

## THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING

Kennedy Park Fieldhouse, 11320 S. Western Avenue, Chicago, IL

Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano (312-747-6198)

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025, 6:30-7:30 PM

## THE PRAIRIE PARK

EST. 2016



# MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 20

**PAC BOARD:** (4)

1-Charles Williams President  
2-Lorraine Linnerud Vice President  
3-Dan Niersbach Treasurer  
4-Ivette Williams Secretary

**PARK SUPERVISOR:** (1)

Rebecca Medrano

**PAC MEMBERS:** (14)

1-JoAnn Altenbach  
2-Dorothy Chandler  
3-Ken Bergeron  
4-Milton Chandler  
5-Mary Dunneback  
6-Katrina Dillard  
7-Andrienne Horton-Smith

**GUEST(S):** (1)

Lisa Sonia Ellis Bergeron

8-Danielle Jones  
9-Roderick Myles  
10-Gregory Pitts  
11-Jil Ross  
12-Charmaine Sevier  
13-John Smith  
14-Becky Stevens

### I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:38 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

### II. NEW MEMBER(S) & GUEST(S)

There were no new members present. PAC Secretary, Ivette Williams, welcomed the following guest who joined our PAC Meeting: Lisa Sonia Ellis Bergeron. We have 45 members to date (19 active; 26 inactive).

### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 8/12/2025.

Motion accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by Mary Dunneback.

All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

### IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Fifth Third Bank Statement and Treasurer's Report with detailed information are each attached. PAC Treasurer, Dan Niersbach, gave a brief verbal summary of Treasurer's report and PAC's bank monthly activities from August 1-31, 2025.

**Beginning Balance:** **\$3,450.74**

**Ending Balance:**

**\$3,440.79**

Deposits: \$0.00 Total Expenses: \$9.95. <sup>2/</sup>

<sup>1/</sup> WorldPay SwipeSimple fee for monthly virtual fundraising link (\$9.95) from 7/1-31/2025).

## **V. BOARD ELECTIONS**

Lorraine Linnerud noted that we currently do not have a candidate for PAC Secretary. With three Board Officers, our PAC will, however, be compliant with IRS Non-Profit Requirements and the Chicago Park District (CPkD) PAC Guidelines: Article IV. PAC Officers consist of President, Vice-President, and Secretary OR Treasurer. In the absence of a Secretary, Maria Stone (CPkD) responded that Secretary duties may be fulfilled by another officer until a Secretary can be elected for the PAC.

Lorraine Linnerud further noted that if we do not elect at least three Board Officers, then the PAC is subject to dissolution with freezing and potential distribution of bank account funds as determined by CPkD.

Our park supervisor, Rebecca Medrano, handed out the voting ballots to all PAC members present (excluding one guest). She tallied the ballots and by majority of votes cast the following three PAC members were each elected to the following Board Officer positions for 2025-2026 (fiscal year: 9/1/2025-8/31/26).

**Lorraine Linnerud, President**

**Jil Ross, Vice President**

**Milton Chandler, Treasurer**

Per PAC By-Laws, Rebecca Medrano will keep in her possession the ballots in a sealed envelope at the Kennedy Park fieldhouse.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

None currently.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)**

➤ **Park Investment Committee:** L. Linnerud –Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting. Lorraine Linnerud reported on our October 2022 “\$500,000 Build Illinois” grant request sponsored by State Rep. Justin Slaughter, which was approved by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in January 2024. The Chicago Park District (CPkD) Planning Project Manager, Kat Katsma, gave her first in-person presentation at our August 2025 PAC Meeting. See Committee report for details. Next CPkD steps are permits and selection of construction contractor. Construction may not begin until Spring 2026. We will be given 2 weeks’ notice prior to start of construction. Chicago Park District is very committed to this project.

Committee Chairs: Lorraine Linnerud (chair), Milton Chandler (co-chair).

Committee Members: JoAnn Altenbach, Katrina Dillard, Charmaine Sevier, Ivette Williams.

➤ **Park Events Planning Committee:** JoAnn Altenbach gave verbal committee update. We were waiting to hear about the start of the park improvements; all events had been put on hold or postponed so we did not lose the liability insurance for Prairie Park Purge. Since we did not have any events since June, we were thinking of hosting the Fall Social in October at Kennedy Park if room is available on Oct. 21st (6-8 pm) if there is interest. We will work on flyer, activity request form, other planning ASAP and will email Board. Next spring might be a problem with hosting PAC events due to start of the park improvements.

