

EASTERN DELAWARE COUNTY JOINT RECREATION DISTRICT
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2026

Call to Order

Halli Watson called the Eastern Delaware County Joint Recreation District meeting to order on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. inside the City of Sunbury Council Chambers.

Ms. Halli Watson administered the Oath of Office for Ms. Jody Greiger.

Roll Call

Those answering roll included Ms. Jody Greiger Ms. Halli Watson, Mr. Todd Musacchio, Mr. Bernie Kooi, and Ms. Maria Sobota. Mr. Greg Elliott was absent. Others in attendance included Sunbury City Manager Daryl Hennessy and Mike Ringle from Bricker Graydon.

Minutes

Motion by Mr. Musacchio to approve the minutes from December 1, 2025, and seconded by Ms. Watson, Upon roll, 5 yeas minutes passed

Visitors

Mr. Ed Valeska introduced himself as a Harlem Township resident and volunteer member of the township's park planning committee reporting to the trustees. He explained that he recently learned about the group through a Village of Galena newsletter and, given the ongoing construction of a new community center in nearby New Albany, wanted to learn more about the effort involving Berkshire, Sunbury, and Galena. He asked how long the group has been active, what it has accomplished to date, and where it currently stands on the community center concept, noting that Harlem Township is developing a strategic plan to assess future park and recreation needs and that nearby facilities could influence that planning.

Ms. Watson briefly responded that the group was formed in April of last year and has since been focused on conducting a needs assessment and market analysis, which she noted would be discussed further as part of the next agenda item. Mr. Hennessy added that he could direct attendees to a website with additional information outlining the work the Joint Recreation District has completed to date.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Hennessy provided an update on the consulting team's progress noting that since the last meeting they have held two working sessions focused on the needs assessment and market analysis. He reported that one youth organization focus group was successfully convened with seven participants, where consistent priorities emerged, particularly the need for lighted and turf outdoor fields, along with nearby restroom and pavilion space; indoor courts were discussed but to a lesser extent. He also announced that the second public meeting has been scheduled for February 11, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at Sunbury United Methodist Church, where the consultants will present a summary of nearly 1,400 community survey responses and engage attendees in discussions about programming needs, space requirements, and site selection criteria.

Mr. Hennessy also shared highlights from a recent tour of the Upper Arlington Community Center, describing it as a larger, vertically oriented facility with a different financing and operational model. He noted that the \$85 million project was partially funded through city cash and donations, with the remainder financed through tax increment financing, and that the center is staffed and managed by city employees. He emphasized the facility's proximity to schools as a key factor in its success, strong youth participation, a smaller aquatics component due to an existing school pool, and expanded fitness and multipurpose spaces, all of which offered useful insights for the district's ongoing planning efforts.

Ms. Watson asked whether the community center was funded through new taxes or existing revenue sources. Mr. Hennessy responded that Upper Arlington did not pass a new tax; instead, the project was

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funded primarily through tax increment financing tied to nearby multi-story residential developments, largely senior housing, which minimized impacts to schools and did not require voter approval. He noted that the city also consolidated other existing TIFs to support the project and structured operations so that memberships and user fees would cover operating costs. By contrast, he explained that Hilliard used a different funding model that did require voter approval for a tax increase, which supports both facility operations and staffing, though he noted he would need to confirm the specific type of tax used.

Ms. Watson noted that only seven of 18 invited youth sports stakeholders participated and asked if there are plans for additional outreach to ensure broader input. Mr. Hennessy noted that while representatives from several youth sports groups participated, others did not respond. He said the team plans additional outreach to gather their input and that the feedback received was consistent but focused mostly on outdoor field needs, with less emphasis on indoor facilities.

New Business

Mr. Ringle presented Resolution 2026-01, which authorizes the acquisition of insurance. He explained that the board currently holds coverage through the Ohio Plan until September 12, 2026, and that this resolution would allow for renewal or procurement of a different plan at that time. He noted that, similar to the annual budget process, it is standard practice to adopt a resolution each year to authorize insurance acquisition and then moved to approve it.

Motion by **Ms. Watson** on Resolution No. 2026-01, seconded by **Mr. Kooi**, upon roll approved 5-0

Mr. Ringle presented Resolution 2026-02 to adopt a cybersecurity policy in compliance with Ohio law. He explained that, while the Joint Recreation District does not operate its own systems, the policy outlines best practices, requires reporting any cyber incidents to state authorities, and mandates similar obligations for vendors. The resolution also designates a security representative as the point of contact for any incidents.

Motion by **Mr. Musacchio** to table Resolution 2026-02, seconded by **Ms. Watson**, upon roll approved 5-0

Motion by **Ms. Watson** to table the election of officers, seconded by **Mr. Kooi**, upon roll approved 5-0

Information

Ms. Grieger asked about responsibility for the website and its current status. Mr. Hennessy responded that the site is currently limited to a landing page and will remain so for now due to limited staff capacity to further develop it. He explained that the page consolidates approved documents, meeting minutes, and links to recorded videos, and that the City of Sunbury will manage the site, which has been set up with a transferable URL for eventual use by the Joint Recreation District. He added that he will provide the group with the site information so it can be promoted and accessed as needed.

Mr. Kooi stated that the website will need to transition to the Joint Recreation District and emphasized its importance for sharing information clearly and consistently. He volunteered to take the lead on developing the site so it does not remain idle and offered his experience, noting that with administrative access from Mr. Hennessy, he and Ms. Grieger could jointly manage and maintain the website for the time being.

Mr. Hennessy noted the need to schedule the next regular meeting to ensure the full board can align on timing. He explained that the consultant is expected to deliver a final report in March, with April being a

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concern due to the tight timeline for advancing next steps, including conceptual designs and preliminary cost estimates in preparation for a potential ballot initiative later in the year. He added that additional public engagement is planned, including a community meeting in February and a presentation of findings to the board and public in March, though details are still being finalized. It was decided to hold the next meeting on March 9 at 6:00 p.m. in Sunbury, with a second meeting scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m., location TBD.

Adjournment

There being no further business for the Board, **Ms. Watson** moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by **Mr. Kooi**. The motion was approved 5-0.