

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
PRINCETON PARK DISTRICT
July 20th, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Abbie Cochran at 5:00 p.m. at the Bureau County Metro Center, Princeton, Illinois.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Commissioners Abbie Cochran, Dennis Nink, Les Youngren and Dan Smith. Also present was Executive Director, Tammy Lange and Assistant Director, Nick Davis. Other staff present were Frank Bollinger and Brett Renner. In the audience were Rex and Ann Lasson, David Lowdermilk, David Biggs and Jana Parker. Absent: Brandon Nyman

PERFECTION OF AGENDA:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice President Cochran requested a motion for approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 15th, 2026. Motion was made by Commissioner Nink and seconded by Commissioner Smith. A voice vote was taken: ayes – all, nays – none. The motion carried.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

David Biggs, community member, spoke to the board about his concern for the tree management at City County Park (referencing the 81 marked trees) and a request for the board's definition of a "hazardous tree."

Vice President Cochran acknowledged and thanked Mr. Biggs for his input and expressed appreciation to all attendees who came on behalf of this matter. It was noted questions would be directly addressed during Agenda Item C under New Business.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

A list of bills due and payable for the Bureau County Metro Center in the amount of \$10,879.89 and for the Princeton Park District in the amount of \$25,918.29 was presented for June 2026. The handwritten checks for the Bureau County Metro Center in the amount of \$24,749.82 and Princeton Park District in the amount of \$18,221.14 for the time period of June 16-30, 2026, and handwritten checks for the Bureau County Metro Center in the amount of \$12,257.56 and Princeton Park District in the amount of \$897.18 for the time period of July 1-19 2026, as well as Business Visa Card for June 2026 in the amount of \$2,911.12. The IMRF payment in the amount of \$9,482.42 for June 2026. Vice President Cochran requested a motion

to approve all the Bureau County Metro Center and Princeton Park District claims for a total amount of \$105,317.42. Motion was made by Commissioner Youngren and seconded by Commissioner Nink. A voice vote was taken: ayes – all; nays – none. The motion carried.

The Fiscal 2025/2026 Revenue/Expense Totals by Month Report was reviewed. The total amount for June 2026 was \$167,385.62.

The Board reviewed the June 2026 Financial Statements for the Corporate Fund, Metro Center Enterprise Fund, and the Recreational Program Fund.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of the 2026-2027 Tentative Budget – Tammy reviewed with the Board the Tentative Budget & Appropriation Ordinance. The total amount budgeted is \$5,001,963, with the estimate of revenue for the 2026-2027 fiscal year being \$2,900,040. A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, September 20th at 4:45 p.m., with final approval at the Regular Meeting on September 21st, Vice President Cochran requested a motion for approval of the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Princeton Park District, Bureau County, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Beginning on the 1st Day of July 2026 and Ending on the 30th Day of June 2027. Motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Youngren. A voice vote was taken: ayes – all; nays – none. The motion carried. It was noted the audit will be begin on July 27th, 2026.

Review the 2nd Quarter Farm Report from Andrew Jolly, Farm Manager for the Elmer Zearing Trust #2 Farm – The Board reviewed the 2026 2nd Quarter Farm Report for the Elmer Zearing Trust #2, submitted by Andrew Jolley, Farm Manager with Heartland Bank and Trust.

Discussion Regarding the Myers Woods, Joe Myers Nature Preserve and City County Park - In 2024, the Princeton Park District was contacted by Lorraine Foelske, Natural Areas Preservation Specialist with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, to assist in developing a comprehensive site management plan and cleanup schedule for district natural areas. In December 2025, Ms. Foelske provided an approved management plan originating from the Springfield office and reviewed a *draft* with staff at the Bureau County Metro Center prior to her scheduled maternity leave. The draft included but was not limited to: Control of non-native species, performing routine maintenance, monitor gully erosion in ravines, potential of establishing a trail, signage, establish usable firebreak and borders as well as identifying hazards. That initial draft was not advanced at the time.

Recent Inquiries: Earlier this summer, a logger contacted staff regarding the Joe Myers properties, and a site visit was conducted. Upon request by the logging company, the park district granted them access to City County Park to assess the property. The park district was not aware that any trees would be marked. No action has been taken.

Discussion & Approval for a Request to Close the Bureau County Metro Center at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2026 (Homestead Festival) - Tammy noted for the past several years the Metro Center has closed at 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday of Homestead Festival weekend. This was due to extremely low attendance, the cost of keeping the building open, as well as finding staff available to work due to participation in other activities, Tammy proposed again this year to close at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12th. Vice President Cochran requested a motion to approve closing the Metro Center on Saturday, September 12th, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Motion was made by Commissioner Nink and seconded by Commissioner Smith. A voice vote was taken: ayes – all; nays – none. The motion carried.

Invitation to National Night Out at Zearing Park - August 4th, 2026 - Tammy invited the Board to attend the National Night Out Event which will be held on Tuesday, August 4th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Zearing Park.

OLD BUSINESS:

Alexander Pool Update- Alexander Pool opened for the season on Thursday, July 1st, 2026. The pump/motor assembly was installed and completed the week prior. This was a much better outcome than initially expected. The original arrival date of the equipment was the week of July 20th. Attendance and concessions have been good! The first 2 weeks of this season were ahead of the first 2 weeks of the 2025 season. The reduced pass prices have been well received. The pool season will be extended if possible with after school swim times as long as there are available guards and staff.

July 4th Celebration at Zearing Park – Tammy stated the 250th, July 4th Celebration at Zearing Park was well attended. Special thanks to the Park District Team, as well as Adam Lind from Bureau County EMA who helped make the event a success. Tammy noted a couple of items for that were suggestions from the 2025 event were implemented and were good additions. The 5 or 6” of rain tried to dampen the spirit, but all went well and with belief that this was the largest attendance since the beginning of this partnership with the Park District, Chamber & City. All food and beverage vendors were contact following the event and were all very pleased with the event and hope to get invited back next year.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

The Board reviewed and accepted the following report:

- Superintendent of Parks
- Maintenance Coordinator
- Assistant Director/Recreation
- Front Desk Supervisor/Rentals

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed the Executive Director's Report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion was made by Commissioner Nink seconded by Commissioner Youngren, and unanimously carried to meet in executive session to discuss Personnel pursuant to Section 2 (c) 1 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act at 6:00 p.m. A roll call was taken: ayes – all, nays – none. The motion carried.

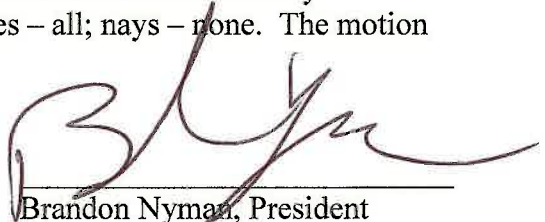
The Board returned to regular session at 6:18 p.m.

BOARD ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:20 p.m. motion was made by Vice President Cochran and seconded by Commissioner Nink to adjourn. A roll call was taken: ayes – all; nays – none. The motion carried.



Brandon Nyma, President

Dennis Nink, Secretary