

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULY 2026

ADMINISTRATION

A reminder that the July 16, 2026, Board Meeting will be held at the Square Links Clubhouse, as determined during the May organizational meeting.

The general obligation and refunding bond payments due July 1, 2026, totaling \$42,296.88, were paid to Amalgamated Bank.

Staff received and are reviewing the first draft of the audit from Lauterbach and Amen. The final report is scheduled to be completed and available for distribution at the August Board Meeting.

We are working with the Lincoln-Way Community High School District and the film production company on facility usage at Lincoln-Way North to accommodate the users. Ballfield usage is temporarily paused between July 13 – 27. Also, filming restricts access to the outer drive around the school. F.A.N. participants are using the southernmost entrance and exit off Harlem Avenue.

Efforts continue on the website accessibility project with staff attending a webinar presented by representatives from Ancel Glink and Lauterbach and Amen titled *Complying with the New Title II ADA Rule on Web Content Accessibility*. The presenters reviewed the requirements to ensure web content and mobile applications are accessible to individuals with special needs and offered practical advice on implementation and technical standards. The FSPD is committed to digital accessibility and improving the user experience for everyone. We are taking this opportunity to review the website and make improvements compliant with the new rules in advance of the 2028 deadline.

The Illinois House of Representatives officially declared July as Park and Recreation Month in Illinois. House Resolution 900 celebrates the over 2,000 park commissioners and professional staff who dedicate themselves to enriching communities across Illinois. Congratulations and thank you for all you do to make our community stronger, healthier, and more connected.

MAINTENANCE

Following the recent storms and holiday activities, staff have been focused on cleanup efforts throughout the parks. Staff removed numerous damaged tree limbs and contractors will address the trees that require more specialized training and equipment. Also, fencing was damaged at Champions Park, and the pickleball courts are closed. Players are directed to use the Community Park courts until the Champions Park courts are able to reopen following repair.

RECREATION

The Party in the Park celebration brought the community together on July 9 to mark the successful redevelopment of Hunter Prairie Park with an afternoon filled with joy. More than 200 children, parents, and grandparents attended the event, enjoying the park's new amenities and a variety of family-friendly activities.

A special highlight of the event was the unveiling of a new interpretive sign honoring Pam and Jim Kohlbacher whose many years of dedicated service and commitment have made a lasting impact on the community. Their contributions were recognized and celebrated alongside the park's exciting new chapter.

Staff in both the Early Childhood and Summer Day Camps have been very flexible this year with challenging weather conditions. They have creatively adapted field trips and plans to ensure an enjoyable summertime experience for all campers. Registration continues to be strong in these valued programs.

SPECIAL RECREATION

The next LWSRA Board Meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2026. Their 50th Anniversary Sneaker Ball was a fun event and enjoyed by many guests and LWSRA families.

GOLF COURSE

The new patriotic-themed golf cart celebrating America 250 arrived just in time for the 4th of July holiday weekend and has been a tremendous hit with the golfers.

This year's expansion of youth leagues and lessons has proven to be popular and is growing the game of golf. We are grateful for the efforts of both talented instructors, Matt Majors and Suzie Owens. Also, the \$12 July youth golf special continues our efforts to promote youth golf and has been well received by families.

Plans are underway for this year's College Scholarship Golf Classic scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2026. This is our big fundraising effort, and we are grateful for the continued support from our community, contractors, and vendors enabling the Park District to award \$168,000 in college scholarships to deserving students since introducing the program in 2006.

OFFICE

Staff are completing a District-wide review of facility keys and fobs. Access control is an ongoing priority to provide community groups, gardeners, dog park users, and staff the access they need to FSPD facilities while balancing our commitment to the safety of all users.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Cheryl Morley, PDRMA's Risk Management Consultant, reviewed the District's Risk Management Review information and confirmed that we are on track to complete all aspects of the review in the second year of this three-year process.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

The Miles for Maddog Awareness Walk was a wonderful event that started and ended at The Square. Walkers completed routes through Island Prairie and Indian Boundary South Parks that featured Gratitude Stations, a Transplant Trail, and a Tribute Trail. It was a moving gathering of community and support.

The Giving Tree Ceremony was postponed due to wet conditions following heavy rainfall. It is rescheduled for September.

FOIA

A FOIA request was received and responded to within the appropriate timeframe. The requestor, Judiciocracy LLC, was provided with documents posted in compliance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140, listing the FSPD's e-mail and e-mail service provider, and documentation showing the FSPD's junk mail, e-mail spam, and/or filters related to handling unsolicited emails and/or messages from unknown senders, including but not limited to documentation showing retention periods, filtering, safe senders, junk/spam senders, blocked senders, and any reporting mechanism for the same. The cost spreadsheet is attached to the July agenda that includes a summary of the request along with staff and legal costs.

Respectfully submitted:
Audrey Marcquenski
Executive Director