EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
NOVEMBER 2026

ADMINISTRATION

Reminder – the November Board Meeting will be held at the Square Links Golf Course Clubhouse.

Casey Becker will take the Oath of Office following his appointment to the Park Board of Commissioners at the September 17, 2026 Board Meeting.

Pat Carr, Tinley Park Village Manager, will be in attendance to provide a brief update on development projects underway in Tinley Park.

We welcome the following staff to the November Board Meeting to provide annual department presentations: Ed Reidy, Superintendent of Parks; John Keenan, Superintendent of Recreation; Dan Coughlin, Athletic Supervisor; and Nicolette Jerik, Superintendent of Office Administration, Software, and Technology.

In addition, we welcome representatives from the Frankfort Square Baseball League, Wildcats Football and Cheer, and Scouts. Beverage sales were strong this year at Square Links, and we are happy to share revenues that were generated with these valued community organizations.

On November 4, staff attended the annual PDRMA Property/Casualty Program Council Meeting where member agency park, special recreation, and forest preserve districts reviewed and approved the 2027 coverage documents and budget. PDRMA provides members with coverage across multiple lines, including property, liability, workers' compensation, employment practices, pollution, and cyber security.

PDRMA reported that 2025 was a challenging year for claims, with unfavorable trends continuing in 2026. Their 2027 budget includes restructured and increased member contributions along with cost saving measures to address rising costs and maintain the long-term financial stability of the risk management pool.

Staff attended the IAPD Legal Symposium on November 5. Topics included the latest on workplace legislation, recent FOIA and OMA opinions, municipal finance, new laws and key legislative issues from the 104th General Assembly, constructions contracts, and mitigating exposure to liability.

The December Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 7 at the Community Center, and includes the Truth in Taxation public hearing from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. Legal notice of this public hearing will be published in the November 27 edition of the *Daily Southtown*. The regular meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the meeting agenda includes consideration of the annual Tax Levy Ordinance.

LEGAL

The November agenda includes, for Board consideration, an ordinance regulating the operation of electronic devices and vehicles on Park District property as incorporated in the Illinois Vehicle Code. This Ordinance works cooperatively with the new laws passed by the State of Illinois that will go into effect January 1, 2027.

Board consideration is also requested for the disposal of equipment no longer necessary. Upon Board approval, the equipment would be sold.

Also on the agenda is a request for Board consideration of travel expense reimbursement that would enable staff to attend the annual IAPD/IPRA Conference to be held in Chicago January 28-30, 2027.

MAINTENANCE

Winterization procedures are underway as staff work to protect outdoor facilities from the upcoming winter conditions. Staff are strengthening the checklist with additional detail and photographs to ensure all necessary steps are completed.

Seasonal preparations include winterizing plumbing, irrigation systems, and drinking fountains as well as removing batting cage netting and tennis and pickleball nets for indoor storage. Also, staff are preparing for the first snowfall by installing the plows on maintenance vehicles and ensuring equipment is ready to clear parking lots and walkways to keep residents, program participants, and staff safe.

RECREATION

Staff are finalizing the Winter/Spring 2027 brochure, which is scheduled to be mailed to residents in December.

Metra notified the Park District of a full weekend closure of its Rock Island Line due to rail improvements. The closure impacts the popular Polar Express event and required the event to be rescheduled to December 12, 2026. FSPD staff promptly notified the 200+ registered participants of the change. We appreciate the participants' understanding and flexibility, as well as Metra's willingness to accommodate the event on an alternate date.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next Lincolnway Special Recreation Association Board Meeting is scheduled for November 17, and pertinent information can be provided at our December Board Meeting.

LWSRA provides inclusion staff in support of residents participating in FSPD programming. These staff members are funded through the LWSRA operating budget.

Out of the eight LWSRA member agencies, the FSPD has received the highest level of inclusion staffing support during the current fiscal year, with $14,373.82 in inclusion staffing costs since June 1, 2026. This represents 122% of the line item budgeted for FSPD inclusion in the June 2026 – May 2027 LWSRA budget.

Demand for inclusion fluctuates based on program registration and is most prevalent in the Summer Day Camp and Before and After School Programming. We greatly appreciate LWSRA's continued support and recognize the financial strain that this level of demand places on its operating budget. In response, LWSRA staff are exploring more sustainable strategies to support inclusion needs while balancing the financial impact on LWSRA.

GOLF COURSE

Square Links has benefitted from favorable weather this year and plans to stay open through the weekend of November 22, weather permitting.

The greens were aerated, and golf carts are scheduled to be picked up for winter storage. The themed golf carts continue to be very popular with golfers. Staff and patrons are brainstorming ideas for a new themed golf cart to debut next spring.

RISK MANAGEMENT

On November 20, staff will attend PDRMA's Risk Management Institute (RMI) at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Cybersecurity will be a large focus during this year's RMI. Keynote speaker, Robert Siciliano, an identity theft and digital safety expert, will challenge attendees to view cybersecurity as a life skill rather than an IT responsibility. Additional sessions include protecting your identity, digital life, and workplace in the AI world and balancing the influx of electronic communications and digital distractions. Sessions on conflict in youth sports and crisis management are also offered. Due to budget constraints, PDRMA will not host the RMI in 2027. It is hoped the event will return in 2028.

FOIA

A FOIA request was received from Priced to Win, a company that publishes public bid results for facility service contractors (custodial, snow removal, and grounds maintenance). Staff provided the requested documents from the 2026 landscape maintenance services bid.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director