THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Field House, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, November 10, 2026 6:00-7:30 PM (IN PERSON)

AGENDA

I.	WELCOME:	L. Linnerud	Call Meeting to Order
II.	NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS:	L. Linnerud	Welcome New Members and/or Guests present.
III.	GRANT PROJECT UPDATE:	Erin Ross	Update from 19th Ward Alderman Chief of Staff
IV.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES:	J. Ross	PAC Meeting Minutes from 09/08/2026
V.	MOTIONS:	L. Linnerud	
VI.	TREASURER'S REPORT:	K. Dillard	Treasurer's Report & Bank Statements (September, October 2026)
VII.	COMMITTEE REPORTS:	L. Linnerud J.Altenbach	Park Investment Committee: Committee report Park Events Planning Committee: Committee report
VIII.	PARK SUPERVISOR:	R. Medrano	(1) Requests: In-Process and/or Approved requests for park use. (2) Calendar: Schedule of park events (3) Other: Holiday Wish List • Wrapping paper • Christmas lights (gently used or new) • Large red bows • Snow blankets
IX.	OLD BUSINESS:	L. Linnerud	(1) PAC Secretary Vacancy
X.	NEW BUSINESS:	L. Linnerud	(1) Renaming Park 559 to Edgewater Prairie Park (2) Responding to The Prairie Park google reviews (3) Matthew Senanou (grandson of Dorothy and Milton Chandler) article
XI.	PAST EVENTS:	L. Linnerud	(1) 09/12/26 Prayer Walk 8-9am (2) 09/20/26 CPkD Volunteer Appreciation Day 12:00- 2:00pm Brighton Park Community Campus, 4830 S. Western Avenue. (3) 10/07/26 Zoom Book Club 7-8pm: "Dinner With A Perfect Stranger" by David Gregory (4) 10/08/26 Fall Social and Game Night from 5:30pm - *CANCELLED* (5) 10/22/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30-5:30pm (6) 11/05/26 PAC Lunch Hour 11:00am- 12:30pm
XII.	UPCOMING EVENTS:	L. Linnerud	(1) 01/30/27 Annual Chicago Park District PAC School the Chicago Park District Headquarters Administrative Offices. 4830 S. Western Avenue, Chicago (2) 04/03/27 Annual Chicago Park PAC Conference Malcolm X College. **Visit ThePrairiePark.org for updates**
XIII.	NEXT PAC MEETING:	L. Linnerud	Tues. 1/12/27 (6:30-7:30 pm): In person at Kennedy Park Fieldhouse.
XIV.	PAC Meetings for 2027:		Tues., 6:30-7:30 pm: In person at Kennedy Park Fieldhouse. **Odd Numbered Months** 1/12/27, 3/9/27, 5/11/27, 7/13/26, 9/14/27, 11/9/27

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)

Please consider donating:
1) CASH at PAC meeting, 2) CHECK made payable to "THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL"; or 3) ONLINE via SwipeSimple (no fees & no credit card info. is stored)

2025-2026 THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD
Lorraine Linnerud, President Jil Ross, Vice-President Katrina Dillard, Treasurer

THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, 6:30 PM
M I N U T E S

ATTENDANCE: 11
Members:

JoAnn Altenbach	Lorraine Linnerud-President	Jil Ross-Vice President
Katrina Dillard-Treasurer	Mark Linnerud	John Smith
Andrienne Horton-Smith	Rodrick Myles	Becky Stevens
Guests: none		John Yamez

Chicago Park District: Alyssa Dilella

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:
Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:36 pm by Lorraine Linnerud.

II. NEW MEMBERS: none **GUESTS:** none

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from last meeting:
Jil Ross moved to approve the July 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by JoAnn Altenbach. 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 July and August 2026: Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of July 1, 2026, was $3,867.69. Credits included: $268 Yard Sale Seller Donations (17), $45 Yard Sale yard signs donation. Debits included: $15.69 (June) and $22.53 (July), SwipeSimple monthly fees, $20.00 Yard Sale refund registrations (2) due to (rain) re-schedule, $100.31 Pet Waste Station Bags, $45.00 Yard Sale yard signs, 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 August 31 was $3,977.16, 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.

VI. ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Park District representative Alyssa Dilella tallied the ballots and by majority of votes cast, the following were re-elected to the Board for the 2026-2027 fiscal year (9/1/2026-8/31/27): Lorraine Linnerud (President), Jil Ross (Vice-President), Katria Dillard (Treasurer). We still have a vacancy for the Board Secretary position.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud reported:

The Park District provided this update: The construction team has confirmed that a contractor has been hired. They do not yet have a projected construction start. A grant end date extension has been submitted and there should be no issues getting the extension executed. They typically allow extensions for 10 years from the original grant execution date.

