

**UNITED CITY OF YORKVILLE
PARK BOARD MEETING
Thursday, May 15, 2025 6:00pm
East Conference Room, #337
651 Prairie Pointe, Yorkville, IL**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Board President Dan Lane. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Roll Call:

Jorge Ayala-yes, Kelly Diederich-yes, Sash Dumanovic-(arr. 6:12pm), Dan Lane-yes, Gene Wilberg-yes

Absent: Tiffany Forristall, Sammy Hall

Introduction of Guests, City Officials and Staff:

The following staff and guests were recognized: Director of Parks & Recreation Tim Evans, Superintendent of Parks Scott Sleezer, Superintendent of Recreation Shay Remus, City Council Liaison Ken Koch

Public Comment: None

Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: January 29, 2025 and February 27, 2025

Ms. Diederich moved and Mr. Wilberg seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: Diederich-yes, Lane-yes, Wilberg-yes, Ayala-yes. Carried 4-0.

Bills Review:

Bill List – February - May 2025

Mr. Lane said the colorization of the bills is very helpful. He asked about the CDL licenses noted. These are required for drivers of snow plows, dump trucks, etc. and Mr. Evans said all Parks employees will be getting their CDL. The tent repair for \$6,300 was also mentioned. Mr. Sleezer said this is a fabric shelter at Grande Reserve B--Dragon Park. New panels were made to repair it and the life expectancy is about 10 years. Also discussed was the golf cart which is very helpful at all special events. It is used for transportation at the Bristol Bay Park which would be a 20 minute walk from one side to the other and would be vital in case of an emergency there. The soccer field sponsor banners were also discussed and it was noted the sponsors pay more than the cost of the banner.

Budget Report – January – April 2025

Discussed later in the meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business:

New Point of Sales Equipment

Mr. Evans said staff has been working on updating point of sales applications which is easier for staff and customers at the concession stands. They have 4 laptops available now with the menu and they will also accept Apple Pay, with cash and credit still an option. Mr. Lane asked for feedback after this is introduced hopefully at the upcoming Margarita event. Mr. Evans noted it also ties into the Rectrac system as well which feeds into the city finance department. When attendees make a purchase, it is not for a ticket, it is the direct purchase. Staff also found that ATM's have not worked correctly. It was agreed that people do not carry cash as in the past and have asked for Point of Sale.

New Smartphone App

Mr. Evans commented that marketing will be improved using this app and it ties into Webtrac for registrations. Ms. Remus added that not many are using the computer to register for programs, but they are using the phone app instead. She said staff members are building and customizing this app with the ability to change things. Ms. Remus said they hope to roll out the new app with the fall catalog on August 1 and it will be promoted on Facebook and website as well. Each button leads to the website and allows ad pop up for other events in the app. On-line registration is the preferred method, said Mr. Evans, and there was \$25,000 of sales on the first day. Board member Ayala asked if a student intern could be brought in to assist on this project and Ms. Remus said staff does try to be open for internships with the schools.

Budget Report – January- April 2025 (out of sequence)

Mr. Evans said the budget is not completed yet, but he gave some of the highlights. He said child development / preschool summer camps is up \$20,000, athletics is up almost \$20,000 and concessions are also up. The sponsorships have gone from \$18,000 to \$57,000 this year. He explained the projected deficit and said the city does not want Parks and Rec to carry a big surplus.

Land Cash Update

Mr. Evans gave a brief explanation of the land cash process and said the burden of providing parks or playgrounds falls on the developer rather than the residents. He said the city has just approved the Fox Haven development and along with data centers, funds will be forthcoming to Parks and Rec. He noted other projects that will provide land cash—Timber Ridge Park, Heartland West and the Christie property. He said funds from the data centers will likely be a result of negotiations with the city. Mr. Sleezer said Timber Ridge will eventually have a trail and does not lend itself to a park site due to the rolling terrain. Mr. Lane suggested a senior park or dog park at the Van Emmon location.

Discussions turned to the incoming data centers. It was noted that data centers will contribute large amounts of tax revenue to the city. Data centers find Yorkville attractive due to the available electric substation to provide ample power. It will take 10-20 years for the full buildout. It was suggested that the data centers may contribute to the cost of the Lake Michigan water project. Mr. Ayala asked about the feasibility of an enclosed park for the winter. Mr. Evans felt there would be many costs with that including power, maintenance, etc. Mr. Ayala added that in Europe they have enclosed parks and he also suggested domes that are used in the winter. Another suggestion was a community park with a full court for basketball. Alderman Koch noted that Oswego is building 4 domes together for golf in the winter. A mini fieldhouse for the Parks & Rec and schools was another suggestion.

Mr. Evans encouraged the Board members to begin discussions in the next few meetings, for ideas on how to use the anticipated funds for future projects.

Parks & Recreation Monthly Report:

Mr. Evans said 2 new employees were hired in the last 2 months. A new storage shed was built in Bristol Bay. Ms. Remus said yearbooks of picture were compiled for the pre-school graduation. Margaritas en Mayo will be held next Thursday, there will be Memorial Day activities and there is a golf outing. If Board members are interested in volunteering, they should email the staff.

Executive Session : None

Additional Business:

Mr. Wilberg inquired if the fire departments who use the riverfront for training, advise staff, ahead of time, if they could be asked to pay a fee and if there is a protocol for the use. He also asked if the city wants to promote the riverfront for that use. Mr. Evans said that some departments advise staff, others do not and a fee would not be possible since state money was received for the riverfront.

Mr. Lane asked if the existing dome could be used for programs? Director Evans said they are maxxed out and that a fee would have to be paid to them in addition to charging more for programs. A turn lane would also be needed.

The status of developing the land downtown/parking/performance venue was questioned by Mr. Wilberg. A grant was not received that was hoped for and the area needs a new water line.

Director Evans would like to provide info for the public regarding Park Board members and how they serve the community. If there is an interest, he asked the Board members to contact him.

Adjournment:

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm. Roll call: Dumanovic-yes, Lane-yes, Wilberg-yes, Ayala-yes, Diederich-yes.

Next meeting: July 17, 2025

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Marlys Young, Minute Taker