

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Village Hall, New Lenox, Illinois.

GENERAL FUNCTIONS:

- Call to order** President Schulz called the May 21, 2025, meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance** President Schulz led the Board, Staff, and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Roll Call** President Schulz directed the Recording Secretary to take roll call. Upon taking roll call, the following were present, Commissioners: Ott, Fischer, Larson, Kramer and President Schulz.
- Also in Attendance** Executive Director Greg Lewis, Associate Executive Director Lea Pipiras, Director of Parks Maintenance Ken Stephens, Director of Golf Bob Schulz, Director of Business Services Jason Braglia, Director of Recreation Olga Viano, Attorney Angelo Vitiritti and Guest Services Supervisor Melissa McGrath.
- Treasurer's Report** Commissioner Kraemer quoted the totals from the monthly Treasurer's Report as presented for April 30, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2025. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for April 30, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Payment of Bills** Commissioner Kraemer quoted totals from the Payment of Bills as presented for April 30, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for April 30, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.
- Special Guest** Government Finance Officers Association – Notice for FYE April 30, 2023 – Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
President Schulz asked Kim Auchstetter from the Government Finance Officers Association to step forward for a presentation. Kim Auchstetter acknowledged that she was pleased to present to the New Lenox Community Park District the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024. This Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. She also noted that this is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and this is the 17th consecutive year that the New Lenox Community Park District has been awarded the certificate.
- Communications** Sharon's Bay Park 2024 OSLAD Grant Recipient Booklet
President Schulz noted the Sharon's Bay Park 2024 OSLAD Grant Recipient Booklet in the packet was handed out to the legislators in Springfield during Parks Day.
- Approval of Minutes** Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2025
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2025. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes for April 16, 2025, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Special Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Special Workshop Meeting Minutes of April 17, 2025. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Special Workshop Meeting minutes for April 17, 2025, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Committee & Staff
Reports**

Business Services

Commissioner Ott reported that there were four promotions that took place. He reported that Ellie Gruzlewski has been promoted to full-time Business Services Generalist, Olga Viano has been promoted from Deputy Director of Recreation to Director of Recreation, Jason Braglia has been promoted from Deputy Director of Business Services to Director of Business Services and Lea Pipiras has been promoted from Director of Recreation to Associate Executive Director. Commissioner Ott also recognized that Alex Lorek has been added to our Parks and Maintenance staff as a full-time Parks and Maintenance Laborer. Commissioner Ott congratulated each of them and noted what an integral part they play in the park district day to day operations.

Commissioner Ott noted that registration is up about 5% from last year, which is great because we are seeing increases from year to year and is a testament to the types of programming we can offer.

Director of Business Services Braglia reported about our investments and that we are earning interest and are continuing to roll them over into another three- or four-months CDs respectively.

Executive Director Lewis noted that as of May 22, 2025, a “Draft” copy of the Budget and Appropriation will be available at the Administrative Office. The Public Hearing for the Budget and Appropriation will take place at the beginning of the June 18, 2025, meeting.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported a lot of general maintenance is going on at all buildings, including updating flooring. He noted that the Crossroads Complex is moving along and the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of New Lenox and the Park District will be approved later in the meeting.

Golf Course

Golf Operations

Commissioner Kraemer reported that April was a cold start to the month but rebounded nicely after Easter weekend with about the same rounds as last year on the course but noted that the range ball sales was up by almost a third. The Top Tracer is still very active and very popular, which keeps the revenues up. The golf shop counter is in production with hopes that it to be delivered sometime in June if not sooner. We have over 450 players in our Sanctuary Men’s League, which is a new record and all the other leagues that we host are full.

Food and Beverage Operations

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Top Tracer has helped our Food and Beverage sales again.

