

**THE PRAIRIE PARK Park Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting**  
Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, Rago Room, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL 60643  
Tuesday, November 18, 2025, 6:30 PM

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 10**

Lorraine Linnerud-President	Jil Ross-Vice President
JoAnn Altenbach	Mary Dunneback
Rosa Barajas	Candace Evans
Kenith Bergeron	Dan Niersbach
Katrina Dillard	Becky Stevens

Also in Attendance: Rebecca Medrano, Park Supervisor

**I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER:**

Welcome introduction and meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM by Lorraine Linnerud. We will be meeting in the “Rago” room at the South end of the Kennedy Park Fieldhouse moving forward. This space is named in honor of James Rago who was a 54-year attendant at Kennedy Park until he retired in 2014:

[https://www.beverlyreview.net/news/community\\_news/article\\_bc4a209c-50b4-11e5-8f65-57ae37aac38d.html](https://www.beverlyreview.net/news/community_news/article_bc4a209c-50b4-11e5-8f65-57ae37aac38d.html)

**II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS: None**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from last meeting:

Dan Niersbach moved to approve the September 9, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by JoAnn Altenbach. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. MOTIONS**

(1) Katrina Dillard moved that PAC By-Laws Section 3: Executive Committee be amended to replace “monthly meetings” with “PAC meetings.” Rosa Barajas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(2) Rosa Barajas moved that our regular PAC meeting schedule be as follows: bi-monthly (every other month) meetings, 2nd Tuesday, each odd-numbered month, at 6:30 PM, Kennedy (Dennis) Park fieldhouse. Candace Evans seconded the motion. We discussed that we’re flexible and can adjust frequency as appropriate. The motion passed unanimously.

(3) Mary Dunneback moved to approve payment of the Chicago Parks Foundation (CPF) Fiscal Partnership annual renewal fee of \$75 due on 1/31/26. Candace Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) Dan Niersbach moved to approve payment of approx. \$23.17 for the annual Website Domain Renewal (GoDaddy.com) fee “ThePrairiePark.org” due on 12/20/25. Becky Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Lorraine Linnerud provided Treasurer’s Report (on behalf of Treasurer Milton Chandler) and a summary of the PAC’s bank monthly financial activities for September and October, 2025

Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of September 1, 2025 was **\$3,440.79**. Credits included: 1) \$315.16 refund from SwipeSimple/WorldPay 2) \$31.00 Fall Social event donations. There was one debit of \$9.95 for our normal monthly SwipeSimple fee. Our ending account balance as of September 30, 2025 was **\$3,777.00**.

Beginning Fifth Third Bank Balance as of October 1, 2025 was **\$3,777.00**. Credits included: 1) SwipeSimple Donations totaling \$52.00 2) refund from SwipeSimple/WorldPay for \$2.95. Debits included: 1) \$14.77 SwipeSimple fee. 2) SwipeSimple refunds for cancelled Fall Social Event totaling \$73.00. Our ending account balance as of October 31, 2025 was **\$3,744.18**.

We have one outstanding debit of \$704.00 representing March-April fraudulently deposited funds which have not yet been disputed. We are waiting for Fifth Third /WorldPay guidance on final disposition of the \$704.00 fraudulently deposited funds in our account. Therefore, as of October 31, 2025 we have **\$3,040.18 available balance** which excludes the \$704.00 fraudulent funds still in our account.

#### **VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Park Investment Committee: Committee Chair Lorraine Linnerud reported that the Chicago Park District (CPkD) Budget Dept. is working on extending the grant and the Planning Dept. is working with the engineers to finalize the construction documents for permits. Once permitting process completed, will proceed to procuring a Contractor. When the project will happen is extremely dependent on not just weather but on the permitting process. When the project is ready to proceed to construction, notice will be given to the area manager who will then give notice to the community. Project Manager Katsma reported that CPkD electrical team will manage lights- will be on from dusk until dawn. Park Supervisor Medrano manages the lights at Kennedy Park.

