

MINUTES OF THE LINCOLNWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2026 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 9:32 a.m.

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

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

Absent: None

Others present were: Tom Kraus, Office Manager; John O'Driscoll, LWSRA Attorney; 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, 2026 Treasurer's Reports. The agenda showed the Treasurer Report for April and it was noted it should say July.

Board member Hassett moved to accept the July 31, 2026 Treasurer's report and Board member Biesterfeld seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: (8) LaMore, Hassett, Kelly, Marcquenski, Biesterfeld, Lewis, VanDuyne, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (0)

Motion Carried

2. Payment of Bills:
 - A. President Vitale asked for a motion to approve the July 31, 2026 Payment of the Bills in the amount of \$348,715.91 which may include lodging and travel expenses.

Board member Lewis made a motion to approve the payment of the July 31, 2026 bills as presented and Board member Hassett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: (8) Marcquenski, LaMore, Kelly, Hassett, Biesterfeld, Lewis, VanDuyne, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (0)

Motion Carried

3. Special Guest: None

4. Communications: None

IV. Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2026. President Vitale asked for a motion.

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

Ayes: (8) Kelly, VanDuyne, Hassett, Biesterfeld, LaMore, Marcquenski, Lewis, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (0)

Motion Carried

V. Staff & Committee Reports

1. Executive Director – Keith told the Board that Board .
 - a. Donations & Fundraising
 - i. Marketing Supervisor –
 1. Staff – Lindsey Sutton is leaving LWSRA, so the Youth Coordinator position is open. There are 4 good candidates at this time.
 2. Sponsorships, Fundraising, Grants – Keith said staff are working with Grant Staff to raise funds to complete phase 3 of Heros Garden.
 3. Donations - The Kindful report for July was attached for review. The Tinley Park/Frankfort Rotary club donated \$750 to Frankfort residents' financial assistance.
 4. Distinguished Agency Accreditation – Staff received a letter saying LWSRA is in the queue and staff is working on it again.
 5. Golf Outing – LWSRF Golf Outing was cancelled as well as Mokena Mayor's Golf Outing. The Foundation rescheduled for October 17th.
 - ii. Outreach & Inclusion Supervisor – Report was in the Board's packets.
 1. Outreach -
 2. Inclusion –
 - iii. Facility Manager - Report was in the Board's packets.
 - Some bricks were replaced in front of entryway.
 - Floors throughout the building have been waxed and the gym floor is being done right now. It was suggested to move the workers' van because it is blocking the sidewalk.

- Damages – During the recent storms a trampoline hit a pavilion pole which caused damages.
- iv. Office Manager - Report was in the Board's packets.
- 2. Superintendent of Recreation – Melissa Jensen was on vacation, and her report was in the Board's packets.
 - a. Staff Intakes and Safety –
 - i. Manager of Programs -
 - 1. Teens and Adults, Transportation, Rentals – The Sensory Bus has been attending events at participating Districts. It is very popular and Board member LaMore said it was well received at Peotone's Police National Night Out. Board member VanDuyne said it had a huge impact in Wilmington and Board member Hassett noted it was a hit at the Back to School Bash in Frankfort Park District.
 - 2. Special Olympics – Many of the activities have been cancelled due to the stormy weather over the past few weeks.
 - ii. Manager of Programs - Report was in the Board's packets.
 - 1. Hawkings and Youth – Keith noted that the Hawks Softball took 2nd place over the weekend in Omaha and the Junior Hawks took 4th.
 - iii. Program Supervisor - Report was in the Board's packets.
 - 1. Adaptive –
 - iv. Program Supervisor - Report was in the Board's packets.
 - 1. After school and general
 - 2. Summer Camp – The picnic to celebrate the end of the successful season had to be moved inside and it worked out flawlessly.

VI. Finance & Personnel – None

VII. Facilities Planning – None

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. New Business –

- a. Winter Agency Overview – Tom went over the report highlighting the participation numbers. He used AI to help crunch the numbers and show graphics. There were 160 unique programs offered throughout the fiscal year with a total of 500 sessions offered. The numbers were compared to previous years and showed a 4.5% increase in participation for 2025/2026. The breakdown showed participants by age groups and Districts.
- b. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Participation Overview – The numbers were part of the Agency Overview in the packets.
- c. Memo Hero's Village Sensory Garden Construction Contract Recommendation - On July 29, 2026, three bids were received for the Hero's Village Sensory Garden construction project: • George's Landscaping, Inc.: \$142,736.00 • Innovation Landscape, Inc.: \$146,724.00 • Semper Fi Landscaping, Inc.: \$278,863.00. Based on Wight & Company's review and recommendation, Staff recommend that the

LWSRA Board of Directors award the Hero's Village Sensory Garden construction contract to GLI Services, Inc., doing business as George's Landscaping, Inc., as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in the amount of \$142,736.00. This recommendation is for the base bid only and does not include Alternate No. 1. Discussion was held. The alternate #1 can be rebid at a later date.

- d. Resolution #26-12 Awarding George's Landscaping, Inc. for Phase #2 of Heros Village Sensory Garden. - President Vitale asked for a motion to approve the Resolution #26-12 as presented for the base bid only.

Board member Hassett made a motion to approve Resolution #26-12 to award the Hero's Village Sensory Garden construction contract to GLI Services, Inc., doing business as George's Landscaping, Inc., in the amount of \$142,736.00, and Board member Lewis seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: (8) Hassett, Biesterfeld, Kelly, LaMore, Lewis, Marcquenski, VanDuyne, Vitale

Nays: (0)

Abstain:(0)

Absent: (0)

Motion Carried

X. Executive Session – None

XI. Director/Board member Comments

Attorney O'Driscoll inquired if any Board member received a FOIA request from Judiciocracy. Several members confirmed they did. It is a media organization that reports on government affairs investigating transparency. It frequently files FOIA requests to access public records. He cautioned the Board members if they get a request from Judiciocracy that they be very careful in sending in their response. They must make sure the response is complete otherwise they will risk a law suit. Discussion was held. Keith told the Board members that there is a Health Benefit discussion regarding PDRMA's offerings within many Park Districts. Many agencies want to leave PDRMA. Discussion was held.

Board member Biesterfeld said Crete Park District lost part of their building during the recent storms. There were a lot of trees needing trimming and cleanup of downed branches.

Board Member Kelly said the summer weather has been challenging to everyone, and he said keep up the good work. He congratulated Keith.

Board member Hassett said LWSRA joined Frankfort's Party in the Park and the Back to School Bash. Her staff enjoyed having the Titans during the summer and said they are easy to work with. She congratulated Keith.

Board member Lewis said he is excited for the Nationals and to see Keith get a national level reward. He noted that the Foundation charges more than any other organization for Golf Outings.

Board member LaMore said keep up the good work.

Board member Marcquenski told the staff to hang in there and keep up the good work. She liked the use of AI to help create the reports.

Board member VanDuyne said the Sensory Bus has been coming out to their Farmers' Market and everyone loves it. She also offered Wilmington's portable stage to LWSRA for any future event. Board Member Vitale said MPD was also dealing with the aftermath of the storms and his staff has been dealing with it as best they could. He congratulated Keith. He hoped everyone has a nice rest of summer and a good fall.

XII. Adjournment – President Vitale asked for a motion to adjourn at 10:13 a.m.

Board member Hassett moved to adjourn the meeting and Board member Lewis seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, all voted Aye. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary T. Strand, Recording Secretary