

**BATAVIA PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 20, 2025
CIVIC CENTER – BARTHOLOMEW ROOM**

REGULAR MEETING – The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Callahan.

ROLL CALL – President Callahan called for the roll. Commissioners in attendance were Larson, Bell, Tilmon, Gray and Callahan.

Staff in attendance were Director of Finance Brent Strumpf; Director of Facilities and Trades Josh Wyant; Director of Parks Kim Hansen; Director of Talent and Culture Lynn Boerman; Director of Community Recreation Brittany Meyer; Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Katie Burgess; Executive Director Allison Niemela and Executive Assistant Lindsey Williams.

Legal Counsel Derke Price and Erin Monforti were also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS REMOVED/ADDED/CHANGED ON AGENDA – Executive Session has been moved to item #9 on the agenda and item #18 – Old Business – Second Reading and Approval of President Emeritus Policy was removed from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA – President Callahan entertained a motion to establish the Consent Agenda as presented which included approval of the following: Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on April 15, 2025; Approval of Minutes from the Executive Session held on April 15, 2025; Approval of the Paid Expenditures; Approval of the Expense Approval Report; Approval of the Investment Summary; Approval of the Income Statement; Approval of Purchases: Approval of the License Agreement Between the Batavia Park District and the Fox Valley Special Recreation Association for the Lease of the Lodge at Laurelwood; and Approval of Ordinance #424: Surplus Property. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to establish the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

President Callahan entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as established. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to approve the Consent Agenda. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

GUESTS - MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Larson thanked President Callahan and Commissioner Gray for their service to the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE – President Callahan acknowledged an email from Jessica Smith, Design and Planning Director for the National Fitness Campaign, congratulating the Batavia Park District on the launch of the Fitness Court at the Clark Island Recreation Area.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Callahan entertained a motion to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss Land Acquisition 2(c)(5) at 7:06 PM. Motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to adjourn to Executive Session. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Regular session resumed at 7:34 PM.

PRESENTATIONS –

Service Recognition of Outgoing Board Member Tara Gray – Executive Director Niemela presented Commissioner Gray with a Batavia Park District name plate and word art commemorating her twelve years of service to the Board. Commissioner Gray shared more about her time and experience as a resident and on the Board. She thanked the Board and staff for their commitment to the District.

Service Recognition of Outgoing Board Member Patrick Callahan – Executive Director Niemela presented President Callahan with a Batavia Park District name plate and word art commemorating his twenty-seven years of service to the Board. She invited the public to the grand opening and dedication of the Patrick J. Callahan Community Center on August 9th at 10:30 AM. President Callahan shared a farewell message and thanked the Board and staff for their commitment to the District.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE – A motion was made by Tilmon, seconded by Gray to adjourn the meeting sine die for a brief reception at 7:47 PM. The roll was called. Ayes: Tilmon, Gray, Larson, Bell and Callahan. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

ROLL CALL – Vice President Tilmon reconvened the meeting and called for the roll at 8:05 PM. Commissioners in attendance were Larson, Bell, Drouin, Slaiher and Tilmon.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED PARK BOARD COMMISSIONERS AMANDA SLAIHER AND ANIQUE DROUIN – Judge Keith Johnson administered the Oaths of Office.

PRESENTATIONS – Nathan Jurgens shared a presentation on his Adirondack chair Eagle Scout project at the Hall Quarry Beach.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Katie Burgess read the following announcements: 1) Are you ready to make a splash into summer? Because it's almost time for sun, fun, and a season of unforgettable memories! Hall Quarry Beach is back! Your favorite hometown beach destination opens in less than 5 days! That's right — the Quarry crew is prepped, the lifeguards are geared, the icees are chilling and the diving boards are just bouncing with excitement! Mark your calendars for this Saturday, May 24, at high noon — it's officially Quarry

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o'clock! Haven't snagged your season pass yet? No worries! There's still time to catch the pre-season discount wave at bataviaparks.org; 2) Let's raise a glass to summer! Batavia Uncorked is back on June 7th at the Riverwalk — and it's almost sold out! Don't 'wine' about missing out — grab your tickets today. Choose between 15 or 10 tasting tickets, enjoy grape music, tasty food trucks, and walk away with a commemorative glass. Must be 21+ to attend. 3) Calling all super seniors and savvy supporters! The Super Savvy Senior Expo returns June 13th at the Eastside Community Center. With 35+ vendors, free resources, and the first 100 guests scoring a swag bag, this is one expo you don't want to miss. Doors open at 9:00 AM — see you bright and early! 4) Let's turn up the volume! The River Rhapsody Concert Series kicks off on June 18, and it's ready to rock your socks off! Grab your lawn chairs, throw on that vintage concert tee, and get ready to jam to rock, pop and country classics. Music starts at 7:00 PM sharp, and admission is totally FREE — that's music to our ears! Food and drinks will be available for purchase; 5) And now for some birthday cheer! Our beloved Batavia Depot Museum turns the big 5-0 this year — and we're throwing it a party on June 21st from 10 AM to Noon at the Peg Bond Center! Come groove to 70s tunes, enjoy cupcakes, bounce around in inflatables, get crafty with the kiddos, and join a history-themed scavenger hunt! It's going to be train-loads of fun; 6) Fall into Fun... Even in the Summer! We know, we know — you're still unpacking your beach towels. But fall sports are already warming up! Registration is now OPEN for fall soccer and softball leagues — but don't wait too long. Deadlines hit mid-July! Don't strike out — register early; and 7) Introducing: New Adventures PlayLab! Starting this fall, kids ages 3 to 5 can explore the world of STEAM in half-day morning or afternoon sessions.