Maria Stone (Chicago Park District Deputy Director of Community Engagement) was unable to receive a commitment from the appropriate Park District staff to attend our Advisory Council meeting to provide an update and answer our questions, including related to Contractor & Construction Start**,** Termination of 15 Existing Water Services, Permits & 2026 Construction Schedule, Water Fountain.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reported that she has identified a donor to underwrite the full cost ($1,300) of our 2027 Movie in the Park! Also discussed:

- The re-scheduled The Prairie Park Purge Community Garage Sale on 8/1 had great weather, 18 vendors and 29 tables donating $318. Yard signs were posted around the Park and on Western Ave. The Committee discussed moving to the South End of the Park with parking at St Walters in case we want to schedule during soccer games.
- The 8/27 annual "Jazz in The Prairie Park" also had great weather and a great turnout.
- Our second Zoom Book Club 7-8pm "What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day" was held on 8/12.
- The 7/18 Prayer Walk was cancelled.

Upcoming events: 9/12/26 Prayer Walk 8-9am, 10/07/26 Zoom Book Club 7-8pm "Dinner with a Perfect Stranger" by David Gregory, 10/08/26 Fall Social and Game Night is cancelled and we will instead celebrate with pizza before our regular November meeting. Jil Ross suggested we bring wrapped children's gifts to donate to St. Walter Church.

VIII. PARK SUPERVISOR UPDATE – Handout provided of email from Park Supervisor Medrano to park permit holders reminding them to refrain from using the field during rainy conditions and regarding parking information around the park.

IX. OLD BUSINESS: Lorraine Linnerud reported:

1. PAC Secretary Vacancy
2. To register for the next The 19th Ward Teletownhall: https://tthm.wufoo.com/forms/the-19th-ward-teletownhall-signup/
3. The neighbor who was mentioned at last meeting about not picking up in Park after their dog was contacted.
4. Petition opposing the construction of any data centers in Blue Island: https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/no-data-centers-in-blue-island

X. NEW BUSINESS:

1. 19th Ward News handout "Keep our Kids Safe" regarding unauthorized large gatherings was provided: Call 911 to report active emergency or threat to public safety. Anonymously submit a tip 1-800-535-7867, Text CPDTip to 738477, or go to www.cpdtip.com.
2. Several recent articles about our PAC (Social Media, The Beverly Review, The Villager) were reviewed.

XI. NEXT PAC MEETING:

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026**, starting early** for Pizza at 6 pm to 7:30 pm at Kennedy Park.

XII. 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

XIII. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 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)

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2026-2027 THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD

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

FIFTH THIRD
(CHICAGO)
P.O. BOX 630900 CINCINNATI OH 45263-0900

THE PRAIRIE PARK
11320 S WESTERN AVE
CHICAGO IL 60643-4118

Statement Period Date: 9/1/2026 - 9/30/2026
Account Type: 5/3 BUSINESS CKG
Account Number: [redacted]

Banking Center: Morgan Park
Banking Center Phone: 773-981-9121
Business Banking Support: 877-534-2264

Account Summary - [redacted]

09/01	Beginning Balance	$3,977.16	Number of Days in Period	30
	Checks			
1	Withdrawals / Debits	$(12.79)		
	Deposits / Credits			
09/30	Ending Balance	$3,964.37		

Analysis Period: 08/01/26 - 08/31/26

Standard Monthly Service Charge	$0.00
Service Charge withdrawn on 09/10/26	**$0.00**

Withdrawals / Debits

1 item totaling $12.79

Date	Amount	Description
09/09	12.79	WORLDPAY ACH BILLING 0SD147 PARK 581 PARK ADVISORY 090926

Daily Balance Summary

Date	Amount
09/09	3,964.37

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THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

For Month Ending September 2026

Beginning Bank Balance September 1, 2026 **$3,977.16**

INCOME DATE	(Deposits/Credits) Type of Deposit	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	FEE	TOTAL
			$0.00		$0.00
		Total Monthly Income			$0.00
			Income Subtotal		$3,977.16

EXPENSES (Check Written/Debit purchases/Bank Fees)

9/9/26	Bank Service Charge SwipeSimple Monthly Fee Aug.. 2026	$12.79	$12.79
Outstanding Checks		$0.00	$0.00
Restricted credit[1]		$704.00	$704.00
	Expense Total		$716.79

Reconciled Ending Bank Balance September 30, 2026 (includes Outstanding items) **$3,964.37**

