

THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:30 PM
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: 16

Members:

Lorraine Linnerud-President	Mark Linnerud	Charmaine Sevier
JoAnn Altenbach	Renee Murphy	Andrienne Horton-Smith
Rosalinda Barajas	Rodrick Myles	John Smith
Katrina Dillard -Treasurer	Dan Niersbach	Becky Stevens
Mary Dunneback	Jil Ross-Vice President	

Guests: Abby Thompson

Chicago Park District: Rebecca Medrano

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:

Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Lorraine Linnerud.

II. NEW MEMBERS: Mark Linnerud **GUESTS:** Abby Thompson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from last meeting:

Renee Murphy moved to approve the March meeting minutes, seconded by Dan Niersbach. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MOTIONS

- Dan Niersbach moved, JoAnn Altenbach seconded: Motion to approve \$22.99 for annual renewal of www.theprairiepark.org domain. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jil Ross moved, Renee Murphy seconded: Motion to approve Kite fly expense not to exceed \$125 for: 2 kites for drawing \$30, snacks \$65, water \$30. Motion passed unanimously.
- Rosalinda Barajas moved, Becky Stevens seconded: Motion to approve Meet & Greet event budget and expense not to \$70 for juice, snacks & crafts for kids. (same as last year). Motion passed unanimously.
- Katrina Dillard moved, Andrienne Horton-Smith seconded: Motion to approve rental of one basic restroom porta potty with hand sanitizer expense not to exceed \$150 for the Movies in the Parks event. (Service Sanitation - Vendor referral from Park Supervisor Medrano). Motion passed unanimously.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Katrina Dillard the Treasurer's Report and a summary of the PAC's bank monthly financial activities for March and April 2026: Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of March 1, 2026, was \$3,619.57. Credits included: 1) SwipeSimple Donations totaling *\$20 (Kite Fly event), one generous check donation of \$300 for Pet Waste Station bags, \$325 refund from WorldPay for a new "Point of Sale" fee (we do not have a SwipeSimple "Point of Sale" terminal). Debits included: \$35.00 refunds for cancelled game night, \$11.79 (Feb.) and \$12.16 (Mar.) SwipeSimple monthly fees, \$325 WorldPay Point of Sale fee (was refunded after we disputed). We have one outstanding debit/restricted credit of \$704.00 (until Oct.2026) representing March-April fraudulent deposited funds which have not yet been disputed by customers. Our total account balance as of April 30, was \$3,880.62, which includes the \$704.00 restricted credit. Therefore, we have \$3,176.62 available balance which excludes the \$704.00 fraudulent funds still in our account. *Note-There was one Kite Fly event donation of \$5.00 received on 04/30/26 at 8:29 PM, after close of business day, so that will be reflected on the May 2026 Statement.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud reported:

- Build Illinois grant implementation progress: The park district is securing permits from several agencies before they can begin construction.

- AARP 2026 Community Challenge Grant. Application requesting \$1,900 for a Park Message Board. We were not selected.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reported:

The Earth Day Clean Up on April 18 (following Prayer Walk) was well-attended and we finished in about one hour. Our fourth annual Kite Fly on May 2 from Noon to 2pm paid tribute to past Treasurer and founding Board member, Dr. Milton Chandler who passed away in March. Over 30 people attended with nice weather.

Upcoming events include: Meet and Greet June 20, 2026 from Noon to 2pm, Movies in the Parks “How to Train Your Dragon” Monday, July 13 starting at dusk, The Prairie Park Purge August 1, Jazz in the Park August 27, Fall Social and Game Night October 8, 2026 from 5:30 pm, Zoom Book Club August 12. The PAC Park Fireworks Clean-up July 5, 2026 is cancelled. The Park District will take care of the Clean-up.

The targeted direct mail postcard campaign of approximately 600 pieces to the surrounding community about The Prairie Park and our Advisory Council has been postponed to late 2026/early 2027.

