

**THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING**  
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL  
60643 Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano (312-747-6198)  
Tuesday, OCTOBER 8, 2024, 6:30 PM

## **M I N U T E S**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 17**

**PAC BOARD: (2)**

Charles Williams - President, Interim Treasurer  
Lorraine Linnerud - Vice President

**PARK SUPERVISOR: (1)**

Rebecca Medrano

**PAC MEMBERS: (14)**

JoAnn Altenbach	Mary Dunneback	Gregory Pitts
Sarah Batka	Danielle Jones	Charmaine Sevier
Dorothy Chandler	Birgit LaVoie	Becky Stevens
Milton Chandler	Rodrick Myles	John Yanez
Maryann Drake	Dan Niersbach	

**I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

**II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS**

No new members or guests were in attendance.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Garden Committee Chair Danielle Jones noted that the minutes incorrectly state 6:30 pm, instead of the correct 6 pm, start time for the Tuesday Garden Committee workdays. Board Vice President Lorraine Linnerud moved to accept the 9/10/2024 minutes as corrected. Motion seconded by Danielle Jones. All in favor, AYE. No one opposed.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board President Charles Williams followed up, regarding the Next Level Dance Foundation event discussion from the September meeting, that the letters and petition mentioned were never sent, and DCASE was never contacted, and further that the Special Events Application (bottom of page 1) includes recommendation for community outreach to the PAC, which was not done early as stated in the application. Board Vice President Lorraine Linnerud noted that the community engagement recommendation (including contacting the PAC) is listed in the "Large Event Community Engagement" section of the permit application (10,000 or more daily attendance). The Next Level Dance Foundation was not a "large event." Park Supervisor Medrano suggested bringing this up at the annual PAC Conference.

**V. MOTION(S)**

No motions were presented.

**VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bank Statement: Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report provided in advance of meeting. Interim Treasurer Charles Williams gave a summary of the Treasurer's report and PAC's monthly bank

activities from September 1-31, 2024. Beginning Bal. \$3,559.77; Total Deposits: \$76.00 (PAC donations); Total Expenses: \$126.86 (\$41.88 bank fee for SwipeSimple, \$84.98 purchase of pet waste station bags); Ending Bal. \$3,508.91. New checks have been received.

## **VII. PARK SUPERVISOR**

Grant Project Update: Park Supervisor Rebecca Medrano received an update from Park District Grant Project Manager Kat Katsma: The Park District is in the process of selecting an engineering firm. Once the engineering firm has been selected, Project Manager will meet with the PAC to provide more updates.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Park Events Planning Committee: Mary Dunneback – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting and verbal summary given at meeting. Please see report for full details. Lorraine reported that Willa Lang (Chicago Parks Foundation) said we could use the CPF Raffle License at the Fall Social event. Mary responded that instead of a raffle, there will be a gift basket drawing. Committee Chairs: Mary Dunneback, JoAnn Altenbach.
- Park Investment Committee: Lorraine Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting, and verbal summary given at meeting. Please see report for full details. Lorraine also asked if Board President Williams was able to find the Grant documents where he saw the path width specified, but he has not found that. Park Supervisor Rebecca Medrano will reach out to Project Manager Katsma again about the path width since we want to ensure that it is at least 8 feet wide so that the Park District will snow plow. Committee Chairs: Lorraine Linnerud, Ken Bergeron.
- Public Safety (CAPS) Committee: Charles Williams – President Williams did not attend the last CAPS meeting, but did provide the Crime Statistics report. In addition, “Community Conversation” meetings to discuss the 22<sup>nd</sup> District 2025 Strategic Plan will be held at the Beverly Arts Center at 5 pm on October 23 and November 12. To register: [chicagopolice.org/convo](http://chicagopolice.org/convo). Interim Committee Chair: Charles Williams.
- Garden Committee: Danielle Jones – No Committee Report for this meeting. Garden Committee workdays: Tues. 6:00-7:30 pm; Sat. 8-9:30 am. Committee Chairs: Danielle Jones, Dorothy Chandler.

## **IX. SPECIAL ELECTION NOTICE**

A “Special Election” for Treasurer will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12th, to fill the vacancy for the Board Officer position of Treasurer for a one-year term (2024-2025). All PAC members are eligible to run for this position if you live in Chicago and have attended at least two PAC meetings from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024. As Treasurer, you will have to be fingerprinted by the Chicago Park District (free of charge). Please notify our Park Supervisor, [REDACTED] [@ChicagoParkDistrict.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@ChicagoParkDistrict.com) Park Phone 312-747-6198 I Desk Phone 312-747-0527 no later than Nov. 1st if you are interested. We have one candidate so far: Dan Niersbach.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

- 11/13/24, Wed. (11 am): Chicago Park District Public Budget Hearing: The General Superintendent & CEO presents the 2025 budget to the Board of Commissioners at the Chicago Park District Administration Building, 4830 S. Western Ave. The public is invited. The Board will attend; Board President is registered to speak. Please let Park Supervisor Rebecca Medrano

know if you plan to attend. <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/annual-budget-process>

- Videos will be available from the Park District Budget Forums held on 11/01 (online) and 11/03 (in person). Several members noted that they did not receive emails from Maria Stone (Chicago Park District Community Relations) about these events. Lorraine will ask Board Secretary Ivette Williams to send Maria Stone (CPkD) an updated PAC email list. <https://chicagoparkdistrict.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>
- The new 2025-2030 Chicago Park District Strategic Plan can be found at <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/about-us/strategic-plan>
- PAC members Charles Williams, Dan Niersbach and Lorraine Linnerud attended the Chicago Park's Volunteer Appreciation Celebration on Sunday Sept. 29, 2024 12-3 pm at the South Shore Cultural Center located at 7059 S. Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60649. It was an informative and enjoyable event with tours, entertainment and lunch provided.
- Port-a Potty: the Flag Football Port-a Potty was moved off the Parkway (no permit) into the Park, next to the Little Library at 116th Place and Oakley.
- PAC member Rod Myles asked about an upcoming "Soccer Gala" to be held in the Park. Park Supervisor Medrano will investigate.
- The Committee commended Park Supervisor Medrano on the nice appearance of the Park.

**XI. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 10/15/24, Tues. (5-8 pm) The Prairie PAC "Fall Social" hosted by the Park Events Planning Committee for adults only due to limited space in the large meeting room at Kennedy Park; suggested donation \$7 per person. Register online: <http://ThePrairiePark.org>

**XII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

None currently.

**XIII. NEXT PAC MEETING**

The next monthly PAC Meeting will be Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM in person at Kennedy Park. The PAC Board meets each month two Saturdays before the monthly meeting 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 below:

President	Charles Williams	████████@aol.com
Vice President	Lorraine Linnerud	████████@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	████████@aol.com
Treasurer	Charles Williams	Interim Treasurer until November's Special Election

**XIV. ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned by Board President Charles Williams at 7:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Lorraine Linnerud, The Prairie PAC Board Vice President

*Lorraine K. Linnerud*