Available Funds (excludes Outstanding Items) **$3,260.37**

[1] Fraudulent Deposits restricted credit until Oct. 2026

FIFTH THIRD
(CHICAGO)
P.O. BOX 630900 CINCINNATI OH 45263-0900

THE PRAIRIE PARK
11320 S WESTERN AVE
CHICAGO IL 60643-4118

Statement Period Date: 10/1/2026 - 10/31/2026
Account Type: 5/3 BUSINESS CKG
Account Number: [redacted]

Banking Center: Morgan Park
Banking Center Phone: 773-981-9121
Business Banking Support: 877-534-2264

Account Summary - [redacted]

10/01	**Beginning Balance**	**$3,964.37**	Number of Days in Period	31
	Checks			
1	Withdrawals / Debits	$(9.95)		
1	Deposits / Credits	$50.00		
10/31	**Ending Balance**	**$4,004.42**		

Analysis Period: 09/01/26 - 09/30/26

Standard Monthly Service Charge	$0.00
Service Charge withdrawn on 10/13/26	**$0.00**

Withdrawals / Debits

1 item totaling $9.95

Date	Amount	Description
10/08	9.95	WORLDPAY ACH BILLING 0SD147 PARK 581 PARK ADVISORY 100826

Deposits / Credits

1 item totaling $50.00

Date	Amount	Description
10/08	50.00	DEPOSIT

Daily Balance Summary

Date	Amount
10/08	4,004.42

THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

For Month Ending October 2026

Beginning Bank Balance October 1, 2026 **$3,964.37**

INCOME DATE	(Deposits/Credits) Type of Deposit	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	FEE	TOTAL
10/9/26	Check	Member Donation	$50.00		$50.00
		Total Monthly Income			$50.00
			Income Subtotal		$4,014.37

EXPENSES (Check Written/Debit purchases/Bank Fees)

10/9/26	Bank Service Charge SwipeSimple Monthly Fee Sept. 2026	$9.95		$9.95
Outstanding Checks		$0.00		$0.00
			Expense Total	$9.95

Reconciled Ending Bank Balance October 31, 2026 (includes Outstanding items) **$4,004.42**

Available Funds (excludes Outstanding Items) **$4,004.42**

The Prairie Park Advisory Council
c/o Kennedy (Dennis) Park
11320 S. Western Ave, Chicago, IL 60643
ThePrairiePark@gmail.com

October 19, 2026

Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners
4830 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60609

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Renaming of Park 559 to "Edgewater Prairie Park"

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to formally oppose the proposed renaming of Park 559, a small lakefront park, to "Edgewater Prairie Park."

Chicago already has an established park named "The Prairie Park" located in Morgan Park on the South Side, often referred to simply as "Prairie Park." The proposed name "Edgewater Prairie Park" is substantially similar and will cause unnecessary confusion among residents, visitors, and emergency services across the city.

Chicago Park District Code, Chapter 7, Section E.2, states:

"No proposed park or park feature name shall (i) duplicate the name of another park or park feature within the City of Chicago."

While "Edgewater Prairie Park" is not an exact duplicate, it replicates the distinctive portion of the existing name ("Prairie Park") and therefore violates the intent of this provision. The similarity between the two names undermines the clarity and uniqueness that the Code seeks to preserve.

We respectfully request that the Chicago Park District deny this renaming request and instead select a name for Park 559 that reflects its restoration efforts while remaining clearly distinguishable from existing park names citywide.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

The Prairie Park Advisory Council Board

Lorraine K. Linnerud, President

Jil Ross, Vice-President

Katrina Dillard, Treasurer

CC: Chicago Park District, Department of Legislative & Community Affairs
4830 S. Western Ave.
Chicago, IL 60609

Senanou living dream in soccer

by Jil Ross Sep 22, 2026



Long before Matthew Senanou was wearing an Atlanta United soccer jersey, he was a South Side kid sitting in a classroom at St. Walter Elementary School, waiting for the bell to ring and get to soccer practice across the street at Prairie Park.

Long before Matthew Senanou was wearing an Atlanta United soccer jersey, he was a South Side kid sitting in a classroom at St. Walter Elementary School, watching the clock and waiting for the dismissal bell.

It wasn't that Senanou disliked school. He simply knew what was waiting for him after the final bell: soccer practice at Prairie Park, at 116th Street and Oakley Avenue, just across from the school's parking lot.

From a young age, Senanou loved everything about soccer. His grandparents, Dorothy and his late grandfather, Milton Chandler, recognized his passion and encouraged him to stay focused on his dream. His father did, too.

