



**LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MEETING
GRANITE CITY PARK DISTRICT, MAIN OFFICE
2900 BENTON STREET
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024 5:00 PM**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the Granite City Park District, Madison County, Illinois will hold a Local Government Efficiency Committee Meeting on the 26th day of November 2024, at 5:00 P.M. at the Granite City Park District, Main Office, 2900 Benton St. Granite City, Illinois.

Agenda

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the October 23, 2024, Efficiency Committee Meeting.
- II. Citizen input about the Efficiency Committee.
- III. Approval of the Efficiency Report.
- IV. Adjournment from the Committee Meeting on Local Government ("Efficiency Committee") pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1 et seq.

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2900 BENTON STREET
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024 5:00PM**

President Matt Jones called the meeting to order. Commissioners in attendance were Craig Sykes, Linda Ames, Don Harris, and Matt Jones. Commissioner Jenna DeYong was not in attendance. Resident member of the Committee in attendance was Tanja Cook Sedabres. Resident member Jared Henderson was not in attendance. Employees in attendance were Director of Parks and Recreation Justin Brinkmeyer and Secretary Stephanie Koishor. No additional members of the public were in attendance.

~~I. Discussion on the compilation of materials provided at the previous meeting.~~

Member Cook Sedabres feels that the provided materials would help the public understand how much the Park District does on a limited budget. Commissioner Harris reminded everyone that Committee members must act as ambassadors for the Park District. Commissioner Jones has received positive feedback so far with his Facebook meeting summary posts. Justin Brinkmeyer provided a summary of documents and materials. He highlighted key information from the provided handout.

II. Citizen input about the Efficiency Committee.

No additional input after the discussion of the new materials provided.

III. Adjournment from the Committee Meeting on Local Government ("Efficiency Committee") pursuant to 50 ILCS 70/1 et seq.

Motion to adjourn the Committee Meeting was made by Commissioner Linda Ames, second by Commissioner Don Harris. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

/srk

General Overview of Governing Statutes, Ordinances, Rules, Procedures, Powers, Jurisdiction

The Park District was established by a referendum initiated and approved by the voters of the Park District in 1921. All Illinois park districts are governed by the Park District Code, 70 ILCS 1205/1 *et seq.*

Having a separate and distinct taxing body for parks, recreation, and conservation within the local community, which operates apart from general purpose governments, is extremely beneficial to the community for many reasons, as detailed further in this report.

- **Elected, non-partisan, non-compensated board.** The Park District is governed by a board of five commissioners. Commissioners must reside within the boundaries of the Park District and are elected at the Consolidated Election in odd-numbered years. Pursuant to state law, commissioners are non-partisan and serve without compensation.
- **Accessible and focused representation.** Having a dedicated board to oversee these essential facilities, programs, and services provides the community with increased access to their elected representatives and allows those elected representatives to remain focused solely on those facilities, programs, and services. This is contrasted with general purpose governments where elected representatives are responsible for broad oversight on a wide range of issues. This special purpose benefit is particularly advantageous when it comes to budget and finance oversight.
- **Increased transparency.** Having a dedicated unit of local government to provide park and recreation services also improves the relationship between the Park District and its residents because of the transparency and openness related to the board and Park District operations. Having detailed agenda and action items allows taxpayers to be better informed about the inner workings of their local government. When individual units of government are responsible for providing specified services like park districts, transparency is increased because action items and budget procedures are more detailed. Additionally, these items and budgetary decisions are subject to more scrutiny by locally elected officials than is the case with larger, multi-purpose governments with a multitude of departments.
- **Protection of revenues.** Because the Park District is a separate unit of local government, the revenues it generates can only be used for park district purposes. This assurance is contrasted with general purpose governments like cities, villages, and counties that provide a multitude of services such as fire, police, public works, economic development, etc., where revenues that are generated specifically for parks and recreation can be expended on these other services with limited, if any, input from voters.

- **Protection of assets.** Public parks and other real property owned by the Park District is held in trust for the residents of the Park District, and, subject to very limited exceptions, can only be sold or transferred if residents approve of the sale or transfer by a referendum. This is contrasted with general purpose units of government, which have authority to sell or dispose of property by a vote of the governing board.
- **Providing the Community More with Less.** The Park District does more with much fewer funding options. Unlike other units of local government that receive direct state funding, and income, sales, use, hotel/motel, motor fuel and other numerous taxes, the Park District's only tax revenues come from a modest portion of a resident's overall property tax bill.

List of Shared Services and Partnerships

The Park District works diligently to provide the best possible programs, services, and facilities to our community at the least possible cost. One of the many ways the Park District achieves this goal is by partnering with neighboring park districts, school districts, other units of local government within or near the community, the State, non-profit organizations, and for-profit corporations. Below is a comprehensive list of the current partnerships, agreements, and other relationships that assist the Park District's mission of delivering the best possible services at the least possible cost to our community.

1. Intergovernmental agreements with other units of local government

- GCSD9- Shared usage for District programs.
 - Park District Youth Basketball
 - GCHS Golf Team
 - GCHS Baseball
- Granite City Township- Facility usage for District programs.
- City of Granite City- Lease of Civic Park

2. Intergovernmental agreements with the State of Illinois

- CMS Joint Purchasing

3. Partnerships or agreements with athletic or similar affiliate organizations that operate sports or other leagues

- Granite City Braves Football
- GC Tribe Baseball
- St. Elizabeth Catholic School
- Holy Family Catholic School

Partnerships or other interrelationships with non-profits

- Tri City Area Association for the Handicapped (TCAAH)
- TWIGS

4. Partnerships with for profit organizations

- Revity Credit Union (Movies Under the Stars)
- Numerous community sponsors for our July 4th Celebration.

5. Informal cooperation with other units of local government which save taxpayer dollars by eliminating redundancy

- City of Granite City (yard and tree waste)
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Other Examples of Efficient Operations

Youth employment. The Park District is a major employer of youth in the community. Last year, the Park District employed 93 youth. Not only is this an efficient way to deliver services, but youth employment serves as a valuable training tool for the future workforce.

Joint purchasing The Park District participates in joint purchasing cooperatives pursuant to the Governmental Joint Purchasing Act (30 ILCS 525/0.01 *et seq.*) thereby saving taxpayer dollars through economies of scale. These include:

- National Joint Purchasing Alliance (NJPA)
- Equalis Group

Collaboration with other park districts on best practices. Because park districts are not in competition with one another, they are more willing than the private sector to share best practices. These best practices help to avoid unnecessary costs and deliver services more effectively and efficiently. We hold individual memberships with:

- Illinois Association of Park Districts
- Illinois Park and Recreation Association
- Southern Illinois Parks and Recreation Association

Reliance on Non-Tax Revenue. Unlike most local governments that rely on a wide range of sales, use, and income taxes, the Park District is not permitted to assess these types of taxes. Additionally, although the Park District is an economic engine for the community and generates much revenue for the state and our community in the form of hotel/motel, sales, and motor fuel taxes, our Park District does not receive any of these revenues. Also, unlike Illinois cities, villages, counties, and school districts that received billions of dollars in direct financial assistance from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), our Park District did not receive any such direct federal aid. Our Park District also does not receive state funding under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) or General State Aid (GSA) that these same cities, villages, counties, and school districts receive through the State budget.

Instead, the Park District provides all of the programs, facilities, and services to the community with a very modest amount of property taxes and from **non-tax sources** such as memberships, program registrations, and other user fees as well as private donations and grants.