Whether it's science, art, or language, this new program is the smart start to a playful future! Early birds get the bonus: Sign up before September and get 20% off a month, or commit to 4 months and get one month FREE! That's a deal worth scribbling on the fridge!

STAFF REPORTS – Director of Finance Brent Strumpf mentioned he will have a few policy revisions for the Board to review at a future meeting regarding credit card processing fees for recurring monthly charges. This would offset \$22,000 annually in fees the District incurs. He also shared the 2024 annual audit is underway and work on the 2026 budget is kicking off for staff in July.

Director of Facilities and Trades Josh Wyant shared the following updates: 1) Preparation for the Hall Quarry Beach opening is underway; 2) The elevator is starting to go in, along with flooring and trim work at the Callahan Community Center. There will be a tour scheduled for the Board soon; 3) A trolley tour will be scheduled for new Commissioners and new employees; and 4) Permitting and scheduling is underway for the new Coffin Bank roof at the Batavia Depot Museum.

Director of Parks Kim Hansen shared the Clark Island Canoe Launch project is expected to start within the next few weeks and the final plans are in progress with the City of Batavia for the river level trail improvements at the Peace Bridge. The kick off for the design phase of the waterway project with the City of Batavia at the H. Michael Wild Park is starting soon.

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Director of Talent and Culture Lynn Boerman shared she is on-boarding summer seasonal staff and thanked everyone who helped with on-boarding and orientation. The Employee Appreciation Picnic is scheduled for June 3rd at South Mill Creek Community Park. The Employee Engagement survey will be going out in the month of June.

Director of Community Recreation Brittany Meyer shared the Quarry is set to open on Saturday. She encouraged patrons to join the text notifications for the latest announcements. Camp SUN-sational starts on Tuesday at Hoover-Wood Elementary School. Campers will enjoy fun activities and field trips this summer. There are a lot of new events and athletic camps scheduled this summer.

Director of Creative Development and Community Engagement Katie Burgess shared the following updates: 1) The marketing intern will start on Tuesday; 2) The Marketing Department will have a booth with a craft at the Batavia Farmer's Market; 3) At River Rhapsody this summer, local community groups have been invited to attend and share information and resources with the community; and 4) June 20th is Customer Appreciation Day from 5-7 PM at the Hall Quarry Beach with free entry.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Allison Niemela shared the following updates: 1) The Batavia Park District, Batavia Parks Foundation and Craig Foltos were presented with the Community Impact Award at the Batavia Chamber of Commerce Inspire Awards for the Peace projects; 2) Directors Burgess, Wyant and Strumpf joined Executive Director Niemela at the Illinois Association of Park Districts Legislative Conference on April 29th and 30th. Niemela shared some legislative updates from Springfield including a proposed change to competitive bid limits; 3) The Peace Bridge Bike Ramp accessibility project is moving forward. This is funded by TIF dollars. The City is planning to donate the Peace Bridge ramp to the Park District after the project is complete; 4) Niemela shared photos from the seasonal staff orientation sessions. Batavia Park District is the number one employer of youth in Batavia; 5) It was a beautiful day for Touch a Truck and promotion began at this event for the New Adventures PlayLab; 6) The community is invited to celebrate the Depot Museum's 50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 21st from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. There are fun activities planned for the entire family; 7) Save the Date for the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the Patrick J. Callahan Community Center on August 9th. Doors open at 8:00 AM with tours from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10:30 AM.

NEW BUSINESS –

A. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OFFICERS

- i. **President Pro Tem**
- ii. **Vice President Pro Tem**
- iii. **Treasurer Pro Tem**
- iv. **Secretary Pro Tem**

B. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

- i. **Board President**

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- ii. Board Vice President
- iii. Board Treasurer
- iv. Board Secretary

C. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

D. APPOINTMENT OF LAW FIRM

E. APPOINTMENT OF ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

- i. Fox Valley Special Recreation Association (Alternate)
- ii. Batavia Chamber of Commerce (Alternate)

Vice-President Tilmon entertained a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Board Officer and Appointment and Election results as presented: John Tilmon as President; Julie Larson as Vice President; Sam Bell as Treasurer; and Allison Niemela as Secretary; Allison Niemela as Executive Director; Ancel Glink as Legal Counsel; Allison Niemela as Primary and Brittany Meyer as Alternate for Fox Valley Special Recreation Association; and Allison Niemela as Primary and Josh Wyant as Alternate for Batavia Chamber of Commerce as presented. Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Larson. The roll was called. Ayes: Bell, Larson, Drouin, Slaiher and Tilmon. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

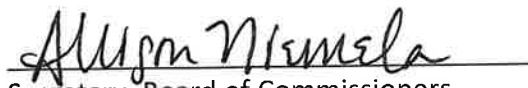
F. Award of Contract for Callahan Community Center: Furniture

President Tilmon entertained a motion to award the contract for Callahan Community Center: Furniture to Interiors for Business of Batavia, IL in the amount of \$152,213.66. Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Larson. The roll was called. Ayes: Bell, Larson, Drouin, Slaiher, and Tilmon. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD – None.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM. Motion was made by Bell, seconded by Larson. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.


Secretary, Board of Commissioners
Batavia Park District

Line prepared by: Lindsey Williams, Executive Assistant