

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the New Lenox Community Park District Board of Commissioners held on Wednesday, August 20, 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 August 20, 2025, meeting to order at approximately 6:02 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: Kraemer, Larson, Fischer, Ott, 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 July 31, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments regarding the monthly Treasurer's Report for July 31, 2025. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented for July 31, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Larson, seconded by Commissioner Ott. 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 July 31, 2025. President Schulz requested any questions or comments. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Payment of Bills as presented for July 31, 2025. Motion made by Commissioner Fischer, seconded by Commissioner Ott. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes *Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 16, 2025*
President Schulz requested any questions or comments on the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 16, 2025. Hearing no questions or comments, President Schulz requested a motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of July 16, 2025, as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Ott, seconded by Commissioner Kraemer. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Committee & Staff Reports

Business Services Commissioner Ott welcomed a new employee to our Parks and Maintenance Department, Ken Marcin, as a Maintenance Laborer. Commissioner Ott pointed out the new format of the reports that the Business Services Office provides for the OSLAD grants. He noted that Director of Business Services Braglia and Deputy Director of Business Services Nicole Saltzman do a great job and thanked them for their hard work in putting together these new formats that are easier to follow and easier to understand.

Commissioner Ott noted that the bond information for next year is in the packet and if anyone has questions, do not hesitate to contact either himself, Director of Business Services Braglia or Executive Director Lewis. He noted that they can decide to go longer than 3 years with the bonding authority, but that can be discussed and should be decided by November.

Commissioner Ott stated that there were several updates in the IT department, including a new firewall at 701, some security enhancements and new cameras at LCC and the golf course.

Director of Business Services Jason Braglia reported that he met with Bob Tutko from the Illinois Public Risk Fund regarding the prevention measures that we have in place for the district to reduce and prevent accidents, illnesses and injuries overall. He noted that the meeting went very well, and we were not given any recommendations.

Facilities / Planning

President Schulz reported that there is a lot of general maintenance that has been taking place during this past month. He noted at the Wintrust Crossroads Sports Complex has been busy and staff is doing a great job managing the tournaments on the weekends. President Schulz stated that many of our summer staff are returning to college and staffing adjustments are taking place. He noted that if anyone is looking for a job the sports complex is hiring and for those to visit the New Lenox Community Park District website for positions available.

Golf Course

Golf Course

Commissioner Kraemer reported that July was the best month on record ever at the course, even with it being one of the hottest July's on record. He noted that the staff has done an amazing job dealing with the heat and all the play. The range keeps going very strong and we are ahead of last year's pace. Commissioner Kraemer stated that they met with the high school coaches, and we received their practice schedules for the year starting the second week of August. Commissioner Kraemer reported that Director of Golf Schulz has been in contact with the PGA about possibly hosting a PGA Hope tournament next season.

Director of Golf Schulz reported that PGA Hope tournaments currently have only one in the Chicagoland area and might be open to adding another one on the south side. This program introduces veterans to golf as a means of coping with PTSD after service. He hopes to have more information at the start of 2026 on this event.

Food and Beverage

Commissioner Kraemer stated that our food and beverages are still going strong even during the heat of July. He noted that we are starting to downsize our selection due to running out of cooler space. Commissioner Kraemer stated that the gaming had a great month, and the addition of the 6th machine is paying off.

Ground Operations

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the grounds crew had a tough summer with all the heat and humidity but have done an amazing job. They are currently managing 3 diseases and trying to minimize turf loss. Commissioner Kraemer stated that Director of Golf Schulz is looking at adjusting the equipment budget due to seeing the equipment that will need to be replaced and the timing on receiving the new equipment and how the costs have increased.

Director of Golf Schulz noted that the Golf/Fish sign ups begin on Tuesday, September 2nd at 7am. He reported that the Chili Open lottery will open on October 1st at 7am.

