

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF DECATUR PARK
DISTRICT, MACON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD AT
DECATUR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
620 E. RIVERSIDE AVENUE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS
AT 12:00 NOON ON THE 17th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025**

The Board of Park Commissioners of the Decatur Park District, Macon County, Illinois, met in a regular session on Wednesday, the 17th of December, 2025 at the hour of 12:00 Noon at the Decatur Park District Administration Office, 620 E. Riverside Avenue, Decatur, Illinois at which time and place there were present the following officers and members of said Board:

Dr. Kristin White, President
Chris Harrison, Vice President
Shelith Hansbro, Commissioner
Stacey Young, Commissioner
Bob Brilley, Commissioner

A quorum of the members of the Board of Park Commissioners being present, President Dr. Kristin White called the meeting to order and declared the Board to be in session for the transaction of business.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States was recited.

PUBLIC HEARING Having been published; a hearing was held to receive public comments. President Dr. White declared the public hearing open for public comment concerning the required Truth in Taxation hearing for Ordinance No 2025-30 levying the taxes for the Decatur Park District for the 2025 Tax Levy (Compliance with Truth in Taxation Law). No one from the public presented any questions or comments. No action was taken during the hearing.

NO.16443 A motion was made by Commissioner Hansbro and seconded by Commissioner Young to close the public hearing. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

NO. 16444 A motion to approve items 1-2 on the Consent Agenda was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Harrison. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
2. Bills for Approval

NO. 16445 Staff recommended approval of Ordinance 2025-30 levying the taxes for the Decatur Park District for FY26-27. The total dollar amount being recommended for approval is \$13,350,452. This levy is based on the Estimated Value Report received from the County of \$1,182,962,167. This denotes an 8.5% increase over the 2024 levy. The increased levy allows for much needed additional funding in the Decatur Park District operating funds as well as capitals, to help with increases in construction and equipment costs. After a short discussion

and reiterating that the Decatur Park District rate has not increased in 4 years even though the EAV set by the County has increased. A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Harrison to approve Ordinance 2025-30 levying the taxes for the Decatur Park District for FY26-27. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

Note: Agenda item number 5 Presentation was moved to item number 2. Progression went as follows.

PRESENTATION OF PLANS FOR A NEW SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER AT SCOVILL PARK WEST Executive Director, Clay Gerhard introduced AEX Senior Partner, Larry Livergood who attended the meeting to present with Clay to the board of commissioners a schematic plan, virtual walk through of plans and several representations for the board's consideration. After a thorough presentation and detailed discussion Clay updated the board on the estimated timeline. Staff anticipate having bids out for contractors to review sometime in January. Contractors will then have approximately 45 days to review the plans and submit their bids. After bids are received, staff will bring to the board for approval at the following board meeting. Clay then thanked Larry and his team.

NO. 16446 Staff recommended approval of Ordinance 2025-32 for authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and existing land and facilities of the District, including paying costs of construction of the District's new Scovill Park West Activity Center and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto. Aaron Gold, Senior Vice President Municipal Advisor for Speer Financial, Inc. attended the meeting via zoom to explain the process and answer any questions the board of commissioners may have. After an extended discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Harrison and seconded by Commissioner Young to approve Ordinance 2025-32 for authorizing the issuance of General Obligation Park Bonds (Alternate Revenue Source). Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

NO. 16447 Staff recommended approval of the purchase of a RT3 Flight Continuous Friction Meter for runway friction testing from Halliday Technologies, Delaware, OH for \$67,603.73. This purchase will be made under the General Services Administration (GSA) purchasing agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Brilley and seconded by Commissioner Harrison to approve the purchase of a RT3 Flight Continuous Friction Meter for runway friction testing. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

NO. 16448 Staff recommended approval of a proposal from Architectural Expressions LLP, Forsyth, IL for the design and bidding services for a new alligator exhibit at Scovill Zoo in the amount of \$231,000. This project will include a significant redesign of the central part of Scovill Zoo as well as include the initial civil and hydraulic design for the new otter exhibit to be built in the future as both exhibits have water lines and flow rates. A motion was made by Commissioner Harrison and seconded by Commissioner Hansbro to approve a proposal from Architectural Expressions LLP, Forsyth, IL for the design and bidding services for a new alligator exhibit at Scovill Zoo. Upon call of the roll, all voted aye.

CFO Thank you office and finance staff for helping with Trees on the Tees. Staff continuously steps up and helps prep smores in addition to working several nights at the event.

As a reminder the Decatur Park District winter break starts on December 26th and ends December 31st.

RECREATION The DISC is doing a Countdown to 26' by having A-Z DISC highlights during the last 26 days of the year.

Applications are being accepted and interviews are being scheduled for two open positions at the DISC.

Scovill Zoo gift shop will be open today, December 17th through December 22nd. Guests will also have the opportunity to buy zoo memberships during these times.

Trees on the Tees has currently sold over 20,000 tickets.

The Christmas Senior luncheon was well attended with 85 participants.

Devon shows continue to be announced. Currently Sara Evans has over 700 tickets sold. A big show recently announced was Air Supply. Staff continue to confirm shows as the season is starting to take shape. Dustin is doing a great job.

AIRPORT SkyWest enplanements are up 400 with only 214 to go to reach the 10,000 enplanement goal. Inclement weather has caused 14 flight delays and 3 cancelations for the month of November. Crews have continued to deal with the snow with a 21.5" total snow fall for the season thus far.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS Weather has not been our friend recently. Crews have been busy with snow removal. Prior to the snow fall crews worked on replacing the Nelson Park lake front decking and water pavilion area. The remainder of the decking will be installed as weather permits.

Scovill Park Educational Building soffit repairs are at a standstill due to the weather. Crews hope to have it finished before the end of the year.

The final documentation as required for permitting is completed for the East Mound Park Soccer Complex parking lot expansion and will be submitted to the city for the construction permit.

Through a federal grant the City of Decatur has installed and maintains EV charging stations in Fairview Park and Nelson Park.

FOUNDATION Kudos to all that helped with the Foundation Holiday party and thank you to all that attended. Aly is grateful for the support. It was a success!

MARKETING helped Aly with ads for Decatur Parks Foundation End of Year Giving to the Scovill Zoo Endowment.

Marketing staff had a meeting with MidState staff to discuss a marketing push for Little Kritters.

Press Releases continue to be sent out for Season 2026 Devon shows.

Digital and Social Media ads are running for gift card promotions, Greater Decatur Chorale Concert and Princess Ball tickets.

The Decatur Airport is WCIA's Santa Tracker again this year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR introduced the Decatur Park District's newly hired Park Police Officer, Brian Maxwell to the board of commissioners. Brian is a 20 year veteran of the Litchfield police department. After his retirement he worked for Macon County as a Court Security Officer. Please welcome Officer Maxwell to the Decatur Park District Police team.

Kudos to the entire Decatur Park District staff for their work during 2025.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Brilley Thank you all for another great year. Staff has done a fantastic job! Have a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Hansbro Thank you all and thank you board members.

Welcome to the team Officer Maxwell.

Commissioner Young Thank you all and Happy Holidays!

Commissioner Harrison Kudos to staff! Attending Trees on the Tees is such a magical experience. Thank you to everyone involved especially Clay.

President Dr. White Great job! Have a great Holiday!

Commissioner Young made and Commissioner Harrison seconded a motion that the meeting adjourn. All voted aye and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:46 p.m.

/s/ Melanie Moore
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners

/s/ Dr. Kristin White
President, Board of Park Commissioners