

**THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING**

Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano (312-747-6198)

Tuesday, JUNE 10, 2025, 6:30-7:30 PM

**THE PRAIRIE PARK**

EST. 2016



# MINUTES

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 9

**PAC BOARD:** (4)

Charles Williams President  
Ivette Williams Secretary

Lorraine Linnerud Vice President  
Dan Niersbach Treasurer

**PARK SUPERVISOR:** (1)

Rebecca Medrano

**PAC MEMBERS:** (4)

JoAnn Altenbach  
Marry Dunneback

Jil Ross  
Becky Stevens

**I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

**II. NEW MEMBER(S) & GUESTS**

No new members joined the PAC this month and there were no guests present. We have 45 members to date: 19 active and 26 inactive; 12 fingerprinted. An active member is a member that attends at least two meetings during the PAC fiscal year.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 5/13/2025.

Motion accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by Mary Dunneback. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

**IV. MOTION(S)**

Charles Williams asked for a Motion on behalf of the Park Events Committee for a \$70 budget approval request for "Meet & Greet" event on 6/21/25 to buy juice, snacks & crafts for kids.

Motion accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by Mary Dunneback. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report attached with detailed information. PAC Treasurer, Dan Niersbach, gave a brief verbal summary of Treasurer's report and PAC's bank monthly activities from May 1-31, 2025.

"True Values" are only being included here (please refer to Treasurer's Report for detailed report, which includes Fifth Third Bank balances with surplus of \$1,068.89 as of 5/31/25 (due to potential "fraudulent" donations which are under ongoing investigation):

**Beginning Bal. \$2,926.66** Deposits: \$100.00 <sup>1/</sup> Total Expenses: \$153.22 <sup>2/</sup> **Ending Balance: \$2,873.44**

<sup>1/</sup>Donation from PAC community supporter, Kim Mayo-Berger.

<sup>2/</sup>Purchase of waste station bags as voted on last month at PAC Meeting.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

Dan Niersbach re SwipeSimple account: The Board met on June 2nd and unanimously decided to close the SwipeSimple account temporarily, as suggested by the Chicago Parks Foundation. This allows Fifth Third, Chicago Parks Foundation & WorldPay to conduct their investigation without further complications from fraudulent donations, declined transactions and PAC incurring fees from Fifth Third Bank & WorldPay for each transaction, chargebacks, etc.

Charles Williams re September Board Officer Elections: The Board Officer elections will take place at the September 9, 2025 PAC Meeting for the new fiscal year: 2025-2026 (9/1/2025-8/31/26). All ballots shall be cast IN PERSON only by voting members of the PAC. The current Board officers will announce by July 31, 2025 if they intend to run for re-election by email to the Board first, then park supervisor and lastly, Ivette Williams will email the PAC membership to announce the vacancy and/or vacancies. Any PAC member is welcome to run for any officer position (whether vacant or not) if you meet the requirements for eligibility (must be a Chicago resident, not a Chicago Park District employee, must have filled out a PAC membership form and have attended at least 2 PAC meetings since the last election). To join the Prairie PAC Board, you must fill out the Chicago Park District Volunteer Application and get fingerprinted (free of charge). Details at bottom of agenda. All candidates interested, please let our park supervisor, Rebecca Medrano, know by August 31, 2025 either by phone (312-747-6198) or email at [Rebecca.Medrano@chicagoparkdistrict.com](mailto:Rebecca.Medrano@chicagoparkdistrict.com).

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Park Investment Committee: L. Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting. Milhouse Engineer at park on 6/2/25 to take measurements for walking path, lighting, water source, including elevations and any landscape restoration needed.  
In 2023, 5 bike racks were installed at the park at 116<sup>th</sup> Pl./Oakley. More bike racks were included in project construction. Lorraine to confirm with Kat Katsma who is paying for the bike racks. Anything not included in original ask for the \$500,000 grant cannot be added to project. Grant recipients must follow guidelines as it can result in potential reason for revocation.  
Committee Chair Linnerud provided the following update from Kat Katsma:  
"Construction documents have been finalized for bidding."  
Committee Chairs: Lorraine Linnerud (chair), Milton Chandler (co-chair).  
Committee Members: JoAnn Altenbach, Katrina Dillard, Charmaine Sevier, Ivette Williams.
- Park Events Planning Committee: J. Altenbach – A verbal report was given to announce the "Meet & Greet" event, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2025, (alternate date 6/28) from 12-2 pm at The Prairie Park. Budget approved for \$70. The event will run much like the event last year. We plan to include children's story time (The Impatient Caterpillar), a bookmark craft, butterfly windup toy, and provide juice boxes and snacks.  
Committee Chairs: JoAnn Altenbach (chair), Andrienne Horton-Smith (co-chair).  
Committee Members: Maryann Drake, Mary Dunneback, Candace Evans, John Smith, Ivette Williams.
- CAPS Meetings: Beat #2212 - 22\* District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey at 6 PM:  
June 5th, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **VIII. PARK SUPERVISOR**

- Calendar; Park Requests: There will be no scheduled yoga in the park. There are no new scheduled events.
- Other: The Kennedy Pool opens in 6/21/25. It's official, "Movies in the Park" (RUDY) will be on 7/27/25 at dusk at Diamond 1. Parks are selected by Night out in The Parks and they provide all the equipment. Kennedy Park will also have a jazz concert in September (TBD).

## **IX. PAST EVENT(S)**

### Save the Dates:

6/21/25 – Prairie Park Clean-Up hosted by PEP Committee (8-10 am)

6/21/25 – Meet & Greet @ The Prairie hosted by PEP Committee (12-2 pm)

7/05/25 – Post Holiday July 4<sup>th</sup> Park Clean-Up @ The Prairie hosted by PEP Committee (8 am)

7/17/25 – Jazz Concert @ The Prairie hosted by Ald. O'Shea (7-9 pm)

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

Ongoing investigation with help from Chicago Parks Foundation (Colette & Triana) & WorldPay (Tori) about Fifth Third Bank PAC Fraudulent Deposits & Dispute of World Pay/SwipeSimple charges; voided & cancelled incoming transactions; and various bank fees.

## **XI. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

Please note, there will be no JULY Meeting per PAC vote in May.

## **XII. NEXT PAC MEETING**

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Kennedy Park.

BOARD: The PAC Board meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month to set the Agenda for the upcoming meeting. If you would like to add an item to the Agenda, please contact one of the PAC Board Officers:

President	Charles Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Vice-President	Lorraine Linnerud	[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
Treasurer	Dan Niersbach	[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

## **XIII. ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:41 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary

