

THE PRAIRIE PARK ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) MEETING

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

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

Tuesday, MARCH 11, 2025, 6:30-7:30 PM

THE PRAIRIE PARK

EST. 2016



MINUTES

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 15

PAC BOARD: (4)

Charles Williams President
Ivette Williams Secretary

Lorraine Linnerud Vice President
Dan Niersbach Treasurer

PARK SUPERVISOR: (1)

Rebecca Medrano

PAC MEMBERS: (10)

JoAnn Altenbach
Dorothy Chandler
Milton Chandler
Maryann Drake
Mary Dunneback

Katrina Dillard
Andrienne Horton-Smith
Jil Ross
John Smith
Becky Stevens

I. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Charles Williams called the PAC Meeting to order at 6:33 PM. Robert's Rules of Order were in effect.

II. NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

No new members joined the PAC this month. There were no guests present. The PAC membership has a total of 45 members to date (24 active; 21 inactive). As a reminder, PAC members must attend at least two meetings from September 1st through August 31st of the following year to remain in good standing and be eligible to run for a Board officer position. All Board officers are fingerprinted, cost which is incurred by the Chicago Park District (details at bottom), as well as any PAC members who handle finances and work directly with children. Signature on a one-day waiver is required when volunteering for PAC events

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Williams asked for a Motion to accept Minutes from 2/11/2025.

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

IV. MOTION(S)

Updated PAC Event Budget (\$200) scheduled for first PAC event of the year, our 3rd Annual Kite Fly on 4/5/25, was presented to the PAC by JoAnn Altenbach for approval.

Motion entered by Charles Williams; accepted by JoAnn Altenbach; seconded by Becky Stevens.
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 February 1-28, 2025.

Beginning Bal. \$3,304.85 No Deposits: \$0.00

Total Expenses: \$109.02

(1) SwipeSimple fees: (\$10.85) calculated as follows:
\$9.95 (SwipeSimple virtual terminal fee),
\$0.70 (\$20.25 deposit in January x 3.45% = .70 cents), plus
\$0.20 cents transaction processing fee.

(2) Outstanding checks cleared: (\$98.17):
\$75.00 Check #1011 to Chicago Parks Foundation for annual partnership renewal.
\$23.17 Check to Ivette Williams for The Prairie Park website domain annual fee.
There are no other checks written or outstanding to date.

Ending Balance: \$3,195.83.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

PAC Vice President, Lorraine Linnerud, reported that Park Supervisor, Rebecca Medrano, provided her with the following updates this afternoon from our Park District Project Manager, Kat Katsma, who unfortunately was not able to attend tonight's PAC meeting:

- The Sub-Consultant Agreement has been signed with Geotechnical engineer. Drilling date to be determined as drill locations will be determined by stormwater design.
- Site visit to review existing conditions was completed on 2/26/25.
- Preliminary draft of site features and utility locations.
- Continued work on advance stormwater calculations.

VII. PARK SUPERVISOR

- Calendar & Park Requests: There are no park events currently scheduled on the calendar, or any permits in process and/or approved remaining yet for this year. Due to our upcoming park improvements, flag football Coach Martin will not return to The Prairie Park until later in the fall.
- Other: Park project update from Project Manager, Kat Katsma, was provided to the Board in advance of meeting, which PAC Vice President Linnerud shared with the members in person during the PAC meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Park Investment Committee: L. Linnerud – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting. Committee Chair Linnerud provided the following update:
The Engineering Team has successfully completed their information retrieval phase and obtained: map of the land surface, street layouts, property lines, water, sewer, and drain layouts. They have submitted requests for underground utility mapping for both the wet (water, sewage) and dry (electrical, gas) utilities. Milhouse Engineering and Construction, Inc. is actively working on the stormwater management analysis, which is required by the Department of Water Management (DWM) to make sure the construction and conversion of pervious land to impervious surfaces does not result in problems with stormwater runoff and the capacity of the City's sewer system. When the design is far enough along, the Planning Group will present (virtually) the Park design to the PAC at one of our monthly meetings.
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 events tentatively planned for The Prairie Park this year, subject to change due to the start/end of the park improvement project. An updated budget was discussed and voted for approval by the PAC for the Kite Fly event on 4/5/25, and liability insurance in the amount of \$104 has been purchased through the Chicago Park District. Andrienne Horton-Smith introduced a new event, “Prayer in the Prairie” on Sat., May 3rd, from 8-9 am to walk around the park and bring our community together in silent prayer & reflection in this time of great uncertainty in communities and cities all over our country. All are welcome. Committee Chairs: JoAnn Altenbach (chair), Andrienne Horton-Smith (co-chair). Committee Members: Maryann Drake, Mary Dunneback, Candace Evans, John Smith, Ivette Williams.

➤ **CAPS/Public Safety Committee:** C. Williams – Full Committee Report was provided in advance of meeting. Officer Beamon reported that stats to date: 2024 comparison to 2025, crime is down in Beat 2212. To date, there have been 17 thefts and 1 homicide (which occurred within the home and offender is known). An anonymous telephone number (1-833-408-0069) is now available for residents to report crimes. There may be a reward for information regarding guns or homicide crimes. Information was also shared with Officer Beamon about suspicious activity taking place in the St. Walter parking lot at night. She said Chicago Police would provide special attention for that area. Next CAPS meeting is scheduled for May 1st at 6 pm (312-626-6799; Zoom ID: 896 6029 3972; passcode: 842356).

IX. UPCOMING EVENT(S)

Save the Dates:

4/05/25 – 3rd Annual Kite Fly @ The Prairie Park (12-2 pm). Alternate date: 4/26/25.

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).

5/03/25 – Prayer in The Prairie (8-9 am).

X. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

A new Secretary of State DMV location for seniors only is now open (approx. 2 miles away) at 12633 S. Ashland Ave. in Calumet Park (1-800-252-8980).

XI. NEXT PAC MEETING

The next PAC Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 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:

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

XII. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned by Charles Williams at 7:05 pm.

Submitted by: Ivette Williams, The Prairie PAC Board Secretary

