

Effingham Park Board Meeting

October 6, 2025

5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Monday, October 6, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Russ Sehy, President

Jeff Althoff, Director

Kevin Palmer, Vice President,

Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary

Matt Dasenbrock, Commissioner

Manny Wei, Commissioner

Jeff Ungrund, Commissioner

Absent: Anita Broom, Treasurer

Guests: Phil Lading, Attorney

Hillary Kopplin, Recreation Director

Sara Mette, Office Manager

Secretary's Report

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

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Director's Report

Introduction of Effingham Park District Attorney, Phil Lading

Board members asked Lading about guidelines for executive session meetings including what topics can be discussed at these meetings. Lading gave examples of business that can and cannot be discussed in executive sessions and said he will send a Best Practice Guide of executive session rules to board members. Althoff said a policy review of Effingham Park Board current procedures has shown the board to be in compliance with the rules for park board meetings

Board members thanked Lading for attending the meeting and answering board members' questions.

Program Report - Hillary Kopplin, Sara Mette

Kopplin and Mette gave a slide presentation on the following park district programs titled: **"Year to Date Recap"**

Baseball & Softball Numbers - are trending downward. Many players are on Travel teams or are choosing other activities. Surrounding small communities have started forming their own leagues. Only the Boys' Prep League and Girls' Small Fry have more players than in previous years. Total current players 667 versus 789 in 2023.

Baseball & Softball Revenue – Total current revenue is \$28,250.00 compared with \$34,910.00 in 2023.

Soccer & Flag Football Numbers – There are 587 participants in Spring and Fall soccer compared with 654 last year. Current revenue is \$22,080.00 versus \$25,070.00 last year. Flag football is doing well with 175 participants versus 159 last year.

Volleyball & Pickleball Numbers – Volleyball had 67 participants for \$2,832.00 – a little better than last year. The 5-6 week Youth Pickleball season for 4th - 5th grade and 6th - 8th grade was new this year with 24 participants.

Sponsorship Numbers – for Girls' Softball, Boys' Baseball, Field Signs, Volleyball, Soccer, Flag Football, Pickleball, and from Loker Photography - \$34,365.00.

Adult League Numbers – Co-ed Softball, Mens' Slow Pitch, 35+ Slow Pitch, Mixed Pickleball, Womens' Pickleball, Tennis - \$17,280.00. The pickleball tournaments earned \$10,050.00

Field Usage Numbers – Fields open April 14 – Oct. 12. Diamonds will be reseeded in October. Total of \$18,4120.00 includes Unit 40 Baseball \$1,000.00 and St. Anthony Baseball \$1,800.00.

Adventure Camp Numbers – The camp was for 11 weeks. Revenue for all but the 11th week was considerable higher than in previous years. Enrollment was 1,478 versus 1,181 last year. Revenue was \$197,963.25 versus \$148,415.50. There was a ratio of one instructor per eight or nine participants. About 50 – 60 participants from Unit 40 attended each week. Their fees were paid by Unit 40 which also provided staff.

Kopplin said the camp was very successful this year. She listed many community and school partners that provided extra activities for the campers. Each weekly activity had a different theme.

School Year Programs – For the last quarter of the 2024-2025 school year 3rd - 5th graders from Unit 40's after school program were hosted at the park district's facility for a charge of \$2,700.00. Current enrollment in the park district after school program is 43. Revenue - \$11,950.00. Sponsorship - \$1,200.00 from PAVE.

What's Happening Next – Christmas Camp over Christmas break, 30 – 40 participants, Special Rec Basketball in January, Special Rec Pickleball in February, Adult Volleyball and Basketball, November – March.

Althoff said program booklets will be given in January to students in kindergarten through 4th and 5th grade at all schools.

He noted that there is a leak in the lap pool at the Workman Sports Complex, probably in a pipe. A company will be contacted to find the leak and fix it.

Review Tennis Court Bids

Board members reviewed the only bid received for resurfacing the tennis courts at Community Park. The bid was from Effingham Asphalt for 3" asphalt at \$169,165.00, or 4" asphalt at \$218,000.00. Althoff said a concrete surface would cost over \$250,000.00. Concrete may not crack as much but players prefer asphalt. The current surface has been repainted but never resurfaced and has lasted 20 years.

