are also listed below 2027's itinerary.
 - Memorial Park is listed as the project is expected to be completed in phases, and an estimate is listed for both the second phase of the project and the road portion.
 - The plan is to replace the Sports Complex's west HVAC unit, as it is also nearing failure, with the hope that it will last another year.
 - Also included is the Railer Room remodel project, as the windows are an energy efficiency concern due to their age.
 - Diamond lights have also been the topic of discussion, and the Board may opt to update another field.
- Becky previously asked that the Board review the list and offer a discussion to offer direction of what to prioritize in the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Becky informed the Board that she is researching comparable cable machines available to replace one in the weight room.
- Annual Balloons over 66 5K:
 - Becky reported that the event saw around 130 participants this year.
 - The course was a little different this year, when the race started and ended at LPD.
 - There were a few traffic issues that have been noted to address next year.
 - One issue was the Jr. High's baseball tournament and limited routes to get to LPD.
 - Becky contacted the Jr. High to explain the situation and inquire if they can plan for a later start next year, to which they were understanding and will likely be accommodated.
 - The police helped, but there are just so many side roads that intersect with the route.
 - Sam asked if a permit to close the road was applied for and obtained from the City.
 - Don questioned if LPD made any profit from the event.
 - Becky explained that yes, there was a profit, as LMH made another generous sponsorship contribution and all the other sponsors and race registrations were more than enough to cover expenses.
 - The LMH contribution covers the children's races, which had around 80 participants this year.
 - Mr. Strickland suggested arranging the Railerman mascot to be present next year.

- Bob Verderber donated his services to announce the races for the kids.
- Angie stated that the proceeds of both races were used to fund the Stay Another Day event for all 7th Grade students.

SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - presented by William Hutchison

- William informed the Board that staff had been busy mowing.
- John Andrews is helping staff to do some infield care and upkeep on the diamonds.
- The fencing and gates will soon be replaced where they were taken down for the parking lot project last summer. This will help control the public driving where they are not supposed to, which is more dangerous at night. William reported that several cars were parked around the Allen Concession stand when he came out to turn on/off lights for a game. Sam agreed that it was a safety issue with patrons using Allen's bathrooms and drivers may not see little kids in the dark.
- William reported that Garrett has been cleaning and inventorying baseball and softball equipment now that the season is over.
- Dog pot posts with dispensers have been installed out at Memorial Park.
- "NO DUMPING" signs have been ordered for Memorial Park. William stated that it is still an issue and he still catches people bringing stuff out to dump. William is pricing some solar trail cams to post for surveillance on the main sites. William informed the Board that County Officer Anderson has been more vigilant about patrolling the park more frequently. Don stated that LPD needs to resolve the danger of the pile and inquired about burning it when snow cover was present. Vern and William agreed that snow might help control the burn. Bob asked about how many truck loads it would take to haul everything out, which was estimated to be 2-4 loads, but Vern pointed out that the garbage would have to be removed from the yard waste. Bob proposed adding a fence along the GIS border and questioned the cost of a survey. Vern verified that most of the pile is on LPD property. Vern stated that it is also surrounded by a lot of trees.

FITNESS MANAGER: Report Attached as Addendum#2

CORRESPONDENCE:

Becky informed the Board that there have been 2 negative comments posted online recently; one comment Facebook and one on Google.

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.
3. Sauna: See Operation Supervisor's Report.
4. Sports Complex HVAC issue: See Executive Director's Report.

B. Aquatic Center: None.

C. Memorial Park Property Line/ Lincoln Elks: See Operation Supervisor's Report.

D. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: See Executive Director's Report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Andrews Diamond Triplex water shed: See Executive Director's Report.
- B. Diamond Lights: See Executive Director's Report.
- C. Capital Project Schedule: See Executive Director's Report.

Executive Session:

- A. Sam White moved to enter Executive Session to discuss an employee matter at 7:26 pm.
 1. Bob Thomas moved to second the motion.
 2. Motion approved after unanimous vote.

B. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:10 pm with no matters to vote on.

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

Adjournment: 8:11 P.M.

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