Ground Operations

Commissioner Kraemer reported the course is starting to rebound after a very slow start with the cool early spring and an occasionally warm day which didn't help but the course is filling in nicely. He noted that the ground crew has completely repaired the right-side 8th hold fairway bunker and it has turned out great. All bunkers will be monitored and repaired as needed. Commissioner Kraemer reported that the greens mowers are almost ready for delivery and will be a great addition to our cutting fleet and should help keep our greens smooth for years to come.

Director of Golf Schulz noted that the driving range is open sunrise to sunset except for Tuesday mornings where they will open at 9am due to that is when we do our maintenance to the driving ranges.

Parks/Development

Associations/Athletic Sites

Commissioner Larson reported that baseball and softball are having their Memorial Day Tournaments starting on May 22, 2025. Girls' softball will be using Lion's Den Field as one of their tournament sites. The soccer association will be having their spring tournament in the first week of June with a picnic on June 7th.

Contracted Services

Commissioner Larson reported that all contracted services are going well.

Fleet & Equipment

Commissioner Larson noted that the fleet has gone through their 6-month safety lane check.

Out in the Parks

Commissioner Larson reported all water fountains have been turned on and pond aerators have been installed. He noted that a new roof was installed on the shelter at Sharon's Bay. Commissioner Larson stated that at the Crossroads Sports Complex the roads and parking lots have been installed and striped, and the concrete walks are being poured throughout the complex. He noted that the playground has been delayed, and installation should begin May 22nd. There are 3 fields still to be completed and the goal to be able to get into the buildings on June 9th.

Sharon's Bay Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens reported that we went out to bid on May 20, 2025. There is a Pre-Bid meeting scheduled for May 27th at 10am and all questions are due by June 2nd at 5pm to Planning Resources. He noted that the bid opening will take place in-person at the New Lenox Community Park District Administrative Office on June 10th at 10am.

Water Chase Park Development OSLAD Grant

Director of Parks and Maintenance reported that the area behind the wiffle ball backstop was fixed and reprofiled. He noted that Planning Resources has sent out a punch list to have trees changed out that have died and to have slit seeding done in areas that grass did not grow.

Bristol Park

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens noted that we are having the clay drain tile surveyed to help us come up with a plan to fix the ongoing problem of taking on water coming from the east.

Teerling Lakes Central Park Development

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens noted that the lawyer is working on the annexation agreement, and the project is to start Spring/Summer of 2025.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis reported that LWSRA was awarded a \$109,000 grant through Will County Mental Health for a second sensory bus. The first bus is scheduled to be completed by June 12th and will be designed to serve the younger participants whereas the second bus will be tailored to meet the sensory needs of the teens and adults. Executive Director Lewis noted that LWSRA is progressing toward Distinguished Agency Accreditation. He stated that the first onsite visit for the ADA Transition Audit took place on May 13th, which is a required component for the Distinguished Agency process. Executive Director noted that they did pass their budget last month and have moved forward with new officers noting that unless something changes, he will act as president for another term. He stated that they do have some projects that he wants to make sure they get done.

Recreation

Commissioner Fischer highlighted a few items regarding LWSRA and their wheelchair basketball programs as well as all of the other programs that are offered through LWSRA. He noted that the Director and staff at LWSRA go above and beyond for all of their participants.

Commissioner Fischer then went on to highlight the athletic programs for the park district including the T-Ball time, Sports 101 and Game Day Sports. These particular programs are the last of the programs that were running in our Winter/Spring Program Guide. He noted that the 12th Adult Softball league for the summer closed on April 21st and there is a total of 30 teams registered with games beginning on May 5th at Lion's Den Park.

Commissioner Fischer noted that during spring break our Beyond the Bell program ran with approximately 167 kids participating. Our Before and After Care ACES program for grades 1st through 6th has a total of 510 participants which is an increase from last year. He reported that the Kiddie Kampus Preschool has a few spots available for the 2025-2026 school year.

Commissioner Fischer stated that the application for the Distinguished Park and Recreation Accreditation has been approved, and we have been assigned a mentor to continue to guide us through the process.

