

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 19, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE LINCOLN WAY SPECIAL RECREATION CENTER, 1900 HEATHER GLEN DRIVE, NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS

I. General Functions

Call to Order: President Vitale called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Roll was taken and those present were:
Audrey Marcquenski, Director, Frankfort Square Park District
Gina Hassett, Executive Director, Frankfort Park District
Greg Vitale, Executive Director Mokena Park District
Greg Lewis, Executive Director, New Lenox Community Park District
Jay Kelly, Executive Director, Manhattan Park District
Andy Biesterfeld, Executive Director, Crete Park District
Kelly LaMore, Park Manager, Peotone Park District

Absent: Kirsten VanDuyne, Executive Director, Wilmington Park District

Others present were Megan Olson, LWSRA Attorney; Tom Kraus, Office Manager; and Mary Strand, Recording Secretary.

Special Guests: None

II. Public Comments: None

III. General Functions (continued)

- 1. Treasurer’s Report – President Vitale asked for a motion to accept the July 31, 2025 Treasurer’s Report.

Board member Kelly moved to accept the July 31, 2025 Treasurer’s report and Board member Hasset seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

*Ayes: (7) Kelly, Hassett, LaMore, Lewis, Marcquenski, Biesterfeld, Vitale
Nays: (0)
Abstain:(0)
Absent: (1) VanDuyne*

Motion Carried

- 2. Payment of Bills:
 - A. President Vitale asked for a motion to approve the Payment of the Bills in the amount of \$337,375.77 may include lodging and travel. Keith noted that there were 3 payrolls this month.

Board member Hassett made a motion to approve the payment of the bills as presented and Board member Marcquenski seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: (7) LaMore, Kelly, Hassett, Lewis, Marcquenski, Biesterfeld, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (1) VanDuyne

Motion Carried

- 3. Special Guest: None
- 4. Communications: None

IV. Consent Agenda:

- 1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2025. President Vitale asked for a motion.

Board member LaMore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as corrected and Board member Hassett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: (7) Hassett, Biesterfeld, Kelly, Lewis, LaMore, Marcquenski, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (1) VanDuyne,

Motion Carried

V. Staff & Committee Reports

Executive Director –

- a. Staff – None
 - b. Foundation – Both the Golf Outings were attended well. The final numbers will be determined in a few days.
 - c. Donations - The Kindful Report is included in the Board’s packets showing the months donations of \$31,735. Aileen S Andrews Corp. donated in the amount of \$30,000 to go towards the Sensory Bus.
 - d. Distinguished Agency – No Update
 - e. Heroes Village Sensory Garden – Grand Opening will be in mid-September The second shed is ready.
 - f. Sensory Bus – Has been appearing at several outings and everyone is very complimentary of it. The second bus will be delivered this coming week.
 - g. LWSRA Presentation – Keith reminded all that they should schedule a presentation to their Boards. Frankfort Square is scheduled for Thursday August 17.
- 1. **Facility Maintenance Supervisor** – Report in the Board’s packets.
 - 2. **Office Manager/Support Services** – Report in the Board’s packets.

3. **Superintendent of Recreation** – Melissa Jensen’s report was in the packets. There were 9 intakes for the month of July.
 - a. Staff and Safety -
 - b. Inclusion –
 - c. Part Time Staff –
 - d. Athletic Supervisor
 1. Adapted Programing –
 - e. Manager of Programs
 1. Teen, Adult, After School, and Titans -
 2. Youth, Special Events, Summer Camp, Early Childhood –
 - f. Manager of Athletics
 1. Transportation & Safety
 2. Facility Rentals
 3. Special Olympics –

VI. Finance & Personnel – None

VII. Facilities Planning – None

VIII. Old Business –

IX. New Business –

X. Director/Board member Comments

Attorney Olson had no comments or business to discuss.

Executive Director Wallace said that the parking lot was going to be refinished soon. The floors have also been waxed. Camp was successful and he thanked the member districts for the use of their facilities. Staff did an amazing job. Keith also shared a flyer for a Trivia Night with his Rotary Club and encouraged everyone to join in the fun.

Board Member Biesterfeld said congrats. Both outings were good and he had a wonderful time. He is looking forward to seeing Keith tomorrow at his Board Meeting. Kudos for taking the time to come out and do that for everybody. We have three new Board members so I think it would be good for them to kind of understand what the SRA is and why we partner with LWSRA.

Board member Kelly said summer camp at Manhattan Park District was great, other than a few wandering kids. The outing was great. He said a few of his friends attended and were very impressed with the course and the organization. Keep up the good work and it was a great summer.

Board member LaMore said opposite of unruly kids we had trouble with staff this summer. Relatively, it was pretty good just wanted to say that the sensory van came out for our party in the park National Night Out on August 5th and it was just so well received. It was great to have it out there, people were very interested in it and it got a lot of compliments. I'm just looking forward to having it back again and can't wait to see it all of the great things and the impacts this is going have throughout the Southland area. So great job!

Board member Marcquenski said Awesome job. Congrats on getting through this summer. Both golf outings were great we had a wonderful time, we didn't win any raffle basket at least they're somewhere in the community so that's good. Kudos and good and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday.

Board member Lewis said regarding the golf outing staff generally did a good job. The Foundation really stepped up a lot more. Sanctuary staff put out the sponsor plaques so it wasn't so chaotic. A few foursomes didn't show up. The pace of play and everything else just went really well. He inquired how the softball game went. Keith wasn't present but said the pictures were great. Everyone did say it was fantastic. He went on to say that he has been very busy, everything looks really good. He will contact Keith to have him do his presentation at NLPD Board Meeting soon.

Board member Hassett said the Sensory Bus also came out to FPD's Back to School Bash and got a lot of positive feedback. The Titans program was at our building for the summer so we always appreciate having them and we also appreciate their patience because you know some days they get pushed around. She said she is grateful for all the work everyone puts in. She noted that the next meeting would be held on the same day as the Nationals. The date is now September 9th.

Board member Vitale said that you know there is a lot of work going on when we have a light Agenda. He said keep up the good work. He is looking forward to Keith's presentation at Mokena's meeting on the 23rd. MPD has a new board member I think it would be really good to learn a little bit about LWSRA. She actually has a background in therapeutic recreation and she didn't get into the field but she did an internship years ago. So this will be really great to witness. I shared with Keith we are planning on approving a semi universal playground for next spring. It's a \$600,000 grade playground that with substantial discounts and donations we were able to save about 175,000 on it. It will be at Main Park. We have a grand opening on September 11th of the renovated Barn. It's already been used way more than we anticipated. If anyone is interested in looking at it, please contact him.

XI. Executive Session - None

XII. Adjournment – President Vitale asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:48 a.m.

Board member Hassett moved to adjourn the meeting and Board member Kelly seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, all voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary T. Strand, Recording Secretary