

THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 6:30 PM
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: 14

Members:

Lisa Adams	Mary Dunneback	Renee Murphy
JoAnn Altenbach	Brigit LaVoie	Jil Ross-Vice President
Kenith Bergeron	Mark Linnerud	Andrienne Horton-Smith
Katrina Dillard-Treasurer	Lorraine Linnerud-President	John Smith
<u>Guests: none</u>		Becky Stevens

Chicago Park District: Ian Morris

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:

Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Lorraine Linnerud.

II. NEW MEMBERS: none GUESTS: none

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from last meeting:

Renee Murphy moved to approve the May 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Dunneback. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MOTIONS: none

V. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Katrina Dillard presented the Treasurer's Report and a summary of the PAC's bank monthly financial activities for May and June 2026: Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of May 1, 2026, was \$3,880.62. **Credits included:** \$92 (Kite Fly event) and \$70 (Yard Sale) SwipeSimple Donations, and \$52 (Movie yard signs donation). **Debits included:** \$11.04 (Apr.) and \$11.39 (May) SwipeSimple monthly fees, \$23.19 GoDaddy Annual Web Domain fee for ThePrairiePark.org, Expense reimbursements for: \$5.70 printing of Milton Chandler Resolution, \$52.00 Movie yard signs, \$118.61 for Kite Fly, \$29.40 for Meet and Greet, \$5.00 SwipeSimple reimbursement test. We have one outstanding debit/restricted credit of \$704.00 (until Oct.2026) representing March-April 2025 fraudulent deposited funds which have not yet been disputed by customers. Our total **account balance, as of June 30, was \$3,867.69**, which includes the \$704.00 restricted credit. Therefore, we have \$3,163.69 available balance which excludes the \$704.00 fraudulent funds still in our account.

The required semi-annual financial report due 7/31/26 to Chicago Parks Foundation (our fiscal partner) was submitted 7/2.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud

The Park District provided this update on July 2, 2026:

The project has been issued for pricing to general contractors and we should have bids back in a few weeks for review of compliance. For permit status, DOB permits remain under review. At the time of our April update, we were under the understanding that we had OUC approval, but the Department of Water Management (DWM) provided comments after the published review deadline. As a part of DWM's recent comments, we are now also being required to terminate 15 existing water services that previously were stubbed out to the property. Our team working to expedite incorporating this new work as an addendum to the bid documents out for pricing. We note that this work will add both time and expense to the overall project, but DWM has not allowed any waivers. Further, the electrical team also continues to coordinate with ComEd regarding service requirements. We continue to move the project forward, but cannot yet provide timing for mobilization on site until we acquire bids and successfully have our general contractor pull permits. Please let me know if you have any further questions at this time.

The Advisory Council expressed serious concerns regarding the lack of a timeline, poor communication, the continued delays, and the October grant deadline. We need to understand the additional time and cost due to this new water services termination requirement (which was added **after** the permit review deadline). The water source was the third and lowest priority (behind pathway and lighting), so is there an option to remove the water source from the project? Committee Chair Lorraine will follow up.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reported:

The June 20th Meet and Greet (noon-2pm) was poorly attended. The Chicago Park District Movies in the Parks “How to Train Your Dragon” was held Monday, July 13 starting at dusk and well-attended. Upcoming events: Prayer Walk, The Prairie Park Purge, Zoom Book Club, Jazz in the Park, Fall Social and Game Night (see XI. UPCOMING EVENTS for details)

Several local businesses were mentioned to contact regarding sponsorship and Food Trucks for upcoming Jazz in the Park (August 27): First American Bank, Rainbow Cone, Harolds Chicken, Taco Vendors.

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR UPDATE – nothing new to report

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: Lorraine Linnerud reported:

1. PAC Secretary Vacancy.
2. 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.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fourth of July Fireworks recap:
There were no fireworks at The Prairie Park on July 4th! A Chicago Police Department patrol car arrived at the Park about 7pm and stayed until 11pm. Police Do Not Cross barricades were set up at the St. Walters parking lots. A big thank you to Commander Darling, Alderman Matt O'Shea, and their staffs for responding to our concerns (May 4, 2026 email) and implementing a Fourth of July safety plan that successfully prevented a repeat of the illegal fireworks activity and damage that The Prairie Park has experienced in previous years—especially last year. Their proactive planning and partnership helped make the holiday safer for our park and our community.
2. Movies in the Parks recap and planning for 2027:
We had a great turnout, especially for our first time. The Park District counted 200 in attendance. Taj McCord, the Park District Programs and Events Coordinator even stopped by. A big thank you to Park Supervisor Rebecca and the Park District for everything they did to help prepare the Park. This year's movie, *How to Train Your Dragon* (2025), was underwritten/donated by our friends from The Wicker Park Advisory Council. We discussed that, based on our 2026 experience, we want to have a Movie in The Prairie Park in 2027. Movies are priced at \$1,300 per screening or \$1,000 each movie if 3 or more. We should start to solicit underwriters. Deadlines in 2026 were Underwriting Partners Signed by March 16 and Payment Completed by March 31.
3. Concern expressed about cars disregarding stop signs at Oakley & 118th Street – should raise issue at Alderman's next virtual Town Hall.
4. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): concerned neighbor noted non-compliance: bike racks and sidewalk wheelchair entrance.
5. Neighbor not picking up in Park after dog – will follow up.
6. Concerns about plans for potential Blue Island Data Center – should raise issue at Alderman's next virtual Town Hall.
7. August 8 block party at 112th and Church. PAC member Katrina Dillard will provide information for Facebook post.

X. PAST EVENTS:

1. 05/16/26 Park Advisory Council School
2. 06/18/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30-6pm
3. 06/20/26 Meet and Greet at The Prairie Park 12 noon-2pm
4. 07/10/26 PAC Lunch Hour Friday, with Maria Stone from 11:00am-2:30pm
5. 07/13/26 Movies in The Prairie Park "How to Train Your Dragon" dusk (approx.) 8:45pm -10:08pm (\$800 Underwriting Gift from Wicker Park PAC)

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS Visit ThePrairiePark.org for updates.

1. 07/18/26 Prayer Walk 8-9am
2. 07/28/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30 – 6pm
3. 08/1/26 The Prairie Park Purge Community Garage Sale 12 noon-2pm
4. 08/12/26 Zoom Book Club 7-8pm "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day"
5. 08/27/26 "Jazz in The Prairie Park" 7-9pm Sponsored by Ald. O'Shea & State Rep. Mary Gill. Entertainment by Gerald Holden & NuSource
6. 9/12/26 Prayer Walk 8-9am
7. 10/7/26 Zoom Book Club 7-8pm "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger" by David Gregory
8. 10/8/26 Fall Social and Game Night from 5:30pm

XII. NEXT PAC MEETING:

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 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

Post-Meeting Updates (Added July 24, 2026)

- 1) To register for the next The 19th Ward Teletownhall go to: <https://tthm.wufoo.com/forms/the-19th-ward-teletownhall-signup/>
- 2) The neighbor who was mentioned about not picking up in Park after their dog was contacted.
- 3) Regarding redevelopment of the closed 12.5-acre Metro South Medical Center property at 12935 Gregory St. in Blue Island into a Data Center:
 - The "No Data Center in Blue Island" yard signs are no longer available since Blue Island mayor Fred Bilotto announced a few weeks ago that he opposed a data center in Blue Island.
 - You can sign a petition opposing the construction of any data centers in Blue Island here: <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/no-data-centers-in-blue-island>

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
