

Effingham Park Board Meeting

May 11, 2026

5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Russ Sehy, President

Kevin Palmer, Vice-President

Matt Dasenbrock, Commissioner

Jeff Althoff, Director

Serena Buzzard, Treasurer

Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary

Absent: Manny Wei, Commissioner

Jeff Ungrund, Commissioner

Guest: Greg Sapp, Effingham Daily News

Secretary's Report

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

New Business

Election of Officers for President and Vice-President

A motion to elect Matt Dasenbrock President was made by Sehy; All Ayes.

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

Appointment of Attorney, Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary

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

Approval of Meeting Dates and Times for the Next Fiscal Year

A motion to approve the 2026-2027 park district board meeting dates as the second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm was made by Dasenbrock; second Palmer; All Ayes.

Selection of Budget Committee for Discussion of Next Fiscal Year

A motion to appoint Wei and Ungrund to serve on the budget committee along with Althoff and Buzzard was made by Sehy; second Dasenbrock; All ayes.

Approval of Transfer of Property from City to Park District

A motion to approve Ordinance 325 transferring from City to the park district the section of property around the pond area at Evergreen Hollow Park that had been an easement for the originally planned overpass, was made by Sehy; second Palmer; Three Ayes/No Nays.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Serena Buzzard, reported that when Matt Cekander has completed the audit for 2023-2024, the information needed for the 2024-2025 audit is ready to be sent to him. Information is being compiled now for the 2025-2026 audit. She expects all financial records to be brought up to date by the next park board meeting.

She reviewed fund income statements for the month of April, 2026. Corporate fund total income for April was \$14,036.71. Expenses were \$45,106.26. Net income for April was a negative \$31,069.55. Recreation fund total income for April was \$41,504.32 of which \$18,395.96 as from program fees. Expenses were \$41,099.71. Net income for April was \$404.61.

The following bills for the month of April greater than \$500.00 were reviewed for payment.

Aetna	\$3,801.37	Medical insurance – Corp.
Aetna	3,801.38	Medial insurance – Rec.
Wex	969.61	Gasoline expense
Ameren	1,369.58	HP Electric – 1906 S. 4 th St.
Sherwin-Williams	5,562.67	RWSC – Paint for Pool
Chase Credit Card	4,468.62	
SiteOne Landscape Supply	3,459.00	Athletic Field Turf & Other
SiteOne Landscape Supply	1,333.20	Athletic Field Turf & Other
SiteOne Landscape Supply	1,108.20	Athletic Field Turf & Other
Burford Electric	723.00	Tennis Court Lights
Burford Electric	3,800.00	Electrical Service at Evergreen
DDS Sales	665.00	Trailer Repair
Bobcat of Effingham	852.24	Bobcat Repair & Maintenance
SiteOne Landscape Supply	5,308.20	Athletic Field Turf & Other
Higgs Welding	1,870.00	Bed for Truck Frame
Bahrns Equipment, Inc.	601.98	Echo Attachments

Dasenbrock and Palmer spoke for board members of their appreciation for all the hard work Buzzard and Althoff have done to bring financial information up to date.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills was made by Sehy; second Palmer; three 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 722 compared with 704 in 2024 and 665 in 2025. The Boys and Girls Small Fry leagues have the largest increases over last year – Boys total 117, Girls total 74. The Boys Little League (ages 10-11) has been going down the last three years. Registration for Boys Prep League (grades 6,7,8) is higher than last year with 64. T-Ball is always popular with 194 participants this year.

Adventure Camp

The park district has teamed up again with Unit 40 to offer this program held at Evergreen Hollow Park. Last year Unit 40 provided counselors but not this year. So far the week of June 1st has the most registrants – 80 through the park district, 103 through Unit 40 for a total of 183.

Summer Staff

Althoff provided a list of young people hired as summer help. So far the following numbers have been hired.

Pool Managers	3
Pool Attendants	11 (these are watchers, not certified,)
(Cashiers/Concessions)	
Lifeguards	19
Camp Leadership	7
Recreation Staff	74
(Camp/Concessions/Small Fry/T-Ball)	

Facilities and Grounds

Althoff said renovation of the skate park is complete with many skaters enjoying it every day. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held.

Tennis Courts – Community Park

Paint will start being applied next week. Three layers are required.

Althoff said attendance at the parks can be measured through visitors' cell phones. At the big baseball tournament held May 1-3 there were 6,400 visitors tallied at Community Park, 6,300 at Evergreen Hollow Park and 1,000 at Hendelmeyer Park.

Kluthe Pool

Work is ongoing to get the pool ready to open for the summer. Althoff reiterated that as an alternative to updating the pool next year, Greg Grunloh of Holabird and Root is working on an aerial layout of the pool area to feature a splash pad, pickleball and basketball courts, and a super big playground. It was expressed that it would be helpful to include another road out to Maple Street to alleviate traffic congestion during soccer games.

Regarding the Workman Sports Complex pool, Althoff said the pool is 10 years old and experiencing a leak that can't yet be found. Over one inch of water a day is being lost from the lap pool. Various ways are being tried to find the leak and stop it. The swim team is practicing in the pool now.

Hendelmeyer Park Improvement Projects

Althoff distributed a funding overview and preliminary project costs for the following proposed projects at Hendelmeyer Park.

- Parking Lot
- Pavilion
- Restroom

He noted the available funding sources.

Bond funds	\$356,492.45
Paving and Lighting	\$124,429.00
Total Available Funds	\$480,921.45

Parking Lot Paving:

Proposal from Effingham Asphalt Co. \$242,000.00

Althoff said the project could be paid for with money from the Paving and Lighting Fund with the balance funded through bond funds.

Pavilion Project (30' x 50')

Total cost if park district maintenance staff builds it - \$65,000.00

Restroom Facility Project

Board members reviewed pictures of precast concrete flush restrooms from CXT.

Price of the Denali – 10'3 x 17' with two single user restrooms - \$148,000.00

Restroom to be in the place where the small white shed is now.

Financial Summary

Total available funds	\$480,921.15
Total estimated project costs	\$455,000.00
Estimated remaining funds	25,000.00

Althoff said projects can be put out for bid, then approved and started.

Commissioners' Comments

Sehy said it is nice to see the tennis courts at Community Park finally get painted and ready for use.

It was noted that the City Series Baseball tournament between Effingham and St. Anthony will be held this weekend at Paul Smith Field. It always draws a big crowd.

A motion for adjournment at 6:20 pm was made by Palmer; second Sehy; All Ayes.

Matthew D. Doherty

Date 6/8/2026

Jeff Atteff

Date 6-8-26