

**Springfield Park District**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

John F. Linxwiler Administrative Office / Bunn Park  
2500 South 11th Street / Springfield, IL  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2026**  
**5:33 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Roll Call: President Sgro called the meeting to order.

Members Participating in Person: President Sgro, Trustees Aiello, Eck, Farmer, Hoogland, and Theilen.

Members Available by Phone: None

Members Unavailable: Trustee Rodgers

Others Participating in Person: Derek Harms, Executive Director, Doug Bates, Director of Finance & IT; Jason Graham, Director of Parks and Planning; Nathan Essex, Director of Recreation and Marketing, Patrick Murphy, Springfield Park District Police Chief; staff, and public.

Public Comment: None

**Long Range Planning**  
(Chair Hoogland)

- i. Dreamland Park Playground Purchase  
Jason Graham, Director of Parks and Planning, presented the proposed playground equipment for the Dreamland Park OSLAD project. He reviewed the various playground components with the Board and provided a detailed overview of the associated pricing and cost considerations for each item.
- ii. Toro Groundskeeper Mower Purchase  
Jason Graham, Director of Parks and Planning, presented information to the Board regarding the proposed purchase of a Toro Groundmaster mower. He explained that the purchase would strengthen the Maintenance Department's ability to manage and maintain district grounds in a timely and efficient manner.

**Finance and Human Resources**  
(Chair Theilen)

- i. Finance Options for Improvement at Nelson Center and Funshop  
Doug Bates, Director of Finance and IT, introduced Stuart of Ascendant Facility Partners LLC, who presented various solar energy system options for the Nelson Center and Funshop. Stuart reviewed the features and potential benefits of each option, while he and Doug provided the Board with an overview of the associated costs and pricing considerations for the proposed installations

- ii. Surplus Property Ordinance  
Doug Bates, Director of Finance and IT, presented an ordinance to the Board declaring certain Springfield Park District personal property as surplus and authorizing its sale. He reviewed the purpose of the ordinance and outlined the process for the disposition of the surplus assets in accordance with district policies and applicable regulations.

### Recreation

(Chair Farmer)

- i. Comer Cox Park Basketball Court Resurfacing  
Jason Graham, Director of Parks and Planning, presented details to the Board regarding a proposed improvement project at Comer Cox Park. The project includes crack repair and resurfacing of the park's two basketball courts to enhance their condition, safety, and overall usability for patrons.

### Staff Updates

- i. Police Department  
Patrick Murphy, Park District Police Chief, reviewed the Police Department's activity for the previous month, including a summary of calls for service and other departmental statistics. He also provided the Board with updates on upcoming training opportunities and scheduled professional development activities for Police Department personnel
- ii. Finance & Administration  
Doug Bates, Director of Finance & IT, provided the Board with an update on preparations for the upcoming fiscal year. He discussed the ongoing development of the FY27 budget, including planning efforts and departmental budget considerations, and shared updates within the Finance Department.
- iii. Recreation and Marketing  
Nathan Essex, Director of Recreation and Marketing, provided the Board with a recap of recent events, including Parks Day at the Capitol and the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Botanical Garden Dome project. He also shared information regarding upcoming programs and events, including the Carillon Festival, the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Gietl Park Splash Pad, and Teen Empowerment Nights.
- iv. Parks and Planning  
Jason Graham, Director of Parks and Planning, provided updates on planned improvements at Lincoln Park, including walkway and curbing enhancements around the playground and the upcoming installation of a sports court. He also reported on the progress of the ongoing playground project at Patrick J. Cadigan Park and discussed a planned project at Iles Park to repair the picnic shelter roof.

### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Trustee Theilen and seconded by Trustee Hoogland that the meeting adjourn at 6:06 p.m.