

**Wildwood Park District
Regular Board Meeting
33325 N. Sears Boulevard, Wildwood, IL 60030
Tuesday, February 20th, 2024, | 7:00pm
In-Person at Rule House**

Consistent with the requirements of the Illinois Compiled Statutes
5 ILCS 120/1 through 120/6 (Open Meetings Act), notices of this meeting were posted.
Location of the meeting: Rule House, 33325 N. Sears Boulevard, Wildwood, IL 60030

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Approval of Agenda – Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 20th, 2024**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 16th, 2024**
 - B. Minutes of the Closed Session – Tuesday, January 16th, 2024**
- V. Matters from the Public**
- VI. Financial Report**
- VII. WSRA**
- VIII. GLCC Report**
- IX. Valley Lake Report**
 - i. Fish Stocking**
- X. Staff Reports**
 - A. Recreation/Administration**
 - B. Maintenance**
 - C. Marketing/Promotions**
 - D. IAPD/IPRA 2024 Soaring to New Heights Conference Report**
- XI. Unfinished Business**
 - A. Valley Lake Stormwater Improvements DCEO/SMC Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)**
 - B. Gages Lake Channel Piers Inquiry**
- XII. New Business**
 - A. Sunset Piers**
- XIII. Other Business**
- XIV. Matters from the Public**
- XV. Executive Session**
 - A. Personnel 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)**
- XVI. Adjournment**

The Wildwood Park District is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of the meeting or facilities, are asked to contact the Park District at 847.223.7275 or email info@wildwoodparkdistrict.com.

The Board of Park Commissioners welcome public comments during all meetings.

Key rules governing participation

All comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and no longer than 30 minutes for all comments.

**Wildwood Park District
Regular Board Meeting
Rule House 33325 N. Sears Boulevard Wildwood, IL 60030
January 16th, 2024, at 7:00pm**

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- II. Roll Call:**
Present: Commissioners Anna Nelson, Frank Bruno, Dan Corrigan, Becky Jante, Matt Brueck (via-audio call-in).
Absent: None
- Park District Staff Present:** Brandon Magnini, Park Dist. Manager; Katherine Atkins, Accountant, Michael Dykes, Maintenance Supervisor
- President Jante entertained a motion to allow Commissioner Brueck to remotely participate in the Board Meeting via telephone call-in electronically due to his employment purposes per (ILCS OMA Section 7 A/D). So moved, Commissioner, Corrigan. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carried.
- III. Approval of Consent Agenda – Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 16th, 2024**
President Jante entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda of the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024 as presented. So moved, Commissioner Bruno. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carries.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting - Monday, December 11th, 2023
President Jante entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, December 11th, 2023. So moved, Commissioner Corrigan. Seconded, Commissioner Bruno. All in favor, motion carries.
B. Minutes of the Closed Session – Semi-Annual Review
Item was tabled to be discussed in Closed Session.
- V. Matters From the Public**
-No further matters from the Public.
- VI. Financial Report**
The Financial Report was read. Discussion. President Jante entertained a motion to accept the Financial Report. So moved, Commissioner Bruno. Seconded, Commissioner Corrigan. Roll Call: Commissioner Bruno, aye, Commissioner Nelson, aye, Commissioner Corrigan, aye, Commissioner Jante, aye, Commissioner Matt Brueck, aye. All in favor, motion carries.
- VII. WSRA:** Commissioner Nelson discussed that WSRA (and other state SRA's) are dealing with not be exempted from the new (effective January 1st) Illinois Paid Leave for all Workers Act like WPD and other Park Districts are. She gave updates on Special Olympics and a new ice-skating program taking place at the Top Shelf ice facility in Vernon Hills. She reminded the Board of the upcoming

WSRA (Friends of the WSRA) Shining Star Fundraiser Event on March 8th 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Warren Township Senior Center. The next meeting will be March 11th, 2024 at 3:30pm.

VIII. GLCC

Park District Manager Magnini reported that WPD met with the GLCC on January 16th to discuss communications and marketing strategies for the GLCC in 2024 and beyond, the GLCC web page on the WPD website, creating the GLCC Gmail email contact, and touching base on general cooperation and growth. Discussion.

IX. Valley Lake Report

Nothing additional to report.

X. Staff Reports

A. Recreation/Administration

The Recreation/Administration Report was read. Discussion.

B. Maintenance

The Maintenance Report was read. Discussion.

C. Marketing/Promotions

The Marketing/Promotions Report was read. Discussion.

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Valley Lake Stormwater Improvements DCEO/SMC Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) Review and Discussion

Park District Manager Magnini stated that the major construction has been done and is complete. In the spring, additional native plantings will be added around the newly retrofitted plunge pool. Agenda item will remain on agenda until everything is 100% complete and the WPD receives the long-term maintenance plan for the native plantings and plunge pool.

B. Gages Lake Channel Piers Inquiry

Park District Manager Magnini circled back to this item as the Park District continues to await counsel review to get to the bottom of the issue. Will remain on agenda until counsel provides final guidance.

XII. New Business

A. 2024 Wildwood Park District Annual Fees Review

Discussion. Suggestion was to add a nominal \$10 fee to pavilion rentals IF renters would like to also rent the baggo sets and/or recreation bag to offset any issues with lost baggo bags and damaged equipment (which has had to be replaced a few times in the past). All other fees (pavilion rentals, room rentals, boat keys, boat decals, non-resident parking fees, etc.) from 2023 will remain the same in 2024. Discussion. President Jante entertained a motion to accept the Wildwood Park District 2024 Annual Fees as presented with the addition of a \$10 add-on fee for any baggo or recreation equipment bag rentals that are optional with resident pavilion rentals. So moved, Commissioner Corrigan. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. Roll Call: Commissioner Bruno, aye, Commissioner Nelson, aye, Commissioner Corrigan, aye, Commissioner Jante, aye, Commissioner Matt Brueck, aye. All in favor, motion carries.

B. Tree Trimming Quotes

President Jante entertained a motion to approve the tree removal and stump grinding quote from Clean Cut Tree Service for \$4,400.00; and approve the safety tree pruning/trimming quote from Bartlett Tree Service for \$9,728.00 as presented. So moved, Commissioner Bruno. Seconded, Commissioner Corrigan. Roll Call: Commissioner Bruno, aye, Commissioner Nelson, aye, Commissioner Corrigan, aye, Commissioner Jante, aye, Commissioner Matt Brueck, aye. All in favor, motion carries.

XIII. Other Business

-Discussion was had about logistics and travel arrangements for the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference taking place January 25-27th.

-Commissioner Jante noted that she continues to work on quotes for solutions for upgraded/less expensive Sunset Park piers.

- Park District Manager Magnini and Accountant Atkins gave brief updates on the permit situation for the Pebble Beach Park shoreline project and security lighting in the parks.

XIV. Matters from the Public

No further matters from the Public.

XV. Closed Session

The Board will now enter into Closed Session, where no action will be taken. President Jante entertained a motion that pursuant to Section 5 ILCS 120/2 of the Open Meetings Act, the Board will enter into Closed Session to discuss Closed Session minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 5 ILCS 120/2 C (21). Those present during Closed Session will include all Commissioners and Park District Manager Brandon Magnini and Accountant Kathy Atkins. So moved, Commissioner Nelson. Seconded, Commissioner Corrigan. All in favor, motion carried. The time is 7:47pm.

XVI. President Jante entertained a motion to return to Open Session at 7:55pm. So moved, Commissioner Corrigan. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. Roll Call: Commissioner Bruno, aye, Commissioner Nelson, aye, Commissioner Corrigan, aye, Commissioner Jante, aye, Commissioner Matt Brueck, aye. All in favor, motion carries. Commissioner Corrigan entertained a motion to release the Closed Session Minutes from Monday, June 21st, 2021 and Monday, November 16th, 2020. So moved, Commissioner Bruno. Seconded, Commissioner Nelson. All in favor, motion carried.

XVII. Adjournment

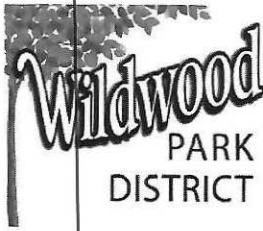
President Jante moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting of Tuesday, January 16th, 2024, at 7:56pm. So moved, Commissioner Brueck. Seconded, Commissioner Bruno. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Secretary

President

Board of Park Commissioners

Date _____



33325 N. Sears Blvd.
Wildwood, IL 60030
Phone: 847.223.7275
Fax: 847.223.2820
www.wildwoodparkdistrict.com

TO: Board of Commissioners
CC: All Staff
FROM: Brandon Magnini, Park District Manager
SUBJECT: Board Packet Attachments and Agenda Items
DATE: February 20th, 2024

Good afternoon, Commissioners,

Please find below a brief explanation on the following Board attachments that correlate with the agenda items for the Tuesday, February 20th, 2024, Regular Board Meeting:

GLCC Report:

- I. Attached you will find the February 7th, 2024 GLCC meeting agenda, their September 2023 meeting minutes, and their current financials. I will give a full recap of the February 7th GLCC meeting on Tuesday evening.

Valley Lake Report – Fish Stocking:

- I. Attached you will find email correspondence between the myself and the IDNR Local Area Fisheries Expert in respect to recommendations for re-stocking Valley Lake.

Staff Reports – IPRA Conference:

- I. Attached you will find a recap of the 2024 IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference that Commissioners Nelson and Bruno attended alongside Park District Manager Magnini and Maintenance Lead Dykes.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brandon Magnini

Brandon Magnini, Park District Manager

GLCC Meeting Outline
February 8, 2024

Meeting Call To Order

Rob Flood, Pres.

Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions

Secretary's Report

Rachael Klabunde

- a. Report from September 7, 2023 meeting

Treasurers Report

Marianne Porreca

- a. Ice Golf Donation

Old Business

1. Weed Control on Gages Lake 2023 recap
 - a. Solitude Lake Management treated on May 30.
 - b. Agreed to treat a total 40 acres at 8 zones at a cost of \$496.00/acre.
 - c. Target species were EWM and Curlyleaf Pondweed.
 - d. Post treatment survey was not performed.
 - e. Follow up with Solitude staff was not successful.
 - f. Solitude agreed with poor communication and control results-**treatment fee waived.**
 - g. Lily Pads were treated by Black Lagoon on August 23 (4.04 acre @ \$376/acre).
2. Weed Control for 2024
 - a. Jennifer Biancalana from Tetris (formerly Black Lagoon) will present the weed control proposal at the March 14 meeting.
 - b. Anticipate a two treatment program (spring and mid-summer).
 - c. Additional treatment of Lilly Pads if necessary.
3. WPD Harvest Fest Recap
 - a. September 23, 2023.
4. Fall Fish Stocking
 - a. Keystone Fisheries delivered on November 15, 2023.
 - b. Northern Pike (100), Smallmouth Bass (250), Walleye (500)
 - c. Total cost \$4386.50
5. Invasive species signs to post at boat ramps have been received.
 - a. Cost \$34.00 per sign
 - b. Post at all Gages Lake boat ramps.
6. Any Other Old Business.

New Business

1. GLCC Information/Social Media Update
 - a. WPD offered GLCC a page on WPD Website
 - b. Page will be updated to show meeting dates and other important events
 - c. New email for questions – GagesLakeCC@gmail.com
 - d. Facebook page – like “Gages Lake Conservation Committee”
2. Adopt A Highway Spring Cleanup
 - a. Select a Wednesday in April
3. GLCC Board Elections
 - a. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary for 1 year term.
 - b. Nominations
 - c. Vote
4. Update GLCC Bylaws
5. Any other new business

GLCC Projects/Goals for 2024

- Weed Control Spring 2024 – May/June, 2024
- Carp Derby
- Shoreline Cleanup
- Adopt A Highway clean up spring/fall
- WPD Harvest Fest
- Fish stocking – Fall 2024
- Public Relations/Education – GLCC section on WPD Website/Facebook Page
-

Adjournment

Next meeting date – March 14, 2024 @ 7pm.

GLCC Meeting
September 7, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

NAME	TITLE
Rob Flood	President
Todd Schara	Vice President
Marianne Porreca	Treasurer
Rachael Klabunde	Secretary
Brandon Magnini	WPD Manager
Matt Brueck	Vice President, WPD Board of Commissioners
Becky Jante	President, WPD Board of Commissioners
Steve Gerzel	Volunteer

Attendees: Sandra and Bill Moss, Doug Dietzen, Tony Kvitek, Gary Gruesling, Brad Pawlowski

- Meeting called to order at 7:04pm
- Introductions
- Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Report:

- Michelle Perna moved
- Recap of previous meeting
- Introduction of Rachael Klabunde as new Secretary

Treasurer Report:

- Balance as of May 2023
Total Income: \$4,077
September '23 Balance: \$19,478.70

Old Business:

- Reviewed old business
 1. Weed Control
 - a. Clark to Solitude – Bit of a mess and out of contract. Reconnected with Jennier Biancalana with Black Lagoon.
 - b. Contemplated harvesting lake at \$200 per hour totaling \$2,000. Decided not to do it and focus on Summer or 2024. Jennifer spoke with harvester but they were booked.
 - c. Two-prong approach next year with Jennifer? Survey required as well. Alternate chemicals so resistance isn't met. Will do biobased mapping and survey next year and then treating. Be diligent in post-survey treatment 3-4 weeks later and deliver results.

2. Shoreline Clean-up
 - a. Todd delivered report - covered whole lake but channels weren't covered.
3. Carp Removal Project:
 - a. Andy Plauk came out with 2 shocker boats on 6/2/23
 - b. Captured and removed 404 carp
 - i. Does removal affect number of weeds – removal is a benefit and doesn't affect them coming back
 - ii. Rob will ask Andy to come back in 2024
 - iii. Benefit to offering members a drop location for carp caught? Currently, double bag and put in dumpster
4. Carp Derby on 6/10/23 recap:
 - a. Low turnout - 18 carp caught
 - i. Two age groups with no attendees. How to publicize better? Offer dollar value to certain carp caught (tag in advance). Event to be done earlier? Good opportunity for boy scouts to obtain badge.
5. Catfish Stocking:
 - a. Andy at IDNR stocked 1392 8-10" channel catfish on 8/2/23 at no charge
 - b. Good sporting fish; will eat small carp; good predator fish to have in the lake
6. Idlewild Centennial Celebration on 8/19/23:
 - a. Setup info booth with aquatic plants – identified them and showed people the info
 - b. Fish races generated \$121 – will be added to Treasurer's report
 - c. Nice community activity

New Business

1. Lily pad treatment – dissatisfied with number of lily pads
 - a. New approach systemic herbicide – less growth next year
 - b. Previous treatments gave immediate results, but they come back with a vengeance
 - c. Next year should be better but we'll hit them again with systemic herbicide - perhaps 2-3 years of treatment needed
 - d. Provides ecological benefits but need to be reduced
 - e. How does absorption/removal of dead lily pads happen
 - f. Brandon provided comments from FB – wants something from GLCC pertaining to the scientific information to provide responses to public. Rob will talk to Jennifer about removing some of the lily pads. Some people want them removed, some want them left - trying to accommodate all members.
 - i. Public needs to have more access to GLCC for inquiries.
 1. Possibly link GLCC website/FB page to WPD FB page to provide information
 - a. Rachael and Rob to become GLCC FB page admins
 2. WPD will refer to GLCC – Top 10 FAQ's

3. Minutes and bullet points from GLCC meetings to be put on FB page
4. Post meeting dates on WPD and GLCC FB sites
5. Rachael to talk to Michelle re: FB administrator
6. Rob to ask Jennifer when people can cut the lily pads out

2. GLCC Logo:

- a. Partner with the WWPDP to design logo
- b. Boat launches – sign for invasive species in lake and how to address with WWPDP and GLCC logo on sign.
- c. Vote: reviewed logo options
- d. Voted on fish and the sun logo with GAGES LAKE smaller and Conservation Committee bigger. Thanks to Maggie with the WPD for drafting logos.

3. Invasive Species Signs to post at boat ramp:

- a. Motion to purchase 7 signs: Todd made the motion, Diana second the motion. All in favor.

4. Adopt a Highway Fall Cleanup

- a. 9/20/23 @ 6pm – stretch of highway on Rte 45 from Mobile station on Center Street to Gages Lake Rd. Meet at JoJo's and clean up highway.

5. Fall Fish Stocking:

- a. Same quantity ordered in 2022
 - i. Northern Pike 100
 - ii. Smallmouth Bass 250
 - iii. Walleye 500
- b. Total cost: \$4,386.50
- c. Stock 1x per year usually in late October
- d. Rob will request Andy to do another fish survey. Will ask him to come to next GLCC meeting to deliver report.
- e. Motion to approve spend by Gary, seconded by Matt – approved

6. WPD Harvest Fest:

- a. 9/23/23 @ 12pm
- b. Information table and fish races
- c. GLCC in spot 10
- d. Volunteers to arrive at 10am

7. Floor open to new business:

- a. Brandon – some residents by cove park don't like the natural shore line plantings and would like them removed. Benefit to having them - plants will provide shoreline stability but will remove them if preferred.

GLCC Projects & Goals for 2023:

Goal	Status
Weed control Spring '23 (May/June)	Complete
Carp Derby (June 10, 2023)	Complete
Shoreline clean-up (May 27, 2023)	Complete
Adopt-A-Highway clean up spring/fall	Complete
WPD Harvest Fest (September 23, 2023)	Complete
Idlewild Gages Lake Centennial (August 19, 2023)	Complete
Fish stocking (Fall 2023)	Complete
Public relations/education – WPD Newsletter	?

Adjournment:

Adjourned at 8:25pm

Gages Lake Conservation Committee

8-Feb-24

~~4-Jan-00~~

Balance as of 9/23

Miscellaneous	\$18,316.70
Algae	\$1,158.00
Stamps	<u>\$4.00</u>
	\$19,478.70

Expenses:

Black Lagoon	\$1,519.00
stamp	\$0.50
Glcc Banner	\$90.00
Boat launch Signarama	\$321.34
Fish stocking	<u>\$4,386.50</u>
Total Expenses:	\$6,317.34

Income:

Donations	\$360.00
centennial fish races	\$121.00
harvest fest races	\$255.00
Centennial donation	\$1,200.00
Waters Edge	\$1,409.57
Total Income:	<u>\$3,345.57</u>

Balance as of 2/24

Miscellaneous	\$15,345.43
Algae	\$1,158.00
Stamps	<u>\$3.50</u>
	\$16,506.93

Subject: RE: Wildwood Park District VALLEY LAKE Fish Stocking Program/Questions ILDNR
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 3:37:03 PM Central Standard Time
From: Plauck, Andrew <Andrew.Plauck@Illinois.gov>
To: Brandon Magnini <bmagnini@wildwoodparkdistrict.com>
Attachments: image001.png, image002.jpg

Hello Brandon,

Unfortunately, the IDNR has had to cut back on stocking smaller lakes and ponds like this. There are literally hundreds of small park district and forest preserve district ponds in Illinois and there is no way we could keep up with them all. We have stocked Gages occasionally when surplus production was available.

Typically, once a lake has a good Bass and Bluegill population it will be self-sustaining. Unless you have extremely high harvest or a winter/summer kill you shouldn't need to stock every year. If fishing is poor and you want to supplement with stocking, I would suggest starting with no more than 50 Largemouth Bass per acre. Avoid Hybrid Sunfish – stock Bluegill if desired. If you have a stunted/over-abundant Bluegill population, Channel Catfish can be added to the lake (50 per acre as well).

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Andy Plauck
District Fisheries Biologist
Northern Cook (N of I-290), DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry Counties
8916 Wilmot Rd.
Spring Grove, IL 60081
Office: 815-675-2386 ext 214
Cell: 815-347-7601
andrew.plauck@illinois.gov

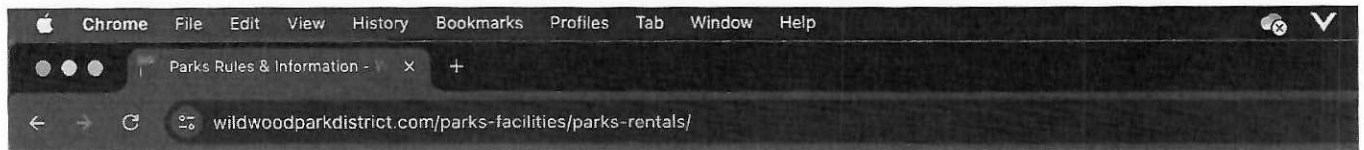
From: Brandon Magnini <bmagnini@wildwoodparkdistrict.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 3:04 PM
To: Plauck, Andrew <Andrew.Plauck@Illinois.gov>
Subject: [External] Wildwood Park District VALLEY LAKE Fish Stocking Program/Questions ILDNR

Good afternoon, Andrew,

My name is Brandon Magnini, and I am the Park District Manager with the Wildwood Park District.

We were looking to re-start a fish stocking program in Valley Lake (**33290 N Mill Rd Wildwood, IL 60030**). To my knowledge, there is an understanding that Valley Lake has not been restocked with fish in some years. Our residents are currently asking us to begin that program again. I am reaching out to see how the Park District can get connected with the IDNR and on a stocking list for this year (2024). Does the IDNR stock any fish for free in this situation? The IDNR has shown up a couple times a year the last few years to re-stock Gages Lake (and the Park District has never been charged for it). We also supplement the IDNR stocking in Gages Lake with yearly paid stocking through a fish hatchery.

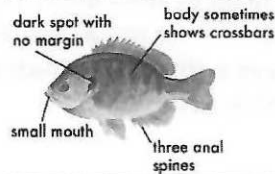
Here is our current signage on-site depicting what fish are in Valley Lake and what we expect to be in Valley Lake:



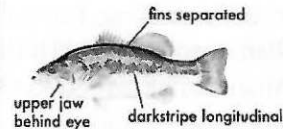
VALLEY LAKE FISHING RULES & REGULATIONS

1. An Illinois Fishing License is required to fish Valley Lake.
2. Two fishing pole per person limit.
3. No fishing with minnows at any time.
4. Please keep all carp.

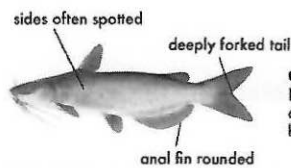
The following regulations have been established for these species to maintain a quality sport fishery.



Bluegill
No length or
harvest limit



Largemouth Bass
15" minimum length limit
3 fish daily harvest limit



Channel Catfish
No length limit
6 fish daily
harvest limit

How to Measure a Fish (Total Length)



Lay fish flat on ruler and measure from tip of snout to end of tail with its mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.

These regulations are established, enforced, and monitored by Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers.
Courtesy of Gages Lake Conservation Committee.

Wildwood Park District

33325 N. Sears Blvd., Wildwood, IL 60030

847.223.7275

+ Park Rules and Regulations

I was put into your contact via Rob Flood, the President of the Gages Lake Conservation Committee (see forwarded email below). I do think that some discussions will need to be had about how many fish per species is appropriate for a body of water the size of Valley Lake and overall ecological conditions. I have also attached a bathymetric map of Valley Lake for your convenience.

Thank you, and I look forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,
Brandon Magnini

Brandon Magnini
Park District Manager
Wildwood Park District
33325 N. Sears Boulevard Wildwood, IL 60030
bmagnini@wildwoodparkdistrict.com
847.223.7275

Wildwood Park District
Recreation/Administration Report
February 20th, 2024

1. Routine administrative tasks such as sorting through bills, payroll, depositing funds, PDRMA reporting requirements, meeting with Treasurer Corrigan for bi-weekly financials, and assisting Kathy with various administrative tasks and reports.
2. Beginning work on budget prep for FY 24-25.
3. Assisting office with program registrations and other administrative work as needed.
4. Website management and board duties.
5. Finalized Community Needs Assessment submissions with Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Woznick at the end of January.
6. Corresponded with counsel on Gages Lake Channel piers inquiry in February.
7. Continued requests for room rentals into February/March.
8. Working on booking summer bands with Marketing and Special Events Coordinator Woznick. Judson Brown band secured again in 2024.
9. Held first of three required Committee Meetings on Decennial Local Government Efficiency on 1/22. Commissioners Corrigan, Jante, and Nelson were present along with Resident Committee members Mike Semmerling and Laura Rudow. No other guests were present in the audience. Presentation slides for the first meeting are on the Park District website and hard copies are in the Commissioner's mailboxes in the office.
10. Follow up and work on presentation slides/minutes after the first Decennial Local Government Efficiency Committee meeting from January 22nd for the 2nd meeting on February 20th.
11. Planning for Ice Jug Curling and Snow Much Fun events in January (officially cancelled as of 2/14).
12. Planned and executed Daddy Daughter Dance with Maggie Woznick on February 2nd. The event this year was a major success with a combined 88 people present out of 41 "couples" registered. This year we brought in catered food from Wayne's Pizza and upped our game with the ambiance and décor. Feedback from the event has been very good.
13. Working on Summer 2024 program/event planning and brochure production with Maggie and Office Administrator Melissa Roman.
14. Posted Mon/Tues Guest Services Representative job online and conducted interviews in February.
15. Posting updated 2024 Labor Law posters and notices.
16. Beginning planning stages of Egg Hunt event for 3/23.
17. Purchasing cooking class supplies for weekly youth cooking class at Grandwood Park Park District.
18. Completed another big round of Rule House attic cleaning/removal of junk and garbage with Maintenance and Office Administrator Roman. We again found some items that were deemed useful for potential future classes and for historical value. Began organizing bankers boxes of files in more orderly fashion upstairs. We continue to improve our storage upstairs to provide clearer lanes of access, easier access to electrical junction boxes, and eliminate tripping hazards and lessen fire hazards.
19. Met with WSRA Executive Director and Recreation Management Staff to discuss inclusion for 2024, orientation to new WSRA policies and procedures, and brainstorming additional ways to help each agency market WSRA's services in Wildwood.
20. Worked with Accountant Atkins to upgrade Park District cell phones (PDM, Maintenance Lead, Park Safety, Accounting Phone), and switched over to Xfinity Business from Verizon. There is a cost savings on this new plan and both Kathy's phone and the Park Safety phone only share 1G

Wildwood Park District
Recreation/Administration Report
February 20th, 2024

of data. Looking to potentially use any of the previous cell phones for a Camp only "emergency" or "point of contact" phone that a head counselor would be responsible for maintaining. Maintenance Lead Dyke's phone as well as mine will now have 256GB each. This will help both of us take many more pictures of parks, videos, and maintain better storage for those items to help with inspections.

21. Continue working with President Jante to look into options for upgraded year-round pier system at Sunset.
22. Maintaining visual observation of tree removals done previously done by Clean Cut and tree trimming that was done by Bartlett the week of 2/12.
23. Staff Safety Committee Meeting on 2/7. Discussed potential new safety procedures for camps, re-training on agency social media and photography policies, and more.
24. Working with Boy Scouts to continue improving the safety of their garage that the Park District owns at Twin Lakes.
25. Working with PDRMA Risk Management Consultant to plan for 2024 goals and joint safety initiatives for Loss Control Program.
26. Working with Maintenance Lead Dykes to plan for maintenance projects in the short term (before FY end); and budgeting for potential projects to take place after new FY begins/budget adopted.
27. Looking into fish stocking options and suggestions for Valley Lake from IDNR and fisheries expert from Tigris (formerly Black Lagoon).
28. Harvest Fest Committee met on 1/31 for the first meeting of the year. In the works to secure owl/raptor demonstration for the main stage from 12-12:30pm.
29. Attended IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference 1/25-1/27. Full report can be found in this Board Packet.
30. Working on special projects with Kathy including follow up with the upcoming Pebble Shoreline project permitting and ComEd park lighting project.

Wildwood Park District

Maintenance Report

February 20th, 2024

1. Ongoing park garbage control and maintenance/Mutt Mitts replacements.
2. Routine maintenance and upkeep of equipment.
3. Clean Rule bathrooms, community rooms, floors, and office spaces as needed - restock paper towels and soap.
4. Will be deep cleaning Oak and Walnut rooms while preschool is absent on 2/16.
5. LEAD electric (contractor through ComEd Energy Efficiency Program), returned to fix issue with LED lights in Maple and Craft rooms.
6. Finished working on picnic bench restorations in Shop for the season. As a result of the material we had on hand and the re-use of existing wood; we were able to produce one new, additional 10' picnic table to be placed near the ADA grill at Willow Point that wasn't there before. Restored picnic tables are loaded up and ready to be returned to Sunset and Willow Point respectively.
7. Finishing up boards to replace worn wooden sitting benches at Cove and Lake Shore Drive parks.
8. Park small grill restorations completed for Sunset and Willow Point. Will be returning grills back to parks shortly along with recently purchased replacement grill head for Pebble.
9. Park, playground, building inspections - corrective actions as needed.
10. Continued planning for 2024 projects and timelines.
11. Continue to log for 2024 Work Order System, Inspections, and maintenance logs.
12. Further organization and consolidation of equipment in garage.
13. 2 Buoy label replacements have been delivered; and two new replacement standing buoys with labels are being shipped to replace damaged ones at garage.
14. Maintenance Staff in-house repainted 10 of our worn small sphere buoys with apple red glossy spray paint and re-applied new reflective tape to make them really stand out in the summer.
15. Found lower pricing at Menards compared to other vendors for split rail fence replacement at Twin Lakes Park off of Twin Lakes Boulevard (near maintenance driveway entrance). Looking to also replace 6' Rule parking lot exit area wood flankers that are rotted and falling over by Rule Ct.
16. Pricing out timbers and gravel for upcoming Sunset Park accessible walkway near boat launch.
17. Met with company to give us an idea on pricing for professional powder coating and resealing select metal park benches that are in poor shape from years of weathering, rust, and chunks of benches that are missing.
18. Replaced battery on LED emergency light in Rule House lobby.
19. Delegated to Office Staff the quoting out pricing and material for possible new mutt mitt supplier that we met at Conference amongst other suppliers we met.
20. Working with Boy Scouts to mark off with adhesive caution tape area inside the Scout Garage where items cannot be stored near the electrical panel.
21. Visual inspection of Clean Cut and Bartlett tree work. Clean Cut was able to leave some ash tree firewood at the maintenance shop for us.

Wildwood Park District

Maintenance Report

February 20th, 2024

22. Park District Manager Magnini working on preliminary quotes for 2024 Valley Lake treatment companies.
23. Maintenance Lead Dykes and Park District Manager Magnini attended February GLCC meeting along with President Jante. Meeting summary and notes can be found in the Board Packet.
24. Working with Boy Scouts to dispose of unwanted junk in their garage and materials that need safe disposal. Will be budgeting for small flammable cabinet for Scout flammables/aerosols for safe storage. Will store in maintenance garage.
25. Cleaned up and removed honey locust tree seed pods all over Sunset playground mulch and surrounding grass.
26. Attended IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference January 25-27.
27. Signed up three Staff for April 23rd PDRMA Mowing Safety Class at Crystal Lake Park District.
28. Signed up two Staff for April 2nd PDRMA building inspections training webinar.
29. Previously purchased automatic paper towel dispenser for Rule bathroom was installed to streamline all three bathrooms with same automatic dispenser and same paper towel material. This particular bathroom used a non-automatic pleated towel dispenser that wasted pleated towels when campers and other participants would take way to many towels and a time and make a mess on the floor.

Marketing Report February 2024

Website

- Routine Maintenance- keeping website up to date with current announcements, events, news, and programs, as well as removing old content.
- Updates
 - Uploaded all February events and programs to homepage slider.
 - Finished GLCC page on WPD site and launched to the public. Page includes 2023 projects, 2024 projected projects, typical responsibilities the GLCC handles, their Board, the new GLCC contact Gmail account, the events the GLCC runs, meeting dates and agendas, and how to donate to the GLCC. Past and future meeting minutes, agendas, and other pertinent information will be added.
 - Posted Guest Services Representative position on home slider and under “employment opportunities”.
 - Posted notice of February Local Government Efficiency meeting notices/information as well as previous January meeting information.
 - Adjusted and removed/updated January/February special events as they were cancelled or rescheduled due to weather.
 - Finishing up launch of preliminary 2024 Harvest Fest landing page.
 - Updated pictures on Capital Projects and Planning page of Valley Lake projects.
 - Pushed Community Needs Assessment Survey on website.
- Metrics (last 30 days)
 - Sessions: a session is the browsing session of a single user to our website
 - 1900- up 176% from previous 30 days.
 - Pageviews: a view of a page on our site that is being tracked by the Analytics tracking code.
 - 3,045 – up 97% from previous 30 days
 - Average Session Duration: total duration of all sessions, in seconds
 - 26 seconds – down 55% from previous 30 days
 - Total Users: the number of distinct tracked users
 - 1,646- up 231% from previous 30 days
 - 1,604 New Users total
 - New vs Returning Visitors
 - New- 98%, Returning- 2%
 - Device Breakdown
 - Desktop- 74%, Tablet- 1%, Mobile- 25%
 - Top Referrals: the top websites that send your website traffic, known as referral traffic.
 - 1. Facebook
 - 2. Facebook
 - 3. Facebook
 - Top Pages
 - 1. Home
 - 2. Wildwood Park District
 - 3. Calendar
 - 4. Program Brochure
 - 5. Wildwood Park District
 - 6. Employment Opportunities
 - 7. Parks & Facilities

