

**Burr Ridge Park District
Regular Meeting
February 9, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Burr Ridge Park District was called to order at the Burr Ridge Community Center at 6:33 pm by President Quigley.

Present: Caplis, Lawrence, Paulius, Quigley
Absent: Malloy
Also present: Jim Pacanowski, Director of Parks and Recreation
Lavonne Campbell, Superintendent of Recreation
Jamie Janusz, Superintendent of Finance

APPROVE

Approve, February 9, 2026 Agenda

No changes were made to the February 9, 2026 Agenda.

Approve January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Caplis moved to approve the January 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Lawrence and approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Caplis, Lawrence, Paulius, Quigley Nays: None Abstain: None

OPEN FORUM

No Open Forum

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing further added to Correspondence.

REPORTS

Director of Parks & Recreation

In addition to the written report, Pacanowski went over in detail the list of inventory as presented in the Director's Report.

Additionally, Pacanowski reported that the ice rink was in excellent condition, however, there may be minimal days remaining for skating due to weather conditions.

Pacanowski asked the Board to consider the following dates for the parks tour dependent on weather.

April 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 or 9.

Caplis asked what time the tour would be held.

Pacanowski responded any time would be okay.

It was determined that a Saturday would be better.

It was decided to hold April 11, 2026 at 10:00 am for the parks tour.

Superintendent of Finance

Nothing further added to the written report.

Recreation Division

Nothing further added to the written report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discuss Revised 3 Year Capital Spending Plan for Potential Bond Proceeds

Pacanowski submitted a Revised 3 Year Capital Spending Plan for Potential Bond Proceeds in the Board packet and then went over each of the items in detail at the meeting.

Paulius asked if the copy machines are always leased.

Janusz responded that it is always leased as it is less expensive to lease the machine.

In addition, Pacanowski was able to provide an update regarding the partition walls in the Community Center. The cost of resurfacing them with vinyl is \$34,000; replacing them is \$62,000. All of the structural walls and hardware are 20+ years old and worn and just replacing the surfacing at that cost does not make sense. It is therefore recommended to replace the walls for \$62,000.

Lawrence asked for verification that the walls on the East end of the building will not be replaced for a total of \$62,000.

Pacanowski responded that they will not be replaced as they are newer and not in need of replacement. There are 3 walls that would be replaced in the original section of the building.

Pacanowski asked if work can be scheduled for the walls since there is a currently a good price quoted and crews are available to begin work, or if the Board would prefer to wait until the budget is approved.

It was unanimously agreed to begin with work on the partition walls.

Discuss Harvester Park/Com Ed Culvert Replacement

Pacanowski informed the Board that after some negotiations with Com Ed, a proposal of \$300 annual fee for access to the road and tax split for a \$1200 total annual fee , and a cost split for repair of the culvert estimated at a total of \$55,000-\$70,000 was offered. Negotiations are still ongoing however.

Quigley asked if the Park District currently has access to the road. Pacanowski responded not at this time.

Pacanowski responded that gravel was originally added to the road for access and the original agreement has expired. There was no charge for access at the time of the original agreement.

Quigley asked for verification that there are two parts to the negotiation: a tax split, and a split for the cost of repair of the culvert.

Pacanowski responded that the total annual fee of \$1200 covers the tax and annual usage fee. The second part is the split cost of the repair.

Caplis stated that if ComEd is not using the access road, attempt a negotiation of a donation of the land to the park district and ComEd assumes the cost of maintaining the road.

Caplis asked if the park district is currently able to access the road as it is now without the culvert repaired.

Pacanowski responded that there is minimal access with a landscape vehicle. However, the biggest impact is with people trying to use the trails. There is a large open trench which can't be left open for safety reasons.

It was unanimously decided to respond with a maximum of \$10,000 for repair cost, an annual fee and tax split after appropriate documentation is submitted regarding the property.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Preliminary FY 26-27 Capital Improvements Fund Budget

Pacanowski presented the Preliminary FY 26-27 Capital Improvements Fund Budget and went over in detail the budgetary options for bond proceeds which are with refinancing and without bond proceeds, and with harvester highway improvements and without.

Quigley asked what the park district is comfortable allowing as a minimum capital fund balance.

Pacanowski stated that this has not been established yet. There are policy numbers currently in place for operating but not capital funds.

Quigley asked if it is anticipated that funds will be transferred from operating funds into capital funds.

Pacanowski stated that it would be desirable to transfer from operating funds at the last possible moment because once money is transferred out of operating funds into capital funds, there is no longer flexibility. Currently, by policy it is near the ceiling and will soon no longer be an option.

Quigley stated that another option would be to wait to refinance for another year.

Lawrence stated that the Burr Ridge Park District is a fantastic park system. The addition of another element at Harvester Park is a nice idea; however, it may be getting to the point where it may not be possible to come out on top of it.

Pacanowski responded that the proposed budget was whittled down from \$1.3 million to \$850,000 which created more flexibility and there may be even more flexibility when refinancing at this number.

Lawrence stated that if there is no interest being paid on refinancing that also creates flexibility.

Pacanowski stated that the park district has one of the lowest tax rates in the state and has never had a grievance from a taxpayer regarding taxes. It is exceptional to be able to accomplish what this park district has, stay within this model, and still maintain such a low tax rate.

Caplis asked what is currently being paid in bonds.

Janusz replied that it is \$320,000.

Caplis stated that this is a big chunk of the budget which expires at what year.

Janusz replied that this bond ends 2030.

Caplis stated that he has voted for bonds in the past because it was for major projects which were needed such as buildings, etc. Caplis stated he is not in favor of borrowing money for maintenance and upkeep. All projects and elements that have been built will need maintenance and upkeep and eventually taxes will need to be raised in order to maintain all of these items. It is fiscally responsible to attempt to live within our means and not to build shiny objects for the point of building shiny objects. Caplis stated he is not in favor of taking a bond for another project.

Pacanowski stated that if the first phase only of Harvester Highway were attempted, it would be a tremendous project for \$35,000, so that is another option. Most of the items in the budget are replacement of capital assets currently owned. Taxes are paid in part for maintenance and upkeep, if one considers infrastructure replacements as maintenance and upkeep.

Caplis stated that the park district could request a bond at any time and asked what the lead time is for a bond.

Janusz responded that lead time is approximately 30 to 60 days. Janusz added that if a bond is not refinanced, a taxpayer will most likely not notice a savings on their tax bill; however, if the park district requests a bond a few years down the road and the tax bill increases at that point, the taxpayer will notice the increase in their bill.

Quigley asked if the Board Members were comfortable with any one of the budgetary options.

It was unanimously agreed that the budget option with Phase I of Harvester Highway was most appealing.

Quigley stated that under those conditions, it will not be necessary for representatives from Raymond James to attend the next Board meeting.

Review FY 2026-27 Budget Schedule

The budget schedule was presented to the Board for the FY 2026-27 Budget. Discussion of refinance will be removed from the schedule.

The June board meeting date will be set in the near future.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Caplis asked for verification of the Beary landscaping bills.

Pacanowski stated that they are a large company and there is a disconnect with the billing office. Attempts are being made for a timelier billing process, but all charges have been vetted and were anticipated.

Caplis asked for verification of the bill for rental insurance.

Pacanowski responded that rentals needing alcohol insurance go through the park district with costs reimbursed by the renter.

Caplis asked for verification of the Storytime Train supply bill and asked if this program made a profit.

Campbell responded that net profit over direct expenses was \$5,000 with only 2 trains.

Caplis asked for verification of Christmas gifts for staff.

Pacanowski responded that all part time staff received a \$25 gift card at Christmas.

Caplis asked for verification of a check for Griffin Davis.

Campbell responded that he worked preschool and is the son of preschool teacher Mandy Davis.

Quigley asked for verification of the aerator repair bill.

Pacanowski responded that this is for the Oak Grove aerator component rebuild, a good example of an expenditure for the capital budget aerator fund.

Caplis moved to Approve the February, 2026 bills, seconded by Paulius, and approved by roll call vote.

Ayes: Caplis, Lawrence, Paulius, Quigley Nays: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

Caplis moved, seconded by Paulius and unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Stednitz
Recording Secretary

h/jamie/board/minutes/brpd minutes February 9 2026