



Crete Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2025

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:22 p.m. on March 19, 2025, by President Laura Stawicki at the Administration Center, 737 W. Exchange Street, Crete, Illinois.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: J. Smith, C. Sharma, S. Einhorn, L. Stawicki. Mike Smith was absent.

Others Present: Andy Biesterfeld, Interim Executive Director; Janel Geary, Superintendent of Recreation; Jordan Desiderio, Marketing Supervisor, Bill Smigel, June Shy.

Public comment: Bill Smigel, thank you for what the Park Board does, you do a great job and I am hopeful to learn and if elected to a great job.

Budget Workshop

Interim Director Biesterfeld presented projections for the end of the fiscal year 2024-2025 and the draft copy of the budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

J. Smith moved and C. Sharma seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2025 Special Board Meeting.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – Aye		Motion Passed 4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent

J. Smith moved and C. Sharma seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. With the correction of the typo on the name Sharma.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – Aye		Motion Passed 4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain; 1 Absent

J. Smith moved and C. Sharma seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – Aye		Motion Passed 4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain 1 Absent

Presentation of Financial Reports

Biesterfeld highlighted that the Park District received an additional \$5000 check from the Crete Park Pals for the Fitness Court and a verbal commitment to partner with and pay the postage for 1 mailing for a small, printed brochure to our residents.

C. Sharma moved and J. Smith seconded a motion to approve the February 2025 Treasurer's Report.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	

S. Einhorn – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain

Payment of Bills and Payroll

J. Smith moved and C. Sharm seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills from February 1 – 28, 2025 which may include travel and lodging of \$35,293.49.

C. Sharma – Aye

J. Smith – Aye

M. Smith – Absent

L. Stawicki – Aye

S. Einhorn – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain;

J. Smith moved and C. Sharma seconded a motion to approve the payment of payroll from February 1 – 28, 2025 in the amount of \$32,724.62.

C. Sharma – Aye

J. Smith – Aye

M. Smith – Absent

L. Stawicki – Aye

S. Einhorn – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain;

Reports

Marketing: Marketing Supervisor Desiderio stated that the second edition of the Community Newsletter is in the process of being proofed and will go in the mail soon. We are moving to a new schedule for the ebrouchures. Starting with the summer edition we will return to three editions per year. We will begin to print 2 small brochure editions that will be mailed to our residents. This will include information on Park Pals and they will be helping to pay for it. Desiderio praised Emme Humbert-Hallin our Ambassador to LWSRA for participating and playing on the Lady Hawks Special Recreation Basketball Team that just won Gold at the State Championship. We are updating our marketing and branding our new logo with new swag items such as pens, pickleballs, lunch bags and frisbees to use when people request gift baskets etc. Jamie Healy and Desiderio are working on creating a branded display for events that will be used at the upcoming Parks Fay at the Capitol with Healy and Biesterfeld. Healy is doing a great job taking over sponsorships and has secured Scott's USave as a sponsor for both Egg Hunts and Park a Palooza. We are working on a social media campaign that has hopes to be entered into the IPRA Showcase next year for Nutty the Squirrel. This will include a new costume (hopes to order by the end of the month) and a media campaign.

Recreation: Superintendent Geary brought attention to the new registration process for the summer day camp. We have begun to receive registration. We have 11 summer staff members returning from last year so will have to hire minimal new staff. The Park District has been approached by the Crete Fire Department to partner on offering a 3 day Fire Camp this summer. Due to the nature of the profession, the Park District will have to supply staff to work with the camp in the event of an emergency call. Work continues on the PDRMA SMART Goal of creating a Critical Incident Management Plan for the District. This will cover steps the District needs to take in the event of a critical incident to manage both the incident and the flow of information to the public. Geary attended the last meeting of the Crete Lions Club to discuss participation in the Community Clean Up Day and a potential partnership with the July Parks and Recreation Build Together Play Together Monday programs. Geary and Healy are also participating on the school district's homecoming committee to help revive the community spirit with the build of the new athletic stadium.

Parks: Jim Beckwith has joined the staff as a part-time parks personnel. He is a retired teacher and will work year round. Biesterfeld is working with Planning Resources to discover what has been the cause for us to not receive the last two OSLAD grants. Recreation Supervisor Metzner has been working outside on the fields and turf at Heritage trying to get ahead of the schedule for the season. He is doing a great job and the fields are looking better.

Director: We are still working with Campfire Concepts, Biesterfeld and Geary are making notes on the draft copy of the plan to present to them next week. Commissioner Smith asked when we were planning to approve it. Biesterfeld stated as soon as it is complete, probably May or June.

President: Thank you to the staff you are all doing a great job. Keep doing what you are doing.

Old Business

None

New Business

Review and discuss the Style Guide. Biesterfeld reminded the commissioner to take some time to review the Style Guide.

Comprehensive Plan – Biesterfeld re-iterated that it is being reviewed and he will provide updates to the board.

2025-2026 Board Meeting Schedule – Biesterfeld discussed the possibility of re-structuring the board committees to have two or more committees meet on the same night, reducing the time commitment for the commissioners. A schedule will be presented in April.

Future Meeting Dates

April 2, 2025,	Parks Committee	6:00 pm
April 16, 2025,	Regular Board Meeting	6:00 pm
May 7, 2025,	Committee	6:00 pm
May 21, 2025,	Regular Board Meeting	6:00 pm

Executive Session

S. Einhorn moved and J. Smith seconded a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. for the purpose of Section 2c(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. Section 2c(21) Review of closed session minutes.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – Aye		Motion Passed
		4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain

J. Smith moved and C. Sharma seconded a motion to return to Open Session at 8:45 p.m.

C. Sharma – Aye	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – Aye		Motion Passed
		4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain

Additional Action

J. Smith moved and L. Stawicki seconded a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes from March 17, 2021, May 19, 2021, July 14, 2021, July 21, 2021, August 18, 2021, May 18, 2022, April 17, 2024, September 18, 2024, December 16, 2024, December 20, 2024, January 15, 2025, February 19, 2025 and March 5, 2025.

Discussion: S. Einhorn felt that the release of the minutes from December of 2024 – March 5, 2024 was too early.

C. Sharma – No	J. Smith – Aye	
M. Smith – Absent	L. Stawicki – Aye	
S. Einhorn – No		Motion Failed
		2 Aye; 2 No; 0 Abstain

S. Einhorn moved and J. Smith seconded a motion to approve the release of closed session minutes from March 17, 2021, May 19, 2021, July 14, 2021, July 21, 2021, August 18, 2021, May 18, 2022, April 17, 2024, September 18, 2024.


Discussion:

C. Sharma – Aye J. Smith – Aye
M. Smith – Absent L. Stawicki – Aye
S. Einhorn – Aye


Motion Passed 4 Aye; 0 No; 0 Abstain

J. Smith moved and S. Einhorn seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. **All commissioners present voted aye.**

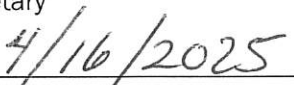
Submitted by;
Janel Geary, CPRP
Superintendent of Recreation



President



Secretary



Date Approved