

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
MINUTES

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
<u>Guests: none</u>		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)

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)

2026-2027 THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD

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