Kankakee Valley Park District
Board Meeting Minutes
August 24, 2026

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5pm by Commissioner Skelly. Those present for roll call were Commissioners V. Forquer, 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; Melissa Woodard, Superintendent of Business; Rachael Click, Superintendent of Recreation; Attorney David Freeman; Ariana Padilla.
Not present: A. Gear.

Public Present: Bill Yohnka, Ken Lewellan, Paula Jost, Dana Bucci, Kephren Lee, Michael Obodzinski

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Ken Lewellan – Gave an update of upcoming events with the Historical Society. Would like to know where we are for roof repairs? 3 roofs damaged. Also, the asphalt runs the wrong direction and the patch made everything worse. Looking for update. Suggest having 2 commissioners on a committee to work on getting the agreement completed.

Bill Yohnka – KRS – quick updates on the Riverwalk. Big thank you to everyone who came to the Boat House Rock event. Community Foundation has a fund for signage and would like to get uniform signage for Riverfront trail. Want to thank everyone from the Beckman clean up date. Working on the Regatta sound system with the city. Been pumping up Regatta on the radio and asking for volunteers. Gave a draft of the plan for Legion Park.

Paula Jost – Spoke on incident from July 29, 2026 with one of the mowers going over something and it hitting her car. Got denial letter and don't think it should fall on her insurance. Ross said we submitted to PDRMA and they sent the letter. Would like to get together to better understand what happened.

Dana Bucci – Concerns about the lights at Cobb not being able to be used until 10pm. Also, Strasma tennis court has lots of weeds and the net needs reattached.

COMMUNICATIONS
Ross will send some info to commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion was made to combine approval of July 27, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes and July 27, and 2026 Public Hearing Minutes was made by Commissioner Frey, seconded by Commissioner Eisengart.
Ayes: IIIII
Nays: 0

FINANCIALS
Melissa said the financials are being refined. Updating and reclassifying allocations to ensure they accurately reflect the FY27 budget. KRS is a little higher as Q2 & Q3 payments hit in July. Due to the banking issues, some invoices were held so some line items will appear higher. Audit fieldwork starts tomorrow and they have scheduled 3 days.

Ross said summer is the busiest so lots of expenses and things may show higher. Also, received replacement taxes. July was 3 pay period month. Not approving financials tonight.

Motion was made to approve July bills payable was made by Commissioner Frey, seconded by Commissioner Forquer.
Ayes: IIIII
Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS
Update on Mayor R.J. Bailey Park Renovation Project
Parking lot has been striped and benches installed. Still lots of landscaping and getting the canoe launch in.

Update, discussion and approve on Kankakee County Museum Agreement
Attorney Freeman suggests tabling until next month. Just got the agreement back from PDRMA. Going to get sent to museum attorney in the morning.

NEW BUSINESS
Discussion and approval of Amending Ordinance No. 1.15 Closing of Parks
A motion to amend ordinance no. 1.15 closing of parks was made by Commissioner Skelly, seconded by Commissioner Frey. Discussion: Attorney Freeman said Executive Director has discretion but will let the President know if there is a special circumstance.

Ayes: IIIII
Nays: 0

Discussion of IT Services Agreement
Tabling. Did receive info from CNG late today. Will be looking for consensus.

STAFF REPORTS
Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds Rick Collins:

- Appreciate the group for coming out to Beckman over the weekend.
- Moving trees from the storm and getting ready for the Regatta. S
- tarted construction at Pioneer.
- Will double check the lights at Cobb.

Superintendent of Business Melissa Woodard:

- Included in financials.

Superintendent of Recreation Rachael Click:

- Summer into fall programming.
- MOU with the school district. Submitted paperwork for another grant for 8 schools for before and after school program.
- Gave update on youth and senior programming.
- Successful opening at Ice Valley thanks to hard working maintenance. Working with our hockey groups to expand and feed each other.
- Athletics update and increased revenue including concessions.
- Looking to hire a Recreation Supervisor, Youth programs and athletics.
- List of upcoming fall events. Strong partnerships.
- Marketing has been busy. Interactions, views, and engagements have improved. Revenue kickbacks have started. Will look at bilingual options.

Executive Director Ross Bruni:

- Storm damage, roof projects, going out for quotes. Trying to get 3. Working on RFP's for the larger ones. Heil Park playground has been ordered. Anticipate mid/late September. Campground swing set has been ordered.
- Insurance Update – AIG has approved our claim and hope to get reimbursement back anytime.

- Regatta pre-sale tickets are going well. Angie has been working with website host. Meeting tomorrow morning regarding Regatta safety. Maintenance has been preparing on site for Regatta.
- Started rollover bond process. Talked with Aaron Gold so that will be on October/November meeting.
- Audit starts tomorrow.
- Splash Valley – Showed breakdown of numbers. One more weekend before it's closed. Surpassed where we were last year for revenue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historical Society - Commissioner Frey:

- Gave update on upcoming events.

SRA - Executive Director Bruni:

- Revised interagency agreement. Adding Chebanse and Momence.

KRS - Commissioners Gear & Skelly, & Executive Director Bruni:

- Bill Yohnka gave updates.

Building Commission Report - Commissioner Skelly:

- NA

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioner Gear suggested Rent.fun to rent kayakes. Have lockers to rent one place and return at another place. It is an up-front expense.

Commissioner Eisengart, seems like Pioneer is adhering to what we asked with the lights going off at 10pm. He wants to do a one on one tournament. Have had some discussions on next steps with the cemetery.

Commissioner Skelly said if our insurance company isn't going to pay her car that was damaged, we should. No issue with paying. Consensus with the board is to pay for it.

Executive Session

NA

ADJOURN MEETING

Commissioner Gear made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Frey. Board was adjourned at 5:58.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes (July 27, 2026)
2. Public Hearing Minutes (July 27, 2026)
3. Financials July 2026
4. Bills Payable July 2026
5. Update on Mayor RJ Bailey Park project
6. Update on Kankakee County Museum Agreement
7. Ordinance No. 1.15 Closing of Parks
8. IT Services Agreement
9. Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report
10. Superintendent of Business Report
11. Superintendent of Recreation Report
12. Executive Director Report
13. Committee Reports
14. Commissioner Forum

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Woodard