Committee Chairs: JoAnn Altenbach (chair), Andrienne Horton-Smith (co-chair).

Committee Members: Maryann Drake, Mary Dunneback, Candace Evans, John Smith, Ivette Williams.

➤ **CAPS Meetings:** Last two CAPS Meetings for 2025 will be on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> and Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm for Beat #2212 at 22nd District Police Station, 1900 W. Monterey.

## **VIII. PARK SUPERVISOR**

- Calendar; Park Requests: I just updated schedule of events taking place at The Prairie Park and will email to Board. We had a permit holder finish paying for all games today. There will be a rugby group (50 people) and patrons then regular soccer games that last a little over an hour.
- Other: Kennedy Park will host Free Concert to Celebrate Matt Hooker on 9/11 (Thurs.) at 7 pm; and a "Jazz in the Park" Concert (Emily Kuhn Quintet) on 9/13 (Sat.) at 5 pm, 113<sup>th</sup> & Maplewood.

#### **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

**Status of PAC Account Bank Fraud:** Following up on continued discussions with our fiscal partner, Chicago Parks Foundation (CPF), and its Fifth Third and SwipeSimple/World Pay Account executives about the fraudulent "card testing" deposits made to our PAC bank account:

On Sept. 2, 2025, Sonia Horvath, CPF Director of Special Events & Partnerships emailed us the following:

*"Our team at CPF has reached out to additional members of the Fifth Third team to escalate this issue."* And on Sept. 9, 2025, Triana Callam, CPF Community Programs Manager, responded that CPF is currently waiting to hear back from their contacts. Triana also said that:

- 1) *The \$30 chargeback fee has been updated to \$0 going forward to protect us from future chargebacks.*
- 2) *Acknowledged our request for the \$315.16 refund of the fraudulent transaction processing fees.*
- 3) *For fraudulent deposits remaining, the recommendation is to avoid issuing refunds; and wait for the dispute chargeback (to avoid chargebacks initiated after receiving refunds).*

**Chicago Parks Foundation "Casual Drop-In" Zoom Sessions:** PACs are invited to stop in anytime between 4:30-6PM to *"ask any burning questions, meet fellow PAC members, and hear about what CPF is up to."* There will be three evening sessions this Fall on the third Thursday of the month: 9/18, 10/16, 11/20. Lorraine will email PAC the Zoom invitation for the September 18th session.

#### **X. PAST & UPCOMING EVENT(S)**

- 9/11/25 Sat. (7-9 pm) "Free Concert to Celebrate Matt Hooker" at Kennedy Park.
- 9/13/25 Sat. (5-7 pm) "Jazz in the Park" at Kennedy Park.
- 9/13/25 Sat. (6-9:30 pm) "BAPA's Porch Concert" at County Fair South Parking Lot.
- 9/28/25 Sun. (12-3 pm) "Volunteer Appreciation Day" @ Brighton Park, Chicago Park District headquarters, 4830 S. Western. Register online @ <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/2025-Vol-Appreciation-Day-Registration>.

#### **XI. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

The newly elected PAC President, Lorraine Linnerud, asked for a **MOTION** to skip the October 9<sup>th</sup> PAC meeting and meet next on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 (not November 11<sup>th</sup> as previously listed since it falls on Veteran's Day).

The Motion was accepted by JoAnn Altenbach and seconded by Danielle Jones.

All in favor: Aye. No one opposed.

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

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Kennedy Park.

**BOARD:** The PAC Board meets two Saturdays before the PAC 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:

<b>President</b>	<b>Lorraine Linnerud</b>	 @gmail.com
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Jil Ross</b>	 @gmail.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Milton Chandler</b>	 @gmail.com

**XIII. ADJOURN**

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:18 pm.

At the request of the newly elected PAC President, Lorraine Linnerud, the meeting was reconvened at 7:21 pm:

Lorraine Linnerud asked for a **MOTION** to grant a request for \$50 check to buy postage stamps for a PAC mailing to reach out to PAC membership.

The Motion was accepted by Dorothy Chandler and seconded by Becky Stevens.

All in favor: Aye. No one opposed.

The meeting was re-adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary.