



# **Kankakee Valley**

## **PARK DISTRICT**

### **Kankakee Valley Park District Board Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 5:03pm by Commissioner Skelly. Those present for roll call were Commissioner N. Eisengart, M. Matthews, A. Gear, D. Skelly (in person or by electronic means). Others present (in person or via Zoom): Ross Bruni, Executive Director; Rick Collins, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Rachael Click, Superintendent of Recreation; Zach Mullady, Superintendent of Revenue Facilities; Attorney Patrick Miner, Ariana Padilla, Not present: Commissioner J Frey, Melissa Woodard, Superintendent of Business

Public Present: Ken Lewellen, Amy Messick

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Norm Eisengart

#### **Public Comment:**

Ken Lewellen: This weekend at the Museum for the Gallery of Trees, 9am-7pm Saturday and Sunday, an artist will be there making jewelry/earrings. Santa will be there and free gift wrapping is available. Come and vote for your favorite tree.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mercy Housing Tax: Letter from our attorneys regarding Illinois Department of Revenue specific requests of information from Mercy Housing.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion was made to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting Minutes of November 17, 2025, by Commissioner Eisengart and seconded by Commissioner Gear.

No Discussion

Ayes: IIII

Nays: 0

Presentation of Financials from Lauderbach & Amen by Even. He presented 2 months. Ross and he talked and will discuss October. Surplus \$142,000, one tax distribution left, received most of taxes for fiscal year.

No questions.

Executive Director Ross Bruni said that KVPD has received the final \$90,000, which will be in the upcoming financials.

Motion was made to approve the Financials of September 2025 and October 2025 by Commissioner Gear and seconded by Commissioner Eisengart.

No Discussion

Ayes: IIII

Nays: 0

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Mayor R.J. Bailey Park Renovation Project**

Executive Director Bruni commented that some concrete has been poured for parking lot. Completion date will be changed due to mussel survey. Will follow up with Upland about the new completion date. Ashley & Joe notified KVPD that they are leaving Upland. Do not know who is replacing them currently.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Approve an Ordinance Providing for the Levying and Assessment of Taxes for the Kankakee Valley Park District for the Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2027.**

A motion was made to approve Ordinance Providing for the Levying and Assessment of Taxes for the Kankakee Valley Park District for the Fiscal Year Beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2027, by Commissioner Eisengart and seconded by Commissioner Matthews.

Discussion: No changes except Museum.

Ayes: IIII

Nays: 0

### **Update on 2026 Employee Health Benefits**

Requested Blue Cross Blue Shield rollover. JJ Doorhy & Associates found United Health benefits better for us. Expanded and bigger cost reduction.

### **Proposal from KCC regarding Digital Signage and Ice Valley Expansion (Discussion)**

Dr. Boyd approached Executive Director Ross Bruni about KCC needing signage update at corner of Routes 45/52 and River Road. Interested in Digital Signage. Basic discussion. Shared sign. KCC incurs cost of digital sign but wants 15-year extension of contract. Doesn't want to put out money for sign if not have long-term contract. KCC will give us an agreement proposal for signing. Dave wants to see what they say on the Fitness Center.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Superintendent of Buildings/Grounds Rick Collins:**

- Dealing with weather removing snow and ice, salting as necessary for safety
- Upcoming event Supper with Santa

### **Superintendent of Business Melissa Woodard:**

- No report

### **Superintendent of Recreation Rachael Click:**

- Current social media engagement. Increase of social media, new followers up by 19% that is a success for marketing
- New brochure, going from January – April is out
- Senior Programming increase. A monthly Snippet of senior activity with marketing online.
- KVPD has 2 paid billboards
- 71 registered for Supper with Santa
- Open gym athletics attendance is up.
- Toddler Time twice a week, KVPD residents are free once a month.
- Senior Programming has a successful food drive and secures 2 sponsorships, one a \$250 gift card from Berkot's and the other is \$1000 from Highpoint Residency.

### **Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Zach Mullady:**

- Aaron and Ariana were training KVPD staff, getting all on board.
- Pushing forward to hire for spring and summer
- In late November we had the Candy Cane Lane Ice Show at Ice Valley. The show sold out, 250 tickets.
- Many Open Skate dated were replaced by ONU games, because the games were a dependable revenue stream.
- Angelina asked Zach about Splash Valley employment.

### **Executive Director Ross Bruni:**

- Mayor Curtis and Hitchcock engineering are looking to develop Legion Park. Kick off meeting for community survey in the Legion Park to see what residents envision for the park. Funding and grants 1<sup>st</sup>. We would have a voice to see what parks look like.
- Maybe a partnership with the City and County for a communal public works building.
- Great grants to expand the walking path by Alpiner Road.
- Nature Park by Legion. Legion is a nice big park. Walking and restoring park.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Historical Society - Commissioner Frey:**

- No report

### **SRA - Executive Director Bruni & Commissioner Matthews:**

- 2 big items
  - Village of Manteno Board request for membership in SRA.
  - Momenca has joined the SRA
  - Replace the lights in SRA Facility

### **KRS - Commissioners Gear, Skelly & Executive Director Bruni**

- Meeting is tomorrow.
- Update from Piggush. Ran into issues and need to replace the dam. More information at tomorrow's meeting

### **Building Commission Report - Commissioner Skelly:**

- No quorum. Will try again in 3 months.

## **COMMISSIONERS FORUM**

Commissioner Gear:

Great Job. I appreciate the attention to detail.

Commissioner Matthews:

Now we have a successful team with good vision for KVPD. Parks have so much potential and nature programs. Mussel survey: mussels work for parks and clean waters, as they are filter feeders. We need to work in parks. KVPD needs more education on plants, like which are native and which are invasive species. The public needs education on erosion prevention as well, if we don't, we will lose riverbanks. He is worried about KVPD in 20 years. He would like to see education on why we have parks.

Commissioner Eisengart:

Nothing.

Commissioner Skelly:

Tree Lighting was a wonderful surprise. Very nice throughout, good snacks. Very good job!

## **Executive Session**

Nothing

## **ADJOURN MEETING**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 5:41 pm by Commissioner Gear, seconded by Commissioner Matthews. Upon voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

## **OFFICIAL REPORTS:**

1. Board Meeting Minutes (November 17, 2025)
2. Presentation and Approval of Financials September & October
3. Mayor Bailey Project Update
4. Approval of Ordinance Providing for the Levying and Assessment of Taxes for the Kankakee River Park District for Fiscal Year beginning June 1, 2026, and ending May 31, 2027
5. Update to 2026 Employee Health and Benefits Plan
6. Proposal from KCC regarding Digital Signage and Ice Valley Extension
7. Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Report
8. Superintendent of Business Report
9. Superintendent of Recreation Report
10. Superintendent of Revenue Facilities Report
11. Executive Director Report
12. Committee Reports
13. Commissioner Forum

Respectfully submitted: Ariana Padilla