

Effingham Park Board Meeting
May 8, 2025
5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Monday, May 8, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Russ Sehy, President

Jeff Althoff, Director

Kevin Palmer, Commissioner

Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary

Matt Dasenbrock, Commissioner

Absent: Anita Broom, Treasurer

Appointment of Commissioners:

Althoff explained that the 6 year terms of Angie Kronewitter and Mike Cunningham expired at the time of the election in April. Her said that since the park district was not notified that the timeline had been moved up for candidates to be included on the ballot, the deadline was missed and no names were listed. There will be another election in two years. Board members now need to appoint two people for two year terms. At the next election they will have to run again for four years to complete their six year terms.

Presentations from Those Interested in Filling the Two Vacancies

Michael Nosbisch said he grew up in Effingham and enjoyed playing all the sports offered by the park district. His first job was as a lifeguard at the pool. He feels that the park district helps kids develop physically, socially, mentally and helps them form crucial life skills. He has degrees in Economics, Environmental Science, and Occupational Safety through which he hopes to be helpful to the park district. His real reason to be on the park board at this time is that he has a 5 year old son, a two year old daughter, and one on the way. He wants his kids to benefit from a strong park district. The Board helps guide and strengthen the district and he wants to help.

Jeff Ungrund said he grew up in Effingham near Community Park playing all of the sports offered through the park district. He was always into the athletic activities. His first job was to prepare the baseball diamonds for games which he did all through high school. When he returned to Effingham 12 years ago he worked for nine years with Heartland Dental and now works in all business aspects for a large retailer as part of a team handling mergers, acquisitions, balance sheets, financial statements, etc. He is especially interested in serving on the park board now because he has a 6 year old son and a two yer old daughter who he wants to see benefit from a strong park district. He wants to contribute his skills to help make Effingham a great community.

Manny Wei has been a long time official and coach for various sports sponsored by the park district. His children have all taken part in park district activities through the years. He is retired from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. He said all aspects of the community are effected by the park district. He has always been a big supporter. He said he thought it was time for him to get on board to help it grow.

Mike Cunningham said he has been involved with the park district for 16 years, coaching all of the sports. His first job was score keeping. He said the park district plays a vital part in directing the path children will take. He said the district has taken a lot of big steps the last few years and he would like to see these projects through.

A motion to close the open meeting to go into Executive Session: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3) at 5:45pm for "The Selection of a person to fill a vacancy in a public office" was made by Palmer; second Sehy; All Ayes.

A motion adjourning the Executive Session to return to the public meeting at 6:12 pm was made by Palmer; second Sehy; All Ayes.

As a result of discussion in Executive Session a motion to appoint Manny Wei and Jeff Ungrund to two year terms on the Effingham Park Board was made by Sehy; second Dasenbrock; Three Ayes/No Nays.

Wei and Ungrund filled out appropriate forms and were sworn in as newly appointed Effingham Park Board commissioners.

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the secretary's report was made by Palmer; second Sehy; All Ayes.

New Business

Election of Officers for President and Vice-President

A motion to re-elect Russ Sehy President was made by Dasenbrock; All Ayes.

A motion to elect Kevin Palmer Vice-President was made by Sehy; second Dasenbrock; All Ayes.

Appointment of Attorney, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary

A motion to appoint Phil Lading attorney, Jeff Althoff secretary, Anita Broom treasurer, Carole McDevitt recording secretary was made by Sehy; second Palmer; All Ayes.

Approval of Meeting Dates and Times for the Next Fiscal Year

Althoff noted that in previous years park board meetings have been scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Last year the time was changed to 5:30 pm.

Althoff noted that dates and times can be changed if given seven days notice. It was suggested that Monday meetings or noon meetings might be more convenient for board members.

After discussion a motion to approve the 2025-2026 park district board meeting dates as the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm, with the exception of the June meeting to be held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 5:30 pm. was made by Palmer; second Sehy; All Ayes.

Selection of Budget Committee for Discussion of Next Fiscal Year

A motion to appoint Palmer and Dasenbrock to serve on the budget committee along with Althoff and Broom was made by Sehy; second Althoff; All Ayes. The budget will be presented at the June Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of treasurer, Anita Broom, Althoff reviewed fund income statements ending March 31, 2025. Corporate fund total income for March was \$6,510.56 of which \$6,426.01 was from PPRT money. Expenses for March were \$58,632.98. Net income for March was a negative \$52,122.42. Year to date total revenue was \$676,013.64.

Recreation fund total income for March was \$74,426.86 of which \$62,951.00 was from program fees. Expenses were \$36,831.16. Net income for March was \$37,595.70. Year to date net income was \$207,634.96. Year to date pool revenue was \$73,044.52. Expenses were \$117,767.32 of which \$82,036.75 was for pool salaries. Althoff said trouble getting enough lifeguards is a nationwide problem. Net income is a negative \$44,722.80.

The following bills for the month of April greater than \$100.00 were reviewed for payment.

