

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT OCTOBER 2025

ADMINISTRATION

We are back at the Community Center for the October 16, 2025, Board Meeting. The November 20, 2025, Board Meeting will be held at Square Links Golf Course and Practice Center, as determined during the May organizational meeting, and will include annual department reports and contributions to Wildcats Football and Cheerleading, Frankfort Square Baseball League, and Scouts generated by this year's beverage sales at the golf course.

Work is progressing nicely on the Hunter Prairie Park Redevelopment OSLAD Grant project. Following a successful proof roll over the base, asphalt was poured to make a beautiful new walking path that winds throughout the park. Also, the basketball point and shoot area now has asphalt and a hoop. Fencing was installed for the tennis courts and community garden area. The nets were installed for the batting cages. New cement sidewalks were added, providing access to and between the various areas within the park.

Will County manages the majority of the Park District's tax distributions and Cook County provides a comparatively lesser amount, but it is steadily increasing due to commercial development. Will County is on schedule for this year's distributions. At this time last year, the FSPD received 49% of the expected Cook County tax distributions with the remainder coming primarily in March and April. This year, the FSPD has received less than 1% and the second installment bills are delayed due to issues with Cook County's computer system. The FSPD has a Fund Balance Policy in place with reserves to manage situations like this with the goal of maintaining financial stability and sufficient cash flow to support District operations.

LEGAL

The October agenda includes the required Truth in Taxation Resolution in accordance with the Truth in Taxation law. We are putting forth this "balloon levy" in order to capture new growth, especially the proposed commercial development in Tinley Park. Without inflating the levy in this manner, we could lose the tax dollars provided by any new growth. This development would increase the Park District's EAV, and with the development being added to the tax rolls, this cost would not be passed on to taxpayers. A park district cannot receive more than the law allows by the property tax calculation, so even if the estimated levy is higher than the results of the final levy figures, the FSPD will only receive what is established by the final EAV and new growth figures.

The agenda also includes consideration of the annual liquor license renewal for Square Links through the Will County Liquor Control Commission and the State of Illinois Liquor Control Commission as required for the sale and consumption of beer and wine at the golf course.

At the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting, Dalena Welkomer of Baird was designated as the FSPD's Bond Underwriter. Dalena, along with the entire Illinois Public Finance Team, moved to Raymond James & Associates, Inc. The agenda includes the updated business name for her continued financial support.

The agenda also includes travel expense forms for the 2026 BDC dance competitions. The requests are for staff travel, lodging, and meals and incidental expenses established by the Government Services Administration guidelines, as required by Park District Ordinance No. 16-12-301.

MAINTENANCE

Staff restocked the ponds at Community, Lighthouse Pointe, Woodlawn, and Plank Trail Parks with 1,000+ fish including Bluegill, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass, Redear Sunfish, and Triploid Grass Eating Carp.

This is a fun time of year for the parks department staff. They enjoy shining up the tractor and hay wagon and providing hayrides for our preschool and BAS students. 100+ pumpkins are on their way to the FSPD pumpkin patch for the students' Halloween enjoyment.

RECREATION

October is an extra special month in preschool with visits from the Frankfort Fire Department for a lesson on fire prevention, class pictures, and Halloween parties with hayrides, pumpkins, and trick or treating.

Later this month, a group of active adults are headed to Starved Rock for lunch and a performance from "The King of Rock and Roll."

SPECIAL RECREATION

LWSRA hosted the Grand Opening of Hero's Village on September 25. It was a fun event showcasing the new sensory opportunities available for all at the Leigh Creek South Park adjacent to the LWSRA Recreation Center in New Lenox.

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2025.

GOLF COURSE

Many thanks to everyone who sponsored, donated, participated, and worked the College Scholarship Classic. The "Beat the Board Member" Hole was a tremendous success allowing for another scholarship to be added for a deserving high school senior.

The 2026 College Scholarship Program application will become available on the Park District's website, in hard copy at the Community Center, and at the LWE PPS Office, coinciding with the release of the winter/spring brochure. High school-aged students that live within the borders of the Frankfort Square Park District are encouraged to apply. Completed applications are due by March 3, 2026, and can be emailed to admin@fspd.org, or dropped off at the Park District's Community Center.

Hunter Rowe, Golf Course Superintendent, overseeded the new green in the practice area in addition to regular mowing and fertilizing. It has progressed almost to the point of being cared for like the other greens throughout the course. We expect to open this new opportunity in the spring.

OFFICE

The front office staff managed registration for the Polar Express special event. FSPD residents are given priority and filled both available train cars. We are fortunate that Metra offers this opportunity in our area. Residents who have any questions or extra tickets are asked to contact the Park Office to avoid interaction with individuals on social media misrepresenting ticket availability.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Staff participated in the annual Health Program Council Meeting as part of PDRMA Health, the insurance pool available through our Park District Risk Management Agency. PDRMA provides coverage for more than 4,300 individuals at 89 member agencies and their goal is to keep annual rate increases below the medical trend. One of the benefits of participating in this pool is a 5% discount in the property/casualty program that includes property, liability, workers compensation, employment practice, pollution liability, and cyber coverage. 2026 marks the third year of our three-year commitment and we will continue our participation in the same high-deductible plan which is a requirement for a health savings account.

FOIA

The Park District received a commercial Freedom of Information Act request from Concourse Tech Inc. in New York requesting documents pertaining to software subscriptions purchased over the past 24 months. Staff and the District's IT contractor gathered the requested documents and responded within the required timeline.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director