Several local businesses were mentioned to contact regarding sponsorship and Food Trucks for upcoming Movies in the Parks (July) and Jazz in the Par (August). JoAnn will discuss with Events Committee and then reach out to the PAC for further discussion.

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR Rebecca Medrano UPDATE

- Calendar-Schedule of Park Events for April-August was distributed. Calendar is subject to change.
- The Park District is following up on field damage which occurred when south field was used during rainy conditions in early April.
- Park Supervisor sent letter to permit holders to remind them to refrain from using fields during rainy conditions and also included our annual parking information letter.
- We cannot request that Rugby players do not wear cleats, to avoid further field damage.
- Introduced guest Abby Thompson who discussed ALEX IN WINDYLAND, a new interactive play about the complexities of young people in the foster care system, to be held on Saturday, July 11th at 5:30pm at Kennedy Park.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: Lorraine Linnerud reported:

1. PAC Secretary Vacancy.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. PAC Elections will be at our September meeting. If you are interested in running for PAC Officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary) please email theprairiepark@gmail.com by August 1, 2026. Requirements: PAC member attended at least two PAC bi-monthly meetings between Sept.2025 and July 2026.
2. Reviewed letter sent by the PAC Board to Alderman O’Shea and 22nd District Commander Darling to request coordinated action to prevent a repeat of the dangerous and unlawful fireworks activity that occurred at our Park on July 4, 2025 involving hundreds of individuals.
3. The Little Library is in need of donated books.
4. PAC member Renee Murphy requested donations for the Morgan Park Community Block Club Association 2nd Annual Juneteenth King and Queen Scholarship Fundraiser. Posted on our Facebook page.

X. PAST EVENTS:

1. 03/19/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30 – 6pm
2. 04/03/26 PAC Lunch Hour Friday, with Maria Stone from 11:00am-12:30pm
3. 04/15/26 ZOOM Book Club 7-8pm
4. 04/18/26 Chicago Park District Earth Day. The citywide Earth Day Parks Clean Up Saturday, April 18. JoAnn Altenbach was our Earth Day Captain
5. 04/28/26 Citywide Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee meeting
6. 05/07/26 Beat 2212 CAPS (Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy) meeting attended by L. Linnerud

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. 05/16/26 Park Advisory Council School on Saturday, May 16, 9am- 1pm at the Chicago Park District Headquarters Administrative Offices 4830 S. Western Avenue. Class begins at 9:30 am. Coffee, pastries and networking begins at 9:00am. All participants will leave with a complimentary binder full of important information and materials.
2. 06/20/26 Meet and Greet at The Prairie Park 12 noon-2pm
3. 07/13/26 Movies in The Prairie Park” How to Train Your Dragon” 8:30pm-10:08pm (\$800 Underwriting Gift from Wicker Park PAC)
4. 08/1/2026 The Prairie Park Purge Community Garage Sale 12 noon-2pm
5. 08/12/26 Zoom Book Club 7-8pm “What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day”
6. 08/27/26 "Jazz in The Prairie Park" 7-9pm Sponsored by Ald. O'Shea & State Rep. Mary Gill. Entertainment by Gerald Holden & NuSource.

Visit [ThePrairiePark.org](https://theprairiepark.org) for updates.

XII. NEXT PAC MEETING:

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Kennedy Park.

XIII. PAC Meetings for 2026: Bi-monthly (every other month) on the 2nd Tuesday, each odd-numbered month, at 6:30 PM, Kennedy (Dennis) Park fieldhouse, Rago room.

January 13, 2026, March 10, 2026, May 12, 2026, July 14, 2026, September 8, 2026, November 10, 2026

XIV. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM. Respectfully submitted: Lorraine Linnerud, President

Lorraine K. Linnerud

The Prairie Park Advisory
Council



Website: <https://theprairiepark.org>

Email: theprairiepark@gmail.com

Donation: https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk_449e566ddea2eb296fd92599ba3e6744

Facebook: The Prairie Park Advisory Council (PAC)

2025-2026 THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD

Lorraine Linnerud, President Jil Ross, Vice-President Katrina Dillard, Treasurer