Conserv FS	\$9,640.40	Fieldworx Inc.	\$105.00
Entec	7,675.00	La Crosse d	127.51
Entec	7,190.00	Rumpke Waste Service, IL	135.61
Chase Credit Card	5,981.08	Rumpke	135.61
Chase Credit Card	4,997.37	Sandberg Phoenix	136.50
K&W Golf Cars	4,000.00	Rumpke	139.48
Burford Electric, Inc.	2,990.00	Lake Land College	143.24
WEX Bank	1,562.65	Walmart	181.87

Designs Unlimited	\$1,527.44	Walmart	\$200.63
Effingham Builders Supply	208.80	Fessi	223.75
Great America Financial Services	145.12	Designs Unlimited	323.28
Tucker Accounting Service, Inc.	177.00	Lake Land College	343.41
Great America Financial Services	214.38	Sutter Disposal	450.00
Bushue Background Screening	240.00	Wolke Nursery	486.00
Bahrns Equipment, Inc.	243.46	Rural King	527.33
Richardson Bros. Greenhouses, Inc.	599.37	Designs Unlimited	531.74
Thoele Plumbing, Inc.	514.00	Menards	972.71
Verizon Wireless	794.02	Lorenz Supply Co.	777.16
Burford Electric, Inc.	634.83	Lake Land College	631.36

A motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills was made by Sehy; second Ungrund; Five Ayes/No Nays.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Director's Report

Summer Program Update

Althoff presented a list of current league registrations for baseball and softball. Total for all leagues is 667 compared with 779 in 2023 and 704 in 2024. The Boys Prep League (grades 6,7,8) has the largest increase this year with 57 participants. Girls Small Fry is the only other league with more players than in previous years with 65. Althoff said the district has reached out to other communities to include their players in our leagues.

Summer Staff

Althoff said close to 90-100 young people have been hired as summer help. So far 12 maintenance staff have been hired and 40 recreation staff. Thirty lifeguards have been lined up. Everyone who applied was hired. The district pays for their certification.

Adventure Camp

The camp, held at Evergreen Hollow Park, has room for 100 participants. So far 52 have registered. One staff member is provided for every 10 children. A three day training period is held for staff. Unit 40 is also offering a summer program for which 75 have registered. They provide the trained staff.

Facilities and Grounds

Girl Scout Cabin

Althoff said the park district owns the girl scout cabin which had been purchased for \$1.00. The district has been maintaining the building, paying the water bill etc., for the last several years. The girl scouts have not been using it and neither has anyone else for the last two years. Althoff said it has fallen into disrepair and needs to be torn down. He will look into the cost to remove the building.

Skate Park Project

Althoff said phase 1, the renovation to the middle section, is complete. Work is ready to begin on phase 2, installing concrete ramps on the edges of the park. He distributed renderings of the completed area that show the planned position of the concrete ramps. Dino Tull, who has spearheaded efforts to raise money to improve the park, said he likes the plan. Some funds in the amount of \$8,000.00 have been earmarked for this project. Althoff said the project will be put out for bid in the next couple of weeks. Railings are needed on the back of the ramps.

Pool – OSLAD

Althoff referred to the three options being explored by Holabird & Root in the feasibility study for facility and site improvements related to the current Kluthe Pool.

Option 1: Revamp current pools, replace water slide and play equipment, and renovate the pool house at the Kluthe pool. It was noted that this project would cost millions.

Option 2: Replace the current Kluthe Pool with a splash pad located on the same site as the current pool. The splash pad will be free for public use. It was estimated that chemicals and water would cost about 8-10 thousand dollars.

Option 3:

Design a New Water park located on the site adjacent to the Workman Complex. The site will not include a pool, but will feature some options such as larger water slides, a lazy river, and splash pad area. It was noted that this project would require less staff than the Kluthe Pool. It was suggested that access to this park could be part of a Sports Complex membership.

Althoff said he thinks the current pool area is a good place for a splash pad. He said Greg Grunloh of Holabird & Root will be coming to a meeting soon to present detailed plans, pictures, and prices for each of these three options. He distributed a printout from Grunloh listing each phase of the project from the first Schematic Design to completion of the project in 2026.

Althoff would like to apply for an OSLAD grant for this big project. Other grants might also be available.

Pickleball

Althoff announced that the outdoor courts at Hendelmeyer Park will be resurfaced and repainted this summer. Two big tournaments will be held – one in June, one in August.

It was suggested installing slats in place of the wind screens at the courts. Slats carry a 10-15 year warranty.

Althoff recommended holding off painting the lines on the gymnasium floor at the Ron Diehl Center for pickleball. The tape is staying in place very well.

Long Range Plan 5 to 10 Year

It was the unanimous opinion of board members that it is time to get a 5 -10 year plan for the district on paper.

As a first step they agreed that after July they would sit down with park district staff to hear their ideas on improvements that can be made and ideas for new projects. Althoff suggested offering a survey to the public to get other ideas. All of these can be discussed at meetings along with suggestions from commissioners to be included in a plan for the future. Thoughts on funding mechanisms would also be helpful. It was noted that donations to the park district for projects can be made through the Community Foundation. Althoff will talk with Greg Sapp to get more press about park district activities.

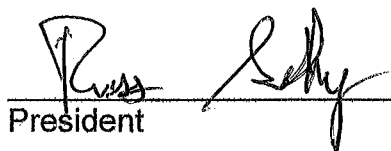
Commissioners' Comments

Dasenbrock, Palmer, and Sehy welcomed Wei and Ungrund as new members and are looking forward to working with them to make the park district an even greater asset to the Community.

A motion for adjournment at 7:40 pm was made by Palmer; second Dasenbrock; All Ayes.


Director's

Date 6-2-25


President

Date 6-2-25