



Kankakee Valley

PARK DISTRICT

Kankakee Valley Park District Board Meeting Minutes April 27, 2026

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Commissioner Skelly. Those present for roll call were Commissioners A. Gear, J. Frey, D. Skelly, N. Eisengart (in person or by electronic means). Others present (in person or via Teams): Ross Bruni, Executive Director; Rick Collins, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Rachael Click, Superintendent of Recreation; Zach Mullady, Superintendent of Revenue Facilities; Attorney Patrick Miller; Ariana Padilla. Not present: Melissa Woodard, Superintendent of Business

Public Present: Tamika Talley, Jeff Bonty

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner James Frey.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tamika Talley - Rolling Out, a mobile roller-skating rink

- Discussed a pop-up skate adventure for indoor and outdoor spaced.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley Annual Luncheon
 - Any interest, let Ross know
2. City Hydroelectric Project Update

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made to combine approval of March 23, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes and the Minutes of the Special Meeting on March 30, 2026.

Motioned by Commissioner Eisengart and seconded by Commissioner Gear.

No Discussion.

Ayes: IIII

Nays: 0

FINANCIALS

Presentation of financial by Executive Director Bruni

- Executive Director Bruni gave a recap through March 2026.

Motion was made to combine approval of March 2026 Financials and approve Bills Payable March 2026 by Commissioner Frey and seconded by Commissioner Skelly.

No Discussion.

Ayes: IIII

Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Mayor R.J. Bailey Park Renovation Project

Superintendent Rick Collins provided pictures of ongoing progress at Mayor R.J. Bailey Park. Upland provided photos and change order with completion date. Mussel surveys when water is warm. Canoe ramp will be final phase.

Update on Kankakee County Museum Agreement (Discussion)

- Discussion ensued regarding the museum agreement and maintenance issues. Attorney Miner will return to the Historical Society with a proposed long-term agreement for consideration.

Update on KCC Sign (Discussion)

- Contract with KCC attorneys, changing/reviewing contract language and awaiting its return.

Update on Kankakee Taxing bodies to conduct an appraisal on St. Mary's Hospital properties for tax purposes (Discussion)

- We did get notice that hospital filed for non-profit status.
- Bill invoice was \$468 for appraisal.
- They are currently for profit.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Procedure to Appoint Open Board Position

- Will publish notice to fill open commissioner's position
- Have a concern about check signing, and new officer positions

STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds Rick Collins:

- Thanked United Way and MCA for Earth Day at the parks.
- Campground has been opened.
- Negotiations with Union on salaries.

- Proceeding with preparation for opening Splash Valley.
- Civic Indoor Walking ends Friday, May 1, 2026.

Superintendent of Business Melissa Woodard:

- No report

Superintendent of Recreation Rachael Click:

- April growth in sports – fundamentals pickleball and basketball
- Ice Valley programming up 16% - Learn to Skate
- Training for new hires 5/26-5/30
- Twilight Bingo
- Drop-in Disc Golf
- Outreach, in-person engagement
- Reinvigorate Arts CoLab
- Me & My Best Tea
 - 50 participants last year – 75 this year
- Partners
 - MCA for Donut Day
 - YMCA for Flag Football
- Open interviews for camp counselors
- Camp - 30 campers, 19 eligibles for scholarship

Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Zach Mullady:

- Working with Melissa for staff onboarding new staff hires
- A lot of applications, a lot of returning staff
- Ice Valley closes for July - New ice and facelift
- Working with Rec Team on IV and SV Events
- Little Blackhawks - 19 participants – some from out of town
- Coyotes – 4 teams for Spring League

Executive Director Ross Bruni:

- Next Wednesday, May 6th, insurance adjuster for storm damage.
- Next Wednesday to inspect projects.
- Union negotiations started – 6 proposals
- Grants - Received \$600,000 DECA grant for Bird
- Budget prep continues

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historical Society - Commissioner Frey:

- Trying to partner with Kankakee Farmers Market
- 2 Board workshops
- Founding mothers – 35 participants
- Clove Alliance partnership
- More related want – 250 America anniversary
- May 17th Rhubarb Festival

SRA - Executive Director Bruni:

- Momenca will be joining SRA
- May have approved agreement
- Executive Director Bruni president of SRA
- We are not being sued
- FOIA group municipal suing FOIA fee shifting lawsuit

KRS - Commissioners Gear & Executive Director Bruni:

- Updates on events
- Insurance is solidified
- June event change date
- KNACK Brewery 5-7pm KRS event

Building Commission Report - Commissioner Skelly:

- N/A

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Thank Commissioner Eisengart for taking care of the cemetery. He will have an update next month.

Commissioner Matthews is no longer a part of the KVDP Board. Get him a plaque for next meeting. Invite Mr. Matthews to the next meeting.

Thank you to our attorneys.

Executive Session

No executive session

ADJOURN MEETING

Commissioner Skelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frey. Board was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes (March 23, 2026)
2. Special Meeting Minutes (March 30, 2026)
3. Presentation and Approval of March Financials and Payable Bills
4. Mayor Bailey Project Update
5. Update on Kankakee County Museum Agreement
6. Update on KCC Digital Sign Agreement
7. Update on Kankakee Taxing bodies to conduct an appraisal on St. Mary's Hospital properties for tax purpose
8. Discussion on Procedure to Appoint Open Board Position
9. Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report
10. Superintendent of Business Report
11. Superintendent of Recreation Report
12. Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Report
13. Executive Director Report
14. Committee Reports
15. Commissioner Forum

Respectfully submitted: Ariana Padilla