

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

ADMINISTRATION

The second draft of the budget will be provided at the February Board Meeting. Since the last meeting, the budget draft has been updated to reflect the new CPI. Staff are also preparing a list of potential capital improvement projects and projected expenses.

Looking ahead, the March Board Meeting will include the third draft of the 2026/2027 budget along with annual full-time salary reviews and potential capital improvement projects.

The independent auditing firm, Lauterbach and Amen, is completing the required audit of the Hunter Prairie Park Renovation Project per the OSLAD grant requirements. Also, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources mailed the OSLAD sign for posting at the park site. Staff are to take photos of all the amenities made possible by the grant to complete the grant closeout process and request the final distribution.

Following completion of the work last fall, the park opened for residents to enjoy. Staff are planning a Party in the Park to officially celebrate the renovation when weather conditions are more favorable in May. Details will be available in the 2026 brochure, on the FSPD website, and on Facebook.

An interpretive sign is ready for installation at Hunter Prairie Park once the ground thaws this spring. The sign honors Pam and Jim Kohlbacher and details their community service through the FSPD and Summit Hill School District. The FSPD is grateful for the longtime efforts of Pam, Jim, and the entire Kohlbacher family in support of the Frankfort Square community.

The 2026 College Scholarship applications are available at the Park Office, on the FSPD website, and at the Lincoln-Way East PPS Office. This program was established in 2006 by the Board of Commissioners and to date, has awarded \$161,000 in scholarships to college-bound high school seniors that reside within FSPD's borders. Funds are raised through local business donations highlighted at our annual College Scholarship Classic in September. Completed applications are due March 3, 2026. The judging committee is comprised of Board Members and key staff.

Staff met with the Park District's Reliable Property Services representative to discuss the upcoming golf season and our agreement. The annual Reliable increase is tied to the Consumer Price Index. We are all looking forward to another great season at Square Links!

MAINTENANCE

Many thanks to the entire maintenance staff for their efforts during multiple snow events this season. They continue to work hard to keep the parking lots and entrances clear for residents and program participants. Also, we prioritize clearing the 10 miles of walking paths and residents regularly share their appreciation for this service.

RECREATION

The Mother Son Fun Day at Lincoln-Way North gave boys and their moms the opportunity to run, jump, and bounce through the fieldhouse on Saturday, January 31. This new event, developed directly from resident input, was a great idea that resulted in a fun and memorable day for all participants.

300+ residents are registered for the two upcoming Daddy/Daughter Dances at The Square. This event continues to be one of the most popular and enjoyable offerings of the year.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for February 17.

In addition to its own programming, LWSRA provides staff who serve as inclusion aides for individuals requiring additional assistance in FSPD programming. Currently, LWSRA provides inclusion aides for students enrolled in our Before and After School Program.

GOLF COURSE

Staff hosted a booth at the Tinley Park Golf Show and Square Links served as an event sponsor by providing two foursomes of golf which were raffled off to attendees. This continues to be a wonderful opportunity to introduce Square Links Golf Course & Practice Center to new golfers as well as a great way to stay in touch with our regulars.

Super Bowl Sunday at Square Links is a treasured tradition for golfers throughout the area. This year, 33 golfers braved the cold temperatures and joined us for a fun day. As a bonus, the parade route to celebrate the State Champion Lincoln-Way East Cheer ran past the golf course and both golfers and staff shared in the excitement.

OFFICE

The front office staff are doing an excellent job managing preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year, and we are pleased to see an increase in enrollment over last year. The optional additional day for the 4-year-olds and extended opportunities that introduce lunchtime together, followed by a focused topic for the month, continue to grow.

Dance registration and F.A.N. pass sales are strong in the new year. Staff continue working on ways to streamline the registration process for residents.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The FSPD successfully completed last year's Risk Management Review with a score well above the PDRMA average for all 150+ member agencies and agencies of similar size. The second year of this three-year process has begun with staff reviewing agency loss information and near misses to complete this year's kickoff form. Later this month, staff will meet with our PDRMA representative to finalize areas of focus and establish a timeline for completion.

FOIA

Staff received and fulfilled a FOIA request for staff salary and benefit information. Many Illinois park districts received the same request, and it was not specific to our agency.

In response to cyber-attack concerns, Illinois State Law now requires that FOIA requests submitted by email clearly describe the requested records within the body of the email. Park District FOIA Officers and staff are not required to open attachments or click hyperlinks to determine the content of a request. The FSPD website has been updated with instructions reflecting the new legislation.

Respectfully submitted:

Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director