THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026, 6:30 PM
M I N U T E S

ATTENDANCE: 15
Members:

Lisa Adams	Mary Dunneback	Rodrick Myles	Jil Ross-Vice President
JoAnn Altenbach	Lorraine Linnerud-President	Dan Niersbach	Becky Stevens
Kenith Bergeron	Mark Linnerud	Joe Richmond	

Guests: Jonathan Ross, Erin Ross- Alderman O'Shea Chief of Staff
Chicago Park District: Park Supervisor Rebecca Medrano, Area Manager Tricia Orszula

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:
Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:27 pm by Lorraine Linnerud.

II. NEW MEMBERS: none **GUESTS:** Jonathan Ross, Erin Ross- Alderman O'Shea Chief of Staff

III. Update from Erin Ross- Alderman O'Shea Chief of Staff
President Linnerud introduced Erin Ross who was invited to attend our meeting tonight to provide an update on our Build Illinois Grant project. Erin has been in contact with the Park District regularly to receive updates and facilitate progress. She announced that last week the Park District communicated that construction for the underground electrical connections should start next week. Alderman O'Shea is available next week for a construction kick-off/groundbreaking but have not heard back from Rep. Slaughter. Lorraine will keep the PAC updated on this. Erin thanked us for inviting her to our meeting, after which she had to leave for another engagement.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from last meeting:
Dan Niersbach moved to approve the September 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Jil Ross. Passed unanimously.

V. MOTIONS: none

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT:
In the absence of Treasurer Katrina Dillard, President Lorraine Linnerud presented the Treasurer's Report and a summary of the PAC's bank monthly financial activities for September and October 2026. Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of September 1, 2026, was $3,977.16. Credits: $50 Member Donation. Debits: $12.79 (Aug.) and $9.95 (Sept.) SwipeSimple monthly fees. The $704.00 restricted credit is no longer restricted:

*Background: During March-May 2025, a clone of the "The Prairie Park" SwipeSimple (donations page) was created and 74 fraudulent "card testing" donation transactions totaling $1,223.16 were deposited into our Fifth Third Account. Subsequently, the SwipeSimple vendor corrected the vulnerabilities which allowed these fraudulent transactions to be submitted. We were able to refund the fraudulent transactions, except for a total of $704.00, where the credit cards were marked as closed or stolen. According to Fifth Third, since there were no additional credit disputes as of October 31, 2026 - the credit of $704.00 becomes part of our account available funds.

Therefore, our total account balance, as of October 31 was $4,004.42.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud reported:
Build Illinois project construction of the underground electrical connections should start next week.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reported there was a Prayer Walk on Sept. 12 and that the Fall Social was cancelled with tonight's Pizza party instead. Another Zoom Book Club is being discussed for early 2027. In addition, the postcard mailing to surrounding residences which was discussed earlier this year will be re-visited, for after the Build Illinois Grant construction is completed and 2027 events determined.

VIII. PARK SUPERVISOR UPDATE –

- The large (Park District) soccer nets will be locked. It was noted that 10-12 adults have been observed playing soccer around midnight in the Park. Park Supervisor will notify Park District Security. We should call 911 to report problems. The permit holder of the smaller soccer nets has been contacted to remove them.
- The Park District does not respond to park Google Reviews and will not allow our Advisory Council to respond.
- Should call 311 to remove the large fallen branches on the east side of the Park. President Linnerud will do.
- Garbage cans on the North and East sides of the Park were removed. Supervisor Medrano will have them replaced.
- The Park District funds Movies in the Parks for some parks, such as Kennedy Park. In order for the Park District to fund a Movies in the Parks for our Park, another park would lose theirs.
- Area Manager Orszula will look into whether City or Park District would be responsible for curb repairs after Grant construction.
- Park Supervisor Medrano sent another email to park permit holders reminding them to refrain from using the field during rainy conditions.

IX. OLD BUSINESS: Lorraine Linnerud reported: PAC Secretary Vacancy.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Renaming of Park 599: a copy of the letter from the PAC Board to the Chicago Park District Board of Commissioners opposing renaming of Park 559 to Edgewater Prairie Park was provided. Several PAC members also submitted responses. President Linnerud was unable to receive any information from Maria Stone (Chicago Park District Deputy Director of Community Engagement) regarding the number of responses received on this renaming, so has submitted a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request to the Park District.
2. A copy was provided of the Sept. 22 Beverly Review article by Jil Ross about Matthew Senanou (grandson of Milton and Dorothy Chandler), who grew up practicing soccer in our Park and enjoyed time as a professional soccer player.
3. Vice-President Jil Ross reported that St. Walter Food Pantry is coordinated at the St. Benedict Rectory with donation bins at the back of both churches. Volunteers accept deliveries on Thursdays 8am-11 am.
4. Long-time and founding PAC member, Kenith Bergeron announced that he has moved to Tinley Park and hopes that someone can take the lead on re-establishing the Southwest Morgan Park Civic Association.

XI. UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 01/30/27 Annual Chicago Park District PAC School at Chicago Park District Headquarters, 4830 S. Western Ave.
- 04/03/27 Annual Chicago Park PAC Conference Malcolm X College.

XII. NEXT PAC MEETING:

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2027.

XIII. ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM. Respectfully submitted: Lorraine Linnerud, President

PAC Meetings for 2027: Bi-monthly (every other month) on the 2nd Tuesday, each odd-numbered month, at 6:30 PM, Kennedy (Dennis) Park fieldhouse, Rago room.
January 12, 2027, March 9, 2027, May 11, 2027, July 13, 2027, September 14, 2027, November 9, 2027