- 8. Board of Commissioners and Board Meetings
- 9. Registration
- 10. Pavilion and Room Rentals

Social Media

- Routine Maintenance- checking social media pages daily for comments, messages, etc. and responding accordingly.
- Posts- posting weekly to drive program registration, event attendance, engagement, follows, and to remain visible in people's newsfeeds. Also, information sharing and raising public awareness regarding Park District initiatives and projects.
- Posted post-event pictures of Daddy Daughter Dance
- Posted reminders for Local Government Efficiency Meetings
- Posted information about special event cancellations
- Posted pictures of cooking co-op class with Grandwood Park Park District
- Posted reminder of February 8th GLCC meeting
- Posted several reminders over several weeks for people to take the Community Needs Assessment Survey
- Posted job opening for Guest Services Representative
- Posted need for event volunteers for 2024
- Posted preschool updates and pictures from Toddler Arts and Crafts class.
- Analytics
 - Facebook
 - Total page followers: 1,832- up 6 followers in last 30 days
 - Total page visits: 777- up 5.6% in the last 30 days
 - Post Reach- The number of people who saw any of our posts at least once.
 - 2,800- down 65% last 90 days prior
 - Post Engagement- reactions, comments & shares
 - 417 down 73% last 28 days prior
 - Audience: 24.2% men, 75.8% women
 - Instagram
 - Accounts Reached: 93- down 7.1% in the last 30 days.
 - Accounts engaged: 7- up 0% in last 30 days.
 - Total followers: 241- up 0.4% in last 30 days

Monthly E-Newsletter

- We are up to 590 people/emails in our database (+6 from last month). 514 of those are subscribers to our monthly e-newsletter emails.
 - Since creating an e-newsletter subscribe landing page, we have had 150 new people subscribe to our e-newsletter.
- Average Open Rate (% of people who open the emails we send) is 54% (current industry average is 24%).
- Average Click Rate (% of people who open our emails AND click on a link) is 4.5%. A bit lower from January.
- February e-newsletter included:
 - News & Announcements
 - Winter/Spring event and program registration now open.
 - Community Needs Assessment survey.

- February (2/20) Local Government Efficiency Meeting reminder
- 2023-2024 Preschool spots still available
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Staff Reports
- Save the Dates for February events, programs, and important dates. March Egg Hunt save the date.
- Email highlights
- All upcoming February events and programs details.

2024 Summer Program Brochure

- Working on compiling information for Summer brochure.
- Working on updated quote for Summer brochure.
- Working on graphics and design of Summer brochure.
- Working on outreach to previously interested instructors to run a summer adult and kids cooking class.
- Working on outreach to select program providers for their availability to run programs that may be in our Summer 2024 Brochure.

Community Needs Assessment

- Community Needs Assessment survey went live on December 15th and finally closed on January 31st.
- We finished with 134 total survey responses with a goal of 100. The survey itself was nearly 100 questions long!
- Survey had been marketed on Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, in our e-newsletter, on our website, and hard copy information to take the online survey were available at the office as well.
- Since the survey is now closed, we are working on putting together a Community Needs Assessment Findings Report which will be shared internally with staff and the Board to serve as a guide for continuous improvement and growth; as well as the report shared externally with Wildwood residents online.

Summer Planning

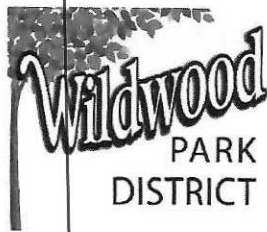
- Have been booking bands for Summer Concert Series
 - June 13: GOOROOS (same band we had at 2023 National Night Out event)
 - June 27: Judson Brown Band
 - July 11: Bourbon Country
 - July 25: TBD
 - August 8: Michael Charles
 - August 22: TBD
- Booked Logan Ramey- A Tribute to the King for 2024 National Night Out event.
- Blues Soiree – TBD

Misc:

- Will be working on budget requests and wants/needs to submit to Park District Manager for review.

Harvest Fest

- Harvest Fest Committee Meeting on 1/31.
- Completed and disseminated Harvest Fest Committee Meeting Notes
- Completed 2024 Harvest Fest Sponsorship Packet and Donation Request Letter and distributed to Committee
- Working on 2024 Harvest Fest website page
- Working on initial outreach for Harvest Fest entertainment and music



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TO: Board of Commissioners
CC: All Staff
FROM: Brandon Magnini, Park District Manager
SUBJECT: 2024 IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference Attendee Recap
DATE: February 20th, 2024

Good afternoon, Commissioners,

Please find the following summary of the 2024 IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference that was attended by the Wildwood Park District January 25-27th, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Chicago.

In 2024, Park District Manager Brandon Magnini and Maintenance Lead Michael Dykes represented the Staff. Commissioners Anna Nelson and Frank Bruno also attended representing the Board.

Like every year, Conference is an excellent networking and educational opportunity in which Park District Staff and the Board are encouraged to attend if budget allows. 2024 was no different with many engaging and informative educational sessions, an expansive Exhibit Hall, and several other networking events with fellow Park District staff and Commissioners from all over Illinois. The amount of new ideas, important legal updates, new products and services in the industry, ways for our agency to become more sustainable and efficient, and networking opportunities make this event a must-attend.

The following are testimonials and summaries for those who attended and their experiences:

Commissioner Frank Bruno:

Frank attended two informative sessions on Friday morning. The first was about video and audio surveillance. All of the improvements that have been made with cameras and also AI integrations into those systems. These systems are open technology and can be used with other systems and ones that can only be used by themselves. Also, the effectiveness of using line of sight to (for example) connect cameras at Sunset with a modem placed at Rule Park.

