

Effingham Park Board Meeting

July 13, 2026

5:30 pm

The regular meeting of the Effingham Park Board was held on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Ron Diehl Center at 1906 South Fourth Street.

Present:

Kevin Palmer; Vice-President

russ Sehy; Commissioner

Manny Wei, Commissioner

Jeff Ungrund; Commissioner

Jeff Althoff, Director

Carole McDevitt, Recording Secretary

Absent: Matt Dasenbrock, President

Serena Buzzard, Treasurer

Guest: Greg Sapp, Effingham Daily News

Secretary's Report

A motion to accept the secretary's report was made by Sehy; second Ungrund;

All Ayes

Treasurer's Report

Due to the absence of treasurer Serena Buzzard, the treasurer's report was tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

Passage of Budget/Appropriation Ordinance #326

A motion to adopt Ordinance #326, the 2026-2027 Budget/Appropriation Ordinance of the Effingham Park District, Effingham County, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning May 1st, 2026, and ending April 30th, 2027, was made by Sehy; second Wei. Four Ayes/No Nays. The total appropriation is \$9,190,587.69.

Ordinances 327, 328, 329, 330, 331,332, 333, 334, 335: Annexing Territory to the Effingham Park District

Ordinance 327 - Owner of Record - Brad Voyles and Maura Voyles
New address N. 1400 St., Effingham

Ordinance 328 – consists of the following three parcels of land

Parcel 1: Owner of Record - Andrew C. and Nicole E. Slavens
New address 1116 N. Third St.
Lot 2 of Slavens Ridge Subdivision

Parcel 2: Owner of Record - Andrew C. and Nicole E. Slavens
New address 1114 N. Third St.
Lot 4 of Slavens Ridge Subdivision

Parcel 3 – Owner of Record - Rachael M. Young
New address 1110 N. Third St.
Lot 1 of Slavens Ridge Subdivision

Ordinance 329 – Owner of Record - Stacy Durbin
New address 304 W. Airport Road

Ordinance 330 – Owner of Record - James E. and Lori A. Rutledge
New address 1112 N. Third St.

Ordinance 331 - Parcel 1 – Owner of Record - K & K Investment Company
Parcel 2 - Owner of Record East Evergreen Development, LLC

Ordinance 332 - Parcel 1 – Owner of Record - Brad W. Voyles
New address 2316 N. Fourth St.
New address 2320 N. Fourth St.

Parcel 2 – Owner of Record - Utz Holdings, LLC
New address 2402 N. Fourth St. Utz & Associates Architects PC

Parcel 3 – Owner of Record - GAHC RETTII Eff. ALF, LLC
New address 101 E Rickleman Ave. Glenwood Assisted Living of Eff.

Parcel 4 – Owner of Record - Thoele Holdings, LLC
New address 301 E. Rickleman Ave. Wet Pool & Spas.

Ordinance 333 - River Ridge Subdivision

Ordinance 334 - Owner of Record - Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.
New address 2505 S. Raney St. Eff.
Business, Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.

Ordinance 335 - City Owner Parcel
containing 4.81 acres, more or less

A motion to adopt Annexation Ordinances 327 through 335 was made by Wei; second Sehy; Four Ayes/No Nays.

Capital Improvement Projects

Bid opening for the storage building and restroom to be constructed by the City was held at 10:00 am, June 30. Althoff said that unfortunately the bids for both the storage shed and restroom were much higher than expected. Price for the 2 single user restroom was \$177,000.00. Starting date for the project is being postponed until ways are found to lower the cost. Althoff suggested some changes and thought park district staff could build it cheaper, but the foundation and plumbing would have to be contracted.

Kluthe Pool

The Kluthe pool is 30 years old. Due to the continued deterioration of the pool and the increasing operational costs Althoff said a decision needs to be made for future use of the pool site. Althoff said he has been in contact with Vortex, a splash pad company. Vortex works with Landmark Aquatic which has purchased other aquatic centers. Landmark Aquatic owns Westport Pools. Westport Pools built the pool in the Workman Sports Complex.

Althoff distributed copies sent by Vortex of an agreement with Landmark Aquatic, which states that the company will design two options for the pool site; revamp the pool and design a splash pad to put in its place. Althoff has given the company a copy of the Holabird and Root feasibility study for the pool site received previously.

Althoff said the company can give really good ideas and hardened numbers for the building process. If the park board approves the agreement and their designs, which should take a couple of months to complete, Althoff will take the information to the public for input.

Director's Report

Leagues

Baseball and softball leagues are ending this week. Althoff said 140 kids attended the St. Louis Cardinals baseball camp. Registration for fall season soccer and flag football is ongoing. So far 120 have signed up for soccer.

Adventure Camp

Adventure Camp will continue until the first week of August.

Batting Cages

Althoff said the basement in the Ron Diehl Center needs to be cleaned up. It has flooded several times. A bigger sump pump is needed. This is the third time this year that rain water has reached almost to the top of the door. People are needing to use the batting cages. Parents with children use them. Travel teams use them a lot. Effingham High School uses them in the spring. College students use them over spring break.

Skate Park Mural

Jamie Stang of Stang Arts Studio & Gallery Inc is busy painting a very colorful mural on the wall of the skate park that faces Fourth Street. Skaters are looking forward to the Ham City Jam skate tournament to be held on Saturday, July 18, the day after the Effingham Jam Barbecue in downtown Effingham Friday night.

Commissioners' Comments

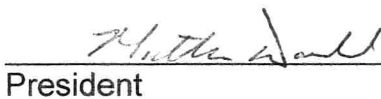
Wei said the new Good Spirits Rotary Club is meeting tomorrow night at the Wheat Penny. Effingham now has three Rotary clubs, Sunrise Rotary, Noon Rotary, and Good Spirits Rotary. He said Andrew Koester, president of Good Spirits Rotary, has indicated that Rotary would like to get involved with a park district project either financially or in other ways.

In answer to a question about status of the district's audits, Althoff said Matt Cekander now has all the information needed from the park district to complete the district's audits for 2023-2024, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026. Cekander, Jacob Donaldson, and one other auditor are currently working on the 2023-2024 audit. It takes about 120-150 hours to complete an audit. They hope to have all the audits completed by October. Althoff noted that the district cannot apply for Oslad project grants until all audits are filed.

A motion for adjournment at 6:00 pm was made by Sehy; second Ungrund; All Ayes.


Director's

Date 8-10-26


President

Date 8/10/26