

THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 6:30 PM

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: 10

Members:

Lorraine Linnerud-President	Mary Dunneback	Roderick Myles
JoAnn Altenbach	Birgit LaVoie	Charmaine Sevier
Kenith Bergeron	Renee Murphy	Becky Stevens
		Katrina Dillard (phone)

Guests: None

Chicago Park District: None

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:

Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:39 PM by Lorraine Linnerud. Lorraine announced the passing yesterday of our Treasurer, Dr. Milton Chandler. Service details will be provided via email once available.

II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from last meeting:

Renee Murphy moved to approve the January 13, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Dunneback. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MOTIONS – Treasurer Appointment (Meeting Minutes Entry)

Charmaine Sevier moved and that Advisory Council member Katrina Dillard be appointed to serve as interim Treasurer, filling the unexpired term of Treasurer Dr. Milton Chandler, who passed away on March 9, 2026, pending Ms. Dillard’s completion of the Park District Adult Volunteer application and fingerprinting, Mary Dunneback seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. TREASURER’S REPORT:

Lorraine Linnerud provided the Treasurer’s Report (on behalf of Treasurer Milton Chandler) and a summary of the PAC’s bank monthly financial activities for January and February, 2026: Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of January 1, 2026 was **\$3,679.84**. Credits were the donations for Game Night totaling \$35.00. Debits were: \$75.00 Chicago Parks Foundation annual fee, and \$20.27 SwipeSimple monthly and transaction fees. Our ending account balance as of February 28, 2026 was **\$3,619.57**. Excluding the \$704.00 reserved (until Oct. 1, 2026) credit, representing March-April fraudulently deposited funds which have not yet been disputed, we have **\$2,915.57 available balance**. Birgit LaVoie asked for information on the fraudulently deposited funds which Lorraine Linnerud provided: SwipeSimple vulnerabilities allowing fraudster(s) to perform “card testing” using stolen credit cards.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud reported Build Illinois grant implementation progress: Construction documents have been completed and the engineering team has started the permit process. Soon this will be transferred to another project manager who will oversee the permit process and installation. Park District does not know when this will happen but assures the PAC that this has momentum and they’re moving forward.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reported that the March 6 Game Night was cancelled since not enough people signed up. 2026 Season Calendar:

- CPD Earth Clean Up, April 18, 2026 from 9am to 10am (following Prayer Walk) -*Note: At the time of the meeting, the event was reported to end at 10:00am. This has since been changed to 12:00pm.*

- Kite Fly May 2, 2026 from Noon to 2pm
- Meet and Greet June 20, 2026 from Noon to 2pm
- Prairie Park Fireworks Clean-up July 5, 2026 from 9am to 10am
- Prairie Park Purge August date TBD.
- Fall Social and Game Night October 8, 2026 from 5:30 pm

JoAnn made a motion that a maximum expense of \$250 be approved for a Post Office targeted direct mail postcard campaign of approximately 600 pieces to the surrounding community about The Prairie Park and our Advisory Council. Charmaine Sevier seconded. We discussed that it would be preferable for the Advisory Council to review the postcard message/design before finalizing. The motion to authorize the expense of no more than \$250 for the postcard mailing passed unanimously.

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR UPDATE: No one from the Park District was present at the meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS: Lorraine Linnerud reported:

1. PAC Secretary Vacancy.
2. 2025 CPKD Annual Report due 3/1/26 was completed. Required to remain in good standing and for waiver of Activity Request permit and rental fees.
3. The PAC Special Event Liability Insurance Planning Survey due 2/1/26 was completed. Thank you to Events Chair JoAnn Altenbach. This allows us to be covered under the Chicago Park District's liability insurance.
4. Posting Board: Based on our favorable Jan. PAC meeting discussion and approval from Park Supervisor Medrano, Area Manager Orszula and CPF, Lorraine Linnerud submitted an AARP Community Challenge Grant request for \$1,900 to purchase posting Board. Applicants will be notified in May.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Website ThePrairiePark.org has been refreshed and reorganized. Please check it out. Includes Announcements, Meeting Agendas, Bylaws, Events, Donation link, Helpful links, etc. We use the GoDaddy platform which has adequate functionality.
2. Our Advisory Council was featured on a front page article in the March 4, 2026 Beverly Review.
3. Soccer cages/nets in Park – all but two have been removed (west side). Looks like the remaining two are being repaired – ready for new season. Thank you to Park Supervisor Medrano and Area Manager Orszula.
4. We requested that our annual Parking Informational notice be provided by Park Supervisor Medrano to Team coaches to distribute. Lorraine will provide the notice to Park Supervisor Medrano.
5. We reviewed the Chicago Park District Safety Notice Flyer. We hope that the Park District crews can handle the clean-up after 4th of July, instead of the PAC.
6. Advisory Council member Renee Murphy reported that Area Manager Orszula indicated that our PAC could also include Blackwelder Park. There was no interest in pursuing this by other Advisory Council members present.

X. PAST EVENTS:

1. 01/17/26 Annual PAC Conference at Malcolm X College. Lorraine Linnerud, Jil Ross, Renee Murphy and Area Manager Orszula attended. Mayor Brandon Johnson spoke at the general session.
2. 01/22/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30 - 6PM
3. 02/3/26 Chicago Park District's Citywide Participatory Budgeting Process
4. 02/24/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30 - 6PM
5. 02/27/26 PAC Lunch Hour 11:00am- 12:30pm
6. ~~03/05/26 Game Night at Kennedy Park fieldhouse 5:30pm – 7:30pm~~ CANCELLED

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Chicago Park District (CPKD) Citywide Participatory Budget (PB) process -submission Deadline: March 31, 2026 – Lorraine presented a draft of an exercise station installation submission for our park. After discussion, it was decided not to pursue due to security issues and the desire to keep our Park as open space.
2. Chicago Park District Earth Day Parks Clean Up is Saturday, April 18, 9-10am. JoAnn Altenbach is our Earth Day Captain. Volunteer registration opens March 15 2026 – watch for on PAC website and Facebook.
3. 03/19/26 CPF Virtual PAC Zoom Office Hours 4:30 - 6PM Zoom link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81769582160> Meeting ID: 810 0541 7454

4. 05/15/26 PAC School. Details TBD.

XII. NEXT PAC MEETING:

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 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 7:49 PM. Respectfully submitted: Lorraine Linnerud, President

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 Milton Chandler, Treasurer