After discussion a motion to accept the bid from Effingham Asphalt for \$169,165.00 to resurface the tennis courts at Community Park with 3" asphalt was made by Palmer; second Wei; Five Ayes/No/Nays.

Althoff said a change order could be put in if it is determined that a 4" surface would have a significantly longer life expectancy.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of treasurer, Anita Broom, Althoff reviewed fund balances as of August 31, 2025. He noted that at this time last year expenses related to the Workman Sports Complex were \$195,000.00. This year, with operation by Trophy Fitness, they were \$45,915.00.

The following bills for September greater than \$100.00 were reviewed for payment.

PlayPower	\$149,583.50	Rumpke	\$119.42
City of Effingham	20,000.00	Double D. Signs Inc.	135.00
Chase Credit Card	9,000.00	Interstate Batteries	139.95
Entec	6,375.00	Effingham Sewer Serv, Inc.	140.00
Burford Electric, Inc.	6,049.86	Warmar	174.45
GreensPro, Inc.	4,960.00	Designs Unlimited	191.96
Bierman Welding, Inc.	2,333.60	KCH Mechanical, Inc.	210.00
Holabird & Root LLC	2,000.00	Verizon Wireless	227.01
Kim's Ice Cream LLC	1,998.00	Rural King	260.91
Designs Unlimited	1,772.32	Verizon Wireless	227.09
WEX Bank	1,137.64	Dittamore Implement	261.66
Conserv FS	1,076.00	Mid-Illinois Concrete, Inc.	347.50
Chase Credit Card	3,645.70	Walmart	753.19
Consolidated Communications	151.54	Bahrns Equipment, Inc.	359.99
Bushue Background Screening	204.00	DDS Sales, LLC	363.85
Great America Financial Services	219.28	Trophies Unlimited	369.19
Rock's Advanced Auto Care LLC	297.35	Entec	395.00
Tucker Accounting Service, Inc.	342.00	Effingham Equity	406.00
Lorenz Supply Co.	429.01	RentX	446.00
Thoele Plumbing, Inc.	511.00	Delta Dental of Illinois	667.65
Kirby Risk Corporation	908.28	Menards	753.23
Todd Carmen	956.57		

Althoff said the \$149,583.50 to PlayPower was for the new playground equipment at Evergreen Hollow Park. The \$20,000.00 to the City of Effingham was for a pick up truck. Any purchase over \$20,000.00 needs Board approval. Althoff said the district has three trucks that need to be traded in or taken to auction, and two other trucks that he is looking at trading to get another used one.

He said a lot of baseballs and softballs have been purchased for use in the batting cage in the basement at the Ron Diehl Center. A lot of travel teams and school teams are using it. Cost is \$10.00 for ½ hour and \$15.00 for 1 hour.

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

Kluthe Pool

Board members discussed options regarding the Kluthe Pool. It was suggested that the pool could be filled in and used as green space while options for projects either on the pool space or elsewhere are being considered. Board members would like to get the public's input on what projects they would like to see completed. It was suggested that a scaled back splash pad could be built with help of a grant.

Althoff said he will consult with Burford Electric to find out how much it would take to make the pool usable next year.

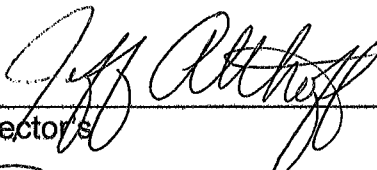
Commissioners' Comments

Wei said some of the people he has talked with have said they would like a splash pad.

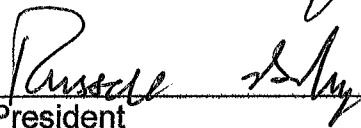
Palmer said the Board needs to get bids on some of the projects that are on the list to complete, and should be applying for an Oslad Grant.

Althoff said he wants to post a thank you to activity sponsors on the new electronic sign on the corner of Fayette Ave. and Maple St.

A motion for adjournment at 7:20 pm was made by Sehy; second Ungrund; All Ayes.



Director's Date 11/3/25



President Date 11/3/25