



Kankakee Valley

PARK DISTRICT

Kankakee Valley Park District

Board Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:02pm by Commissioner Skelly. Those present for roll call (in person or by electronic means) were Commissioner N. Eisengart, M. Matthews, J. Frey, D. Skelly. Others present (in person or via Zoom): Ross Bruni, Executive Director; Rick Collins, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Rachael Click, Superintendent of Recreation; Attorney David Freeman, Ariana Padilla.

Not present: A. Gear, Commissioner Melissa Woodard, Superintendent of Business Zach Mullady, Superintendent of Revenue Facilities

Public Present: Ken Lewellen

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment:

Ken Lewellen: Spoke about upcoming events with the museum.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda for Monday, September 22, 2025, consists of board meeting minutes (August 25, 2025).

Executive Director Bruni stated that KVPD was still processing the August Financials, and they will be presented at the October meeting.

A motion to approve board meeting minutes of August 25, 2025, was made by Commissioner Frey, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Upon roll call vote the following Commissioners voted aye: N. Eisengart, M. Matthews, J. Frey, D. Skelly.

OLD BUSINESS

Update of Bird Park Project

Innovation Landscape is completing punch list items. Once those are completed, Upland Design will sign off. Any Retainage will be billed and paid to complete the project.

Update on Mayor R.J. Bailey Park Renovation Project

Finalize schedule, KVPD Maintenance was responsible for removing shelter/benches. KVPD has been informed that we will be required to do a survey of the riverbank area where the canoe launch to determine if any endangered species (mussel) would be affected. Work will begin on the removal of trees to access river and for the concrete walkway to be completed.

Cemetery Plan (Discussion)

Executive Director Bruni stated that he had contacted Dawn Cobb with IDNR regarding the cemetery out by Splash Valley. The information she provided was forwarded to the Board. Discussion on what KVPD next steps were. KVPD will begin the process of clearing brush, and overgrown areas in November when the vegetation season ends. Per IDNR, only hand tools are to be used and no penetrating the surface to avoid disturbing any sites. KVPD will follow protocols outlined by IDNR in the event any remains are discovered. Once a determination of the condition is made, KVPD will develop a plan of action for future upkeep. The perimeter fence has been secured to prevent access.

National Fitness Campaign Grant (DISCUSSION)

Executive Director Bruni stated that in following up on the Grant, KVPD investment was larger than previously discussed. Additionally, it was discovered that Kankakee High School was in the process of completing the installation of the same project. At this time, it was recommended to decline allocating resources since there is the amenity already available in town.

NEW BUSINESS

Kankakee County Historical Society/Museum Agreement (DISCUSSION)

Inform the Board of the letter sent to KVPD President Skelly regarding attending the KCHS meeting on September 29 to discuss the current KVPD/KCHS agreement. The meeting is considered a Special Meeting and treated as such. The meeting will be posted.

2025 Regatta Review Meeting

Discussion for family friendly pricing on entry and food. Listening to the community on social media about the event. Commissioner Dave Skelly agreed. KVPD will have a meeting with the city on October 1st to discuss plans for next year.

Recreation Department Staff Updates

Rachael Click is the new Rec Superintendent, started today. Rachael has great ideas and experience and is delighted to be working here. Tanner Hurt is the new Rec Supervisor, starting next Monday.

STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds

Rick Collins:

- Rick thanked the Riverfront Society for all their help this year. They helped with planting flowers, painted benches, pulled weeds around gazebo and picked up garbage at Cobb.
- Maintenance set up for Estival Festival
- Spread mulched at Snow and Beckman
- Landscaped front of Bird & Quarry Buildings
- Waxed Rec Center Floor
- Lost 2 seasonal employees

Superintendent of Business

Melissa Woodard:

- Report in the packet.

Superintendent of Recreation

Rachael Click

- Being Rachael's first day, there is nothing to report. Rachael thanked the board and looks forward to working with KVPD to expand programming and opportunities for the community.

Superintendent of Revenue Facilities

Zach Mullady:

- Report in the packet.

Executive Director

Ross Bruni:

- The Audit for FY25 was completed by SKDO. They had some follow-up items and will have final copy over and present at the October Board meeting
- Met with Aaron Gold from Speer Financial regarding the 2025 GO Rollover Bond sale. Speer will be presenting the outcome of the sale at October meeting.
- Met with JJ Doorhy Insurance about KVPD health insurance and the upcoming renewal period

- IMRF audit review meeting was Thursday
- 10/7 SV Meeting for 2026
- 10/16 Staff Meeting
- October we will have tentative FY 26 Levy to discuss

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historical Society

Commissioner Frey:

- 8,000 Rhubarb Festival Attendance
- Mums for sale fundraiser
- New grounds/maintenance employee

SRA

Commissioner Frey & Matthews:

- Rebranding fresh look
- Fall brochure
- In district pricing a week early to help residents
- Manteno possibly being a full paying member right now Manteno paying back the customer nonresident rate

KRS

Commissioner Gear, Skelly and Ross

- Discussion of upcoming fundraising events
- KRS approved Bill Yohnka new 3-year contract

Building Commission Report

Commissioner Skelly:

- There were no new permitting or projects ongoing to discuss.

COMMISSIONERS FORUM

Commissioners Frey, Eisengart and Matthews - Nothing

Commissioner Skelly

- Great social media reach
- Attended Estival Festival glad we are working with them

Executive Session

A motion to go into Executive Session was made at 5:40pm by Commissioner Matthews, seconded by Commissioner Frey. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

ADJOURN MEETING

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:55pm by Commissioner Matthews, seconded by Commissioner Frey . Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

OFFICIAL REPORTS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes (September 22, 2025)
2. Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report
3. Superintendent of Recreation Report
4. Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Report
5. Executive Director Report

Respectfully submitted: Ariana Padilla