The second session touched on active shooter/emergency preparedness. The class covered how to train staff with live drills to be prepared for a threatening situation either during programs or events. The main takeaway is that staff are typically responsible for the first 3-4 min of emergency action plan execution until the police arrive and take over.

Frank also attended the Exhibit Hall and spent quality time walking around, getting lost, visiting some vendor booths and even got ice cream! He did also stop by a pickleball court company that peaked his interest. Said company stated that it could be possible for a Park District to install a court for around \$50-\$60K – while originally thinking thought it would be closer to \$100K.

Saturday morning Frank attended the Keynote Speaker Session with Charles Clark. Frank felt the speaker was very entertaining and informative and left him inspired to bring that energy back to the Wildwood Park District.

All in all, the conference was huge success, and he is very glad he attended.

Commissioner Anna Nelson

Legal / Legislative Part I

- OSLAD Grant – the State of Illinois still has 54 million available in OSLAD grant funding. The suggestion was to have packages ready by July 1, 2024.
- How to close out Decennial Local Government Efficiency Committee: It is recommended to send a paper copy to the County and IAPD. During the last committee meeting provide a closing statement in the report. In the following Board Meeting, approve the minutes of the committee – then the Board makes a motion to close out the Efficiency Committee.
- Self-administering medication – Your agency needs a written agreement between the parent and the park district to prevent no liability towards the park district.
- Up to date smoking regulations to include E-Cigarettes and vapes was covered.
- Bathrooms that do not have a urinal in them can be turned onto general neutral bathrooms was covered.
- All bike paths leading out to a road with traffic need a sign cautioning that there is traffic.
- Drones – Need a regulation policy on how drones are to be used in parks. If Park District owns a drone; the Park District needs a written policy on what and what purposes, it will be used for.

Legal / Legislative Part II

- Reviewed laws on Solar Lights and Energy.
- Reviewed laws on Drones.
- More detail on marking bike trail with hazard signage that exiting to a road was covered.
- Prevailing Wage Act – added power washers, pre preparation work before painting, working on light poles, construction work that involves removal of/or destruction of property. Excluded work done during a disaster relief.
- In New Construction if you have a drinking fountain, a bottle filling station need to be included.
- IL Paid Leave for All workers Act – Park Districts are exempt/except Cook County because they passed a law not to be exempted. Special Recreation is not exempt and have asked to be put on the Illinois Legislative agenda to have it reviewed to be exempt.
- 2024 job posting rules reviewed.
- Social Media – Reminders were given that public held social media cannot block people. It is against the First Amendment.
- FOIA – When terminating an employee, name of employee can be stricken out.

Naperville Park District Stream Restoration Case Study

The Naperville Park District owns 2400 open acres with a pond and a stream running through it. Stream erosion is currently making the pathway unsafe. The Park District had to dredge the stream. The dirt from dredging was used to fill in the eroded bank and build back the banks (saved on cost of hauling away dirt). No rip rap was wanted to bring back to original form of the original shoreline. The Park District used plantings to secure the river bank with plants with deep roots. First list of plants included plants alongside the water's edge. The second group of plants was planted behind the water line. Both lists Anna will provide to the Park District for our own planning purposes.

Advancements on Water Features Management

- Suggestion is to first identify what is existing in your water. Second is to understand the cause. Third is to implement a response.
- Predictive, preventive, reactive = when there is a void, nature fills in.
- Understand your treatment and discuss what happens after. To prevent a vicious cycle from occurring.
- New technology- Algae Tracker is a floating solar sensor that checks water and conditions and gives an alert 2 to 3 days before an algae bloom occurs so it can be treated before it erupts. This system has shown to help by using less chemicals because they are only treating when needed.
- Sonic Destruction- a new system destroying algae with sonic vibrations is still in testing.
- Muck Pellets- work best in warm water.
- Muck dredging is very effective because it helps eliminate the material that is breaking down that fuels the algae. Another factor to consider is needing to find a way to dispose the muck that can be otherwise quite costly. This may be a very effective way to break a cycle and bring new health to a lake.
- Remove dead material by raking out of the lake will help from material decomposing.
- Be careful of having trees too close to the water's edge. Leaves blowing into the water and ponds is adding to decomposing material already present.

So, You What to Stay Out of Jail?

Topics Covered – Gift Ban, Prohibited Political Activity, Conflicts of Interest, Whistleblower Protections, Executive/Closed Session.

Anna provided the Park District the handout PowerPoint slides for the District to have a direct office copy of the presentation and notes.

Keynote: Adversity Makes You Stronger. How to Change Your Perspective on Adversity and use it to Become Relentless.

Charles Clark shared his trials and success that led him to where he is today. His message inspired Anna to bring that energy and motivation back to the Wildwood Park District.

Not in My Park! Regulating Controversial Park District Activities

Subjects Discussed: Pickleball, Homelessness, Political Protests

Park District Manager Magnini and Maintenance Supervisor Dykes also attended this session and will recap in more detail.

Commissioner Round Table: The Importance of DEI at our Agencies, Part I

Commissioner Panel consisted of the Glenview, Skokie, Oak Brook, Homewood Park Districts as well as the Northwest Special Recreation Association.

The panel discussed how they started their journey with DEI; and how they have incorporated it into their agencies.

The Future of Urban Forestry in the Parks.

Park District Manager Magnini and Maintenance Supervisor Dykes also attended this session and will recap in more detail.

Park District Manager Magnini and Maintenance Lead Dykes:

Park District Manager Magnini and Maintenance Lead Dykes attended the Exhibit Hall from 12:30pm-4:30pm on Thursday, January 25th. During that time, we sought out and met many vendors including the following amongst others:

- Geese Chasers LLC: A Naperville based company that uses trained Border Collies to scare away nuisance geese from your parks. The rep did suggest that we reach out to the ILDNR first for geese abatement programs they could assist us with that are permitted and carried out by the ILDNR. I have since left a voicemail with our local DNR rep and am awaiting a response.
- Mulch Center and Triple H Mulch Services: We used the Mulch Center based out Deerfield in 2022 for our ASTM playground certified engineered wood fiber (EWF) mulch at our playgrounds. To make our maintenance team's life easier and cut back on labor time and renting heavy equipment to distribute new mulch to each park; they suggested looking into companies like Triple H Mulch that will "blow in" mulch from their truck at each playground. The Wildwood Park District did use the "blow in" method for mulching the new Pebble Swingset in 2022. Based on Michael's inspections, in 2024 the Park District will need to add a fair amount of EWF mulch to some high use playgrounds; but should not need to order near the same amount that was ordered in 2022 when our playground mulch surfacing was basically at zero.