Upcoming Events

Commissioner Fischer stated that the Water Chase Park Grand Opening will take place on Thursday, June 5th beginning at 11:00am. The Kids Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 7th at Hibernia Park and is a free event with each age group having awards for different categories. There will be bait available for purchase at the boathouse and pre-registration is required.

Director of Recreation Viano wanted to recognize Recreation Supervisor Kelly Matson for winning the Young Professionals Award from the South Suburban Park and Recreation Professional Association (SSPRPA). She was awarded a \$500 educational voucher that can be used towards conferences, nationals or her CPRP certification. Congratulations Kelly.

**Annual Reorganization
Of the Board**

Oath of Office

Attorney Vitiritti sworn in both Mark Ott, Jr. and Ted Schulz from the 2025 Consolidated Elections held on April 1, 2025.

Temporary Chairman-Current Presiding Officer

President Schulz requested a motion to appoint Temporary Chairman-Current Presiding Officer. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers

President Schulz opened officer nomination for President. Ted Schulz was nominated by Commissioner Kraemer. Hearing no further nominations, President Schulz requested a motion to appoint Ted Schulz as President. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

President Schulz opened nomination for Vice-President. Brian Fischer was nominated by Commissioner Kraemer. Hearing no further nominations, President Schulz requested a motion to appoint Brian Fischer as Vice-President. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and Commissioner Fischer was appointed Vice-President.

President Schulz opened nominations for Secretary. Dale Larson was nominated by Commissioner Fischer. Hearing no further nominations, President Schulz requested a motion to appoint Dale Larson as Secretary. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and Commissioner Larson was appointed Secretary.

President Schulz opened nominations for Treasurer. Garry Kraemer was nominated by Commissioner Larson. Hearing no further nominations, President Schulz requested a motion to appoint Garry Kramer as Treasurer. Upon voice vote, all were in favor and Commissioner Kraemer was appointed Treasurer.

President Schulz requested a motion of the Retainment of Attorney with the approved increase of current fees at the rate of \$200/hour. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call, all were in favor of the Retainment of Attorney.

President Schulz reported on new committee assignments coming next month. President Schulz requested a voice vote to table the committee assignments until next month. Upon a voice vote, all were in favor and the motion

2025 Consolidated Election Results (Information Purpose Only)

President Schulz noted in the board packet is the 2025 Consolidated Election Results from April 1, 2025.

**Unfinished
Business**

Resolution #25-04 Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Crossroads Sports Complex between the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Community Park District

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Resolution ##25-04 Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Crossroads Sports Complex between the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Community Park District. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #25-04 Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Crossroads Sports Complex between the Village of New Lenox and the New Lenox Community Park District. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Approval of the Annual American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Action Guideline Report & Projects/Replacement

President Schulz noted this is done on an annual basis. Hearing no questions and/or concerns, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Annual American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Action Guideline Report & Projects/Replacement. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-05 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Dingo TX 1000 Compact Loader

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Resolution #25-05 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Dingo TX 1000 Compact Loader. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #25-05 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Dingo TX 1000 Compact Loader. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-06 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Toro Greenmaster Etriflex 3360

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Resolution #25-06 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Toro Greenmaster Etriflex 3360. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #25-06 Authorizing the Execution of Lease with DeLage Landen Public Finance, LLC – Toro Greenmaster Etriflex 3360. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #25-07 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Mini Melts of America, LLC.

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Resolution #25-07 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Mini Melts of America, LLC. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Resolution #25-07 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Mini Melts of America, LLC. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Fischer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**Community
Announcements**

President Schulz read aloud the May Community Announcements as follows: The Village of New Lenox Farmers Market will take place on Thursdays May 15th thru September 18th from 4:00 to 8:00pm in the Commons featuring fresh produce, local vendors and a great community atmosphere.

Fridays After Five will be June 6th, August 22nd and September 5th and will help kick off your weekend with Food Trucks, live music and fun for all ages in the Village Commons.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:50 p.m., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the May 21, 2025, Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath
Recording Secretary