Park Event Planning Committee: Committee Chair JoAnn Altenbach reviewed the Fall Social which was cancelled due to low advance registration. The Committee is considering a Spring Social type event instead. The Committee will be working on the event calendar for 2026. Although we do not know a timetable or the Grant Project construction, Park Supervisor Medrano responded that she was given two months' notice regarding the start of construction for the last Kennedy Park construction project. The Annual Kite Fly was very well received this year, as was last year's Prairie Park Purge and both attracted Community, in addition to PAC, members.

#### **VII. PARK SUPERVISOR UPDATE:** Rebecca Medranno reported:

- REQUESTS: IN PROCESS and/or APPROVED requests for park use. – none currently.
- CALENDAR: SCHEDULE of events - none currently. About twenty people attended the Oct. 30 Kennedy Park Halloween Party for Seniors, including PAC member Dan Niersbach who commented that it was a very nice event.
- OTHER – Park Supervisor reported that the nine Soccer and Rugby nets will be removed from the park shortly and that there is no update on the requested signage to be posted on north, south, east, and west ends of park with information: (1) when park closes; (2) permit is required; and (3) no barbecuing allowed.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

Lorraine Linnerud reported that there is still a PAC Board Secretary vacancy. The Board is currently handling the secretarial duties.

Lorraine Linnerud reported that we are still waiting to hear back from Fifth Third and our Fiscal Partner Chicago Parks Foundation on the disposition of the \$704 fraudulently deposited funds in our Fifth Third Account.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **PAC Members discussed/brainstormed Priorities and ideas for 2026, including:**

Monitoring Build Illinois Grant implementation progress, New Curbs, Holiday Lights Recycling, Pet Blessing, College Student Blessing, Collect College Student Trunk Donations, Spring Clean (like Prairie Purge), Spring Fling Social, Senior Walk, National Dog Day event, Line Dancing/Electric Slide in the Park, Relationships with St. Walters, Morgan Park Academy, Smith Village, Community Outreach via Social Media (website, Facebook), PAC Document library section on website.

**Year-end Kennedy Park Donation** – CPkD clarified that funds raised by The Prairie Park PAC must be allocated to The Prairie Park, however, if individual PAC members want to make a gift to Kennedy Park they can. Supervisor Medrano will prepare a “wish list” of needed Holiday items, and Jil Ross will post on the PAC's Facebook page. We appreciate Supervisor Medrano and her Staff!

**Annual Board member \$25 donation** – Lorraine Linnerud reported that this Board \$25 annual donation “tradition” originated in 2021 when each Board member donated \$25 to fund the required \$100 opening deposit for our PAC's Fifth Third Account. We decided to discontinue the prescribed \$25 annual Board member

donation, but everyone is encouraged to donate if they are able – every little bit helps. Also, in the absence of Treasurer Chandler, President Linnerud accepted a PAC member donation (check) for deposit in our PAC Fifth Third account. Thank you!

#### **X. PAST EVENTS:**

Lorraine Linnerud reported that she attended the recent CPF and CPkD Zoom sessions where other PAC members shared concerns/successes. One PAC had great success with a Halloween dog parade and costume judging. Many PACs are frustrated with the slow pace of Capital projects. Several PACs expressed an interest in Social Media best practices.

#### **XI. UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Chicago Parks Foundation “casual drop-in” Zoom session** Thursday, November 20th “Drop In” to the Zoom anytime between 4:30PM-6PM. Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83564268214>  
Meeting ID: 835 6426 8214

**Annual PAC Conference at Malcolm X College.** Save the date 01/17/26. Details will be provided. PAC members who have attended in past years report that it is well worth attending, with multiple different sessions to choose from.

#### **XII. NEXT PAC MEETING:**

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 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 7:42 PM. Respectfully submitted: Lorraine Linnerud, President

*Lorraine K. Linnerud*

The Prairie Park Advisory Council



Website: <https://theprairiepark.org>

Email: [theprairiepark@gmail.com](mailto:theprairiepark@gmail.com)

Donation: [https://swipesimple.com/links/lnk\\_449e566ddea2eb296fd92599ba3e6744](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