- NuToys/Landscape Structures: The majority of our park playgrounds (except sections of Willow Point and Pebble) are Landscape Structures materials. We asked for advice on replacing or repurposing cracked plastic playground mulch barriers, and the current line of park benches they are selling. We walked away with some insight on how to safely repurpose our cracked plastic playground barriers safely and reuse without having to buy a lot of new ones in 2024.
- Tree Diaper: New technology in tree watering. Product is placed over the tree root ball under the mulch during planting that will take in water and diffuse it to the root system naturally. This should eliminate having to place gator bags over all new and young trees and having to waste staff time, water, and fuel to make daily or weekly runs to re-water gator bags for all new and young trees throughout entire park system.
- We met Jeff Lazarus with Smart Industry Products out of Northbrook. His company sells dog waste bags and industrial garbage bags that the Park District may want to consider buying from him as a new vendor if the pricing is more favorable to us than our current supplier (based out of San Diego).
- ComEd Energy Efficiency Program: Spoke with rep who has been working with Kathy Atkins on park lighting upgrades.
- PDRMA: Checked in and said hello to our risk management pool organization.
- Graffiti Solutions: Checked out their new line of Elephant Snot and other industrial graffiti removal products.
- Team REIL, Inc: Spoke with reps and took back literature on year-round permanent piers product that can withstand wave action and ice. Delegated follow up to President Jante.

After the Exhibit Hall, Commissioner Nelson and Park District Manager Magnini attended the Illinois Therapeutic Recreation Section Meeting. Warren Special Recreation Association (WSRA) Recreation Manager Amber Bodame was honored by her peers in the Therapeutic Recreation section as "Professional of the Year" for the State of Illinois.

Friday classes consisted of the following:

Legal / Legislative Part I

- OSLAD Grant – the State of Illinois still has 54 million available in OSLAD grant funding. The suggestion was to have packages ready by July 1, 2024.
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- Bathrooms that do not have a urinal in them can be turned onto general neutral bathrooms was covered.
- All bike paths leading out to a road with traffic need a sign cautioning that there is traffic.
- Drones – Need a regulation policy on how drones are to be used in parks. If Park District owns a drone; the Park District needs a written policy on what and what purposes, it will be used for.

Delegation is Leadership

This session focused on proper delegation for leaders in your organization and strategies for successful delegation:

- People are motivated by play, purpose, potential
- Delegation also builds a strong culture where everyone feels empowered
- Barriers to delegation can include: fear of failure, challenge of letting tasks go, "I can do it better quicker"
- For those who don't know how to delegate, they can be unsure of when to increase the complexity of tasks to others.

Parks Maintenance Roundtable:

This was an open forum discussion with fellow Maintenance Supervisors on issues facing Park Districts and solutions/brainstorming on best parks maintenance practices. Items discussed included amongst others:

- PT/Seasonal Staff and hourly pay rates/retention
- Special Events management and education for maintenance staff learning the recreation side of programming
- Electric equipment and their pros/cons
- Best mowers on the market

Applying the Diamond of Care & Visual Literacy to Inspections and Maintenance – PDRMA

This session was led by PDRMA leadership and consisted of the following best practices on building inspections and visual management.

- Inspections Diamond of Care
- Usual visual cues such as colors, markings, wet spots to notice if things are unsafe or out of place
- Understanding depth perception and elevated surfaces when evaluating slip, trip, and fall concerns.

Bidding and Managing a Successful Construction Project: Attorneys from Robbins Schwarz presented a PowerPoint on best legal practices and rules for bidding a parks and recreation public construction project:

- Bid Procedure/Selection
- Bid Limits
- Avoid bid-stringing
- Bonds/Contract Terms
- Emergency Bidding
- Government Joint Purchasing

Saturday's programs and classes:

Keynote: Adversity Makes You Stronger. How to Change Your Perspective on Adversity and use it to Become Relentless.

Charles Clark shared his trials and success that led him to where he is today. His message inspired us to bring that energy and motivation back to the Wildwood Park District.

Not in My Park! Regulating Controversial Park District Activities

Subjects Discussed: Pickleball, Homelessness/Migrants, Political Protests:

- Pickleball: Pickleball noise levels are national issue. Piercing sound of over 64dbs. Various Park Districts have had concerns and some legal action brought against the pickleball facilities and hours when pickleball begins in the morning. If Park District wants to consider pickleball, make sure residents are involved in process and have ample opportunity for community feedback, opinion, and opposition if that is what the residents deem appropriate.
- Homeless/Migrants in the parks: Considerations to be had for State of IL Homeless Bill of Rights, Trust Act, IL Human Rights Act. However, Park Districts do have the authority to enforce park ordinances against trespassing past posted hours and also can enforce anti-camping ordinances overnight and during the day.
- Protests/Parades: Restrictions on access and use must comply with the First Amendment. Parks are a traditional public forum and are a bastion of free speech and assembly. If political group insists on joining or shows up to an event, they can have a separate area away from the main section of the event/parade where they can promote their free speech/political language.

Connect Your Public to Nature's Recipe for Restoration:

This session was led by two conservationists who hail from the Oak Openings region in Ohio near Toledo. Topics discussed included:

- Benefits of controlled burns on your overgrown property areas that can lead to new and old native beautiful flowers and plants growing back up. Reactivates seed layer.
- Commit to native gardening. Identify invasives, welcome a little prescribed disruption.
- Native plants help restore biodiversity and different gardening aesthetic.

The Future of Urban Forestry in the Parks.

Steve Lane with Great Lakes Urban Forestry Management presented the following:

- Illinois Arborist Association has training resources where Park Districts are eligible to have trainers come out onsite.
- Oak Wilt still is a concern in areas across Illinois.
- Having a tree inventory and management plan is key. There are apps out there to track tree inventory and management.
- Trees Forever Grants are typically available in February each year.

On Friday evening, Park District Manager Magnini attended the IPRA's Commissioner Reception and got to mingle and meet other Commissioners in the field – most notably several Commissioners from the nearby Waukegan Park District. Afterwards, Magnini and Commissioners Nelson and Bruno attended Ancel Glink's attorney dinner for Park Districts.

Saturday late afternoon, Park District Manager Magnini attended the IAPD Annual Business Meeting. As a paying member of IAPD (Wildwood Park District), Magnini was selected by the Wildwood Park Board of Commissioners as their delegate to vote on IAPD matters at the annual meeting. At the meeting, it was announced that the 2024 Conference brought in 3,973 Conference Attendees (not counting Exhibit Hall vendors, volunteers, etc.). The next annual IAPD Business Meeting will take place on January 25th, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Sincerely,

Brandon Magnini

Brandon Magnini
Park District Manager