

THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING

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

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

Tuesday, APRIL 8, 2025, 6:30-7:30 PM

THE PRAIRIE PARK

EST. 2016



MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 13

PAC BOARD: (4)

Charles Williams President
Ivette Williams Secretary

Lorraine Linnerud Vice President
Dan Niersbach Treasurer

PARK SUPERVISOR: (1)

Rebecca Medrano

PAC MEMBERS: (8)

Lisa Adams	Mary Dunneback
JoAnn Altenbach	Andrienne Horton-Smith
Milton Chandler	John Smith
Maryann Drake	Becky Stevens

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:32 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

II. NEW MEMBER(S) & GUESTS

No new members joined the PAC this month and there were no guests present. We have 45 members to date.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 3/11/2025.

Motion accepted by Maryann Drake; seconded by Dan Niersbach. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

IV. MOTION(S)

Motion #1: Amendment to PAC By-Laws ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS, Section 3: Elections. Revised to change PAC calendar year to PAC fiscal year, which starts on September 1st of current year through August 31st of the following year for a one-year term.

Motion entered by Charles Williams; accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by JoAnn Altenbach. All in favor, AYE. No one opposed.

Motion #2: Budget Approval. Request to approve budget for \$35 for Earth Day/Park Clean-Up on 4/26/25 to buy bottled water, healthy snacks (protein bars, etc.), tangerines.

Motion entered by Charles Williams; accepted by Lorraine Linnerud; seconded by Maryann Drake. All in Favor, AYE. No one opposed.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

"True Values" are only being included here (please refer to Treasurer's Report, which includes Bank balances with surplus of donations under ongoing investigation):

Beginning Bal. \$3,195.83 Deposits: \$46.41 Total Expenses: \$254.19 Ending Balance: \$2,988.05

VI. NEW BUSINESS

SwipeSimple Online Donations: There were many suspicious donations made during the month of March in SwipeSimple that may be fraudulent by an unknown user named only as "qq", which we have reported to Fifth Third Bank over the phone and in person in a meeting with Bank Vice President, Maxwell Frempong on April 7, 2025. We have also communicated with WorldPay many times about these deposits and bank fees. We will ask Willa Lang at Chicago Parks Foundation, as our fiscal partner, for help on this matter.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Park Investment Committee: L. Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting. Committee Chair Linnerud provided the following update:
The Sub-Consultant Agreement was signed with Geotechnical engineer who performed the drilling on two locations on the east and west side of the park (2/12/25) for stormwater management study and ground stability assessment. Geotech did soil samples which will explain the soil structure, lighting, etc., completed analysis of this site. Exact place of drinking fountain (south end) to be determined based on stormwater run-off; 50% of construction documents have been completed. Things are happening.
Committee Chairs: Lorraine Linnerud (chair), Milton Chandler (co-chair).
Committee Members: JoAnn Altenbach, Katrina Dillard, Charmaine Sevier, Ivette Williams.
- Park Events Planning Committee: J. Altenbach – A brief verbal report was given at the PAC meeting about the final expense report for 3rd annual Kite Fly event (rescheduled for 4/26 due to rain on 4/5), came in under approved budgeted amount of \$200 at \$171.73. Committee will coordinate Kite Fly event in conjunction with Earth Day/Park clean up day that morning. Prayer in the Prairie is scheduled for May 3rd from 8-9 am led by Andrienne Horton-Smith. All are welcome to join us walking around The Prairie Park during this hour of prayer and dedication.
Committee Chairs: JoAnn Altenbach (chair), Andrienne Horton-Smith (co-chair).
Committee Members: Maryann Drake, Mary Dunneback, Candace Evans, John Smith, Ivette Williams.

VIII. PARK SUPERVISOR

- Calendar & Park Requests: Soccer calendar schedule is ready for this spring. So far St. Barnabas, St. John Fisher and St. Cajetan have signed up. Expect St. Walter-St. Benedict to sign up soon as well. There will be no flag football this season at The Prairie Park.
- Other: We have two big announcements for Kennedy Park: (1) Movies in the Park "Rudy" will be hosted on 7/28/25; and (2) we have received approval for a Jazz Concert in the Park for August.

IX. UPCOMING EVENT(S)

Save the Dates:

- 4/12/25 – 2025 PAC Conference by Chicago Park District (9 am-2:45 pm) @ Malcolm X College.
- 4/26/25 – Earth Day Park Clean-Up hosted by the Chicago Park District and Friends of The Parks (8-10 am).
- 4/26/25 – 3rd Annual Kite Fly @ The Prairie Park (11 am-1 pm).
- 5/01/25 – CAPS Zoom Meeting (6-7pm) Beat 2212
- 5/03/25 – Prayer in The Prairie (8-9 am).
- 6/___/25 – Meet & Greet @ The Prairie (TBD)

X. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chicago Park District Updated Park advisory Council Guidelines:

Summary of major changes: PAC Toy Boxes at Parks (new Section); Annually provide Park District with evidence of Not-For-Profit status with the State of IL; Register with the IL Attorney General's Office as a charitable organization prior to any solicitation/receipt of funds more than \$15,000 in a 12-month period; PAC meeting participants must give informed consent prior to any video or audio recording of meetings. (Last version: 12/2023; Updated: 2/2025)

<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/get-involved/join-park-advisory-council>

XI. NEXT PAC MEETING

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, from 6:30-7:30 pm at Kennedy Park.

BOARD: The PAC Board meets on the 1st Saturday of every month 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:

President	Charles Williams	[REDACTED]@aol.com
Vice-President	Lorraine Linnerud	[REDACTED]@gmail.com
Secretary	Ivette Williams	[REDACTED]@icloud.com
Treasurer	Dan Niersbach	[REDACTED]@sbcglobal.net

XII. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:03 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary

