



Crete Park District
Board of Commissioners
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Crete Park District Board of Commissioner, Will County, held at the Administrative Center, 737 W. Exchange Street, Crete, Illinois was called to order at 6:00 pm by President Jennifer Smith.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Jennifer Smith – Present
Kelly Humbert-Hallin – Present

June Shy – Absent
Sheila Einhorn – Present

Bill Smigel – Present

Others Present: Andy Biesterfeld, Executive Director; Janel Geary, Superintendent of Recreation.

Public Comment: none

Employee Recognition: A Proclamation honoring exemplary leadership and composure by Liliana Santoyo was read by President Smith.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

K. Humbert-Hallin moved, and B. Smigel seconded a motion to approve the minutes from July 15, 2026, regular board meeting. Discussion: none

J. Smith – Aye

K. Humbert-Hallin – Aye

J. Shy – Absent

S. Einhorn – Aye

B. Smigel – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 Nay;0 Abstain

Presentation of Financial Reports

Executive Director Biesterfeld presented the treasurer's report. The profit and loss statement is on track through July. We are still running a deficit in the liability line. This is due to the North Shelter and the insurance assessment. When completed and finalized there may be a transfer to capital for expenditure not covered by insurance.

K. Humbert-Hallin moved, and B. Smigel seconded a motion to approve the July 2026 Treasurer's Report.

J. Smith – Aye

K. Humbert-Hallin – Aye

J. Shy – Absent

S. Einhorn – Aye

B. Smigel – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 Nay;0 Abstain

Payment of Bills and Payroll

B. Smigel moved, and K. Humbert-Hallin seconded a motion to approve the payment of bills from July 1-31, 2026, which may include travel and lodging of \$69,836.04

Discussion: none

J. Smith – Aye

K. Humbert-Hallin – Aye

J. Shy – Absent

S. Einhorn – Aye

B. Smigel – Aye

Motion Passed

4 Aye; 0 Nay;0 Abstain

K. Humbert-Hallin moved, and B. Smigel seconded a motion to approve the payment of payroll from July 1-31, 2026, in the amount of \$49,082.80.

J. Smith – Aye
J. Shy – Absent
B. Smigel – Aye

K. Humbert-Hallin – Aye
S. Einhorn – Aye

Motion Passed 4 Aye; 0 Nay; 0 Abstain

Reports

Executive Director:

Executive Director Biesterfeld referenced his written report, highlighting the fact that over the past few weeks and the storms that came through the area, the staff came together to work to clean up the properties. The community relationships did not end just with the staff, the way the community, Village, EMS and all worked together really proves why Crete is a great town to be in. For service, we are assessing how to move forward after the damages. The parks department is focusing on tree removals and grass mowing. Dave Webb from Well-Built has come in to assist in removing some of the larger trees from the Bike Trail that we do not have the equipment to do. We are awaiting a structural engineer's appraisal at the Willard Wood Park Center, so we can move forward with repairs. For Culture, we will be having a staff team building session on Tuesday. This will include all full-time and part-time staff that work throughout the entire year. For the budgetary cycle, the next step will be to review the tax levy.

B. Smigel asked about assessing the remaining tree that looms over the Willard Wood Park Center. Biesterfeld responded that all the trees in Crete Park were professionally assessed about 8-10 years ago. This is a costly undertaking, but we have all the documentation on the trees and will reference them. Smigel also asked about the Willard Wood upgrades that have been discussed in the past and stated this may be a time to do them. Biesterfeld answered that yes, we will investigate some of them, and it will be determined on structural integrity, cost, and insurance.

Recreation:

Superintendent Geary stated that we have cancelled and refunded all rentals in Willard Wood through the end of September. Any rentals through the end of the year can choose to cancel for a full refund. All rentals have been notified of the damage. The Teen Pickleball Tournament was a success, even after rescheduling. Some of our current programs, such as Wado Ki Karate and Line Dancing have been temporarily relocated to the Township Community Center. Discussions are in the works about possibly having ABC Playskool there if we are unable to use the lower level of Willard Wood. Geary gave a shout out to Aiden Bozorov for working at the National Night Out. Admin Assistant Healy worked with him and stated that he has tremendous energy and promotes the District any chance he has. Micro Soccer has exceeded our projected numbers and we hope this means we are in the re-building stage. Marketing Supervisor Dace is working on getting the information out about the Volunteer of the Year award. Please nominate someone.

Old Business:

- a. Park Ordinances review: we are close to having the board portion complete. We are working on the staff procedural portion.
- b. Capital Projects Update: Lincolnshire. Plans from the engineer were shared, including projected price sheets. A catalog of play structures was passed out to commissioners to look at and make suggestions. Commissioners were encouraged by Biesterfeld to go look at LWSRA's playground at their facility which is built for universal play. With the damage done to Willard Wood Park Center we may have to re-think the project and look towards only doing the earth work as part of phase one and put play equipment in later.

New Business:

- a) Willard Wood Park Center: We are awaiting a visit and report from a structural engineer regarding the integrity of the building so we can move forward with repairs. We will consider

some upgrades as they fit into the budget and insurance requirements. The repairs may change how we bond.

- b) Storm Damage, the staff continue to work to clean up the damage done by the recent storms. Dave Webb from Well-built has brought in some equipment to help the removal of some of the larger trees on the bike trail and will also help in removing some of the bigger pieces on the swing set and the hill at Crete Park. We suffered fence damage at the pickleball court and two bays of the swing set.

Executive Session: none

Action Items: none

Future Meeting Dates:

September 2, 2026	Investment Committee Meeting	6 pm
September 2, 2026	Recreation Committee Meeting	6 pm
September 2, 2026	Marketing Committee Meeting	6:40 pm
September 16, 2026	Regular Board Meeting	6 pm
October 7, 2026	Parks Committee Meeting	6 pm
October 7, 2026	Business Committee Meeting	6:40 pm
October 21, 2026	Regular Board Meeting	6 pm

Director/Commissioner Comments

Executive Director Biesterfeld stated that the staff should be commended for all their work over the past few weeks.

President Smith and B. Smigel expressed their appreciation for all the staff has done and want to make sure that they are also taking care of any personal needs that came out of the storms.

S. Einhorn moved and K. Humber-Hallin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. **All commissioners present voted aye.**

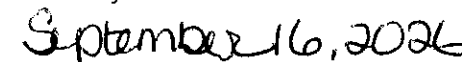
Submitted by;
Janel Geary, CPRP
Superintendent of Recreation



President



Secretary



Date Approved