Parks/Development

Commissioner Larson reported that girls' softball games started in September and have 374 players. He noted that the Rebels program had 94 teams for their Wiffle Ball tournament with 5-8 players a team. The fall season will have 533 players, and their games will begin in September. The soccer season started on August 22nd with 400 players. The Mustangs first game is on August 16th with 185 players and 125 cheerleaders and NLYFA has 395 players and 232 cheerleaders. Commissioner Larson stated that NLSO #122 softball started on August 6th and baseball had their first game on August 13th.

Commissioner Larson stated that all contracted services are going well. He noted that the playground mulch will start being installed at the end of the month, which includes parks and school playgrounds.

Commissioner Larson stated that the 6-month safety lane check has taken place and Explorer 15 had a new hood latch installed.

Commissioner Larson noted that out in the parks the Hickory Creek Church had 60 volunteers for their 6th year of moving mulch at Crystal Springs and Freedom Park on July 25th. He stated that the full-time and seasonal staff are doing a great job of beautifying and maintaining the parks.

Commissioner Larson stated that the weekend of August 8th – 10th and had 64 teams consisting of 745 baseball players and 12 teams consisting of 131 softball players. He noted that the full-time and seasonal staff have been doing a great job setting up fields and maintaining the property.

Development Projects Update

Sharon's Bay Park Phase II – OSLAD Grant Application

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens reported the project started on August 5th. Hacienda has removed old playground footings, and the excavation has started for the basketball court with the concrete work starting the week of August 18th. He noted that Change Order #1 was approved by IDNR and is in the packet with the budget attached.

Water Chase Park Update

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens stated the project was completed and remaining retainage was sent out the week of August 11th.

Bristol Park

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens reported that the survey was complete. He noted that it was found all tiles have damage to them and to have it repaired we were quoted \$107,180 and we are working on trying to figure out how to take care of this and might be part of planned projects.

Teerling Lakes Central Park Development

Director of Parks and Maintenance Stephens stated that the project has broken ground with a lot of curb and asphalt being done. He noted the annexation agreement is in the board packet to be approved.

Recreation

Special Recreation Update

Executive Director Lewis reported that LWSRA received a \$30,000 donation from the Aileen S. Andrews Foundation to support the Sensory Bus project. He noted that planning is underway for the grand opening of Hero's Village in in-

mid-September with an official invitation to be shared soon. Executive Director Lewis stated that the first Sensory Bus is now in operation and has already been out to different communities for different events and has been well received by everyone.

Director of Recreation Viano reported that most of the summer programs have wrapped up. She thanked all the staff, whether they were part-time or full time, everyone did a great job making things run smoothly. Our biggest event of the summer was the Great Ball Pursuit, which supported “Unplug Illinois” day on July 12th. This activity consisted of dropping 300 numbered tennis balls at different parks and then families went out to pick up the balls, numbers were drawn and posted on social media and the winners stopped by the Administrative Office to pick up their prizes that consisted of a swag bag and a Raffy’s Gift Card. In September, we will have our Empty Bowls event that happens in conjunction with the Village’s Last Call Before Fall.

New Business

Change Order #1 – Sharon’s Bay Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant

President Schulz asked if there were any questions regarding Change Order #1 – Sharon’s Bay Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to approve Change Order #1 – Sharon’s Bay Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant. Motion made by Commissioner Kraemer, seconded by Commissioner Larson. Upon a roll call vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance #25-08-01 – Annexing Certain Property to the New Lenox Community Park District

President Schulz requested any questions or comments on Ordinance #25-08-01 Annexing Certain Property to the New Lenox Community Park District. Hearing none, President Schulz requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #25-08-01 Annexing Certain Property to 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.

Community Events

President Schulz reported on the upcoming Community Events. Saturday, September 6th from 6:00-10:00pm is a Silent Roller Disco located in the Village Commons with an entry fee of \$5 per person and children five and under are free.

Adjournment

At approximately 6:31 pm., President Schulz requested a motion to adjourn the August 20, 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 voice vote, all were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melissa McGrath, Recording Secretary