Senanou recalls that even after his father came home tired from work, he would often nudge his dad to go outside and practice. His father saw how much the sport meant to his son and, more often than not, he obliged.

That dedication eventually led Senanou to an AYSO team in Blue Island. By age 12, when his family moved to Plainfield, his passion for soccer moved with him. His parents continued to support his dream, often driving him between Plainfield and Chicago, Naperville and Schaumburg so he could attend practices, games and training sessions.

The youngest of three children, Senanou remains humble about the sacrifices his parents and grandparents made along the way.

"I'm very grateful for everything they did for me," he said.

Senanou did more than simply attend practices. When he wasn't on the field, he was watching soccer.

He watched matches on television and attended Chicago Fire games, studying players and paying close attention to their technique, movements and decision-making. He wasn't simply watching for entertainment—he was studying the game.

One of the people who played an important role in his development was Bret Hall, of Sockers FC, who has served as a mentor to Senanou for years. It is a relationship Senanou continues to value.

By the time Senanou reached his senior year at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, all of that work was beginning to pay off. Senanou received three college soccer scholarship offers.

The decision was clear. He chose the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For a young soccer player who had dreamed of playing at that level, Chapel Hill seemed like the perfect destination.

But, sometimes achieving a dream doesn't mean the journey will unfold exactly as imagined.

Senanou's first major setback came at Chapel Hill. Although he was excited to be there and had begun developing strong relationships with his teammates, he eventually realized that the school wasn't the right fit for him.

That realization was difficult. Mentally, this was where he had always dreamed of being. How could the dream not be working out?

Senanou fell into a tailspin but turned to the people who had supported him throughout his journey—his family and mentors.

Their guidance helped him find another path, and eventually he was given an opportunity to attend Xavier University in Cincinnati. At Xavier, Senanou found his footing. He enjoyed his time there and continued to develop both academically and athletically.

But, another unexpected turn was waiting.

In 2024, with only one semester remaining before graduation, Senanou was drafted by the Colorado Rapids.

His professional soccer career had begun.

Then came another setback.

In late 2025, Senanou learned that he had been cut from the Rapids. He didn't see it coming.

Once again, the news could have shaken his confidence. Instead, he leaned on the support system that had carried him throughout his life. His agent at Remington Ellis quickly began working on the next opportunity.

By January 2026, Senanou had signed a new contract with Atlanta United. It was a new city, a new team, a new chapter.

Now 24 years old, standing 6'4" and weighing 215 pounds, Senanou plays center back for Atlanta United and calls Atlanta home. Getting there has taught him lessons that extend far beyond soccer.

When asked how he handled being released from the Rapids, Senanou didn't sugarcoat it.

"It was a tough time," he said.

He also said the experience strengthened his Christian faith and reminded him to remain grateful.

"It makes you focus on what's important and to be grateful for every opportunity because things can change in the blink of an eye."

Today, Senanou's life is highly structured.

His routine includes workouts with Atlanta United as well as additional time in the gym. He works on technique and strategy and is meticulous about taking care of his body—including paying close attention to what he puts in it.

So, naturally, this writer had to ask the hometown question: When Senanou comes back to Chicago, where does he go to eat?

His answer was that he doesn't really have a favorite restaurant. Desserts and comfort foods are occasional indulgences, mostly around Thanksgiving.

That's some serious discipline.

Despite his professional career taking him away from Chicago, Senanou hasn't forgotten where he came from. He remains proud of his South Side roots and looks forward to visiting the Museum of Science and Industry when he's home. He also hopes to visit the Obama Presidential Center during a future trip to Chicago.

Senanou couldn't attend the FIFA matches in Atlanta, but he did take part in some of the fan festivals surrounding the tournament. He cheered for Team USA, Ivory Coast and Ghana.

And while his soccer career continues to grow, Senanou hasn't abandoned his education.

He is still taking classes at Xavier University and hopes to complete his liberal arts degree soon—an accomplishment that remains important to him.

He is also giving back.

Senanou volunteers at soccer camps and community events, where he mentors young athletes and encourages them to pursue their own goals.

His advice to young people is simple.

"Do what you love," he said, "and trust that God will take care of the rest."

For Senanou, those words are more than advice. They describe the journey that brought him from after-school practices at Prairie Park to professional soccer in Atlanta.

The boy who once couldn't wait for the school bell to ring now has his sights set even higher.

Over the next three to five years, Senanou hopes to work his way onto an MLS first team and ultimately earn a place on a national team.

It's another dream.

But, if his journey so far is any indication, Matthew Senanou isn't afraid to chase it.