

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF MAY 12, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Fargo Park District office at 6100 38th Street South, Fargo, North Dakota and via Restream. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Jerry Rostad, Zoé Absey, Vicky Dawson, and Joe Deutsch. Also present were: Dave Bietz, Jayne Gust and Attorney Jeff Gunkelman.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Joe Duetsch moved and Commissioner Jerry Rostad seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Jerry Rostad moved and Commissioner Zoé Absey seconded a motion to approve the following actions on the consent agenda:

- (a) The minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting;
- (b) The April bills;
- (c) Bid for the Anderson Complex Baseball Fence Replacement Project to American Security and Gate Company in the amount of \$51,000.00;
- (d) Bid for Brunsdale Park Dugout Replacement Project to Dakota Fence in the amount of \$ 50,972.00;
- (e) Approval of Easement Agreements for Parking at Scheel’s Arena;

Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Members of the public were afforded the opportunity to discuss issues with the Board.

Director’s Report

Dave Beitz updated the board on various Park District matters. No action was taken on this matter.

Special Assessment Committee (SAC) Presentation

Brock Lietz presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that the City of Fargo previously administered all special assessments for neighborhood parks. It was noted that the City of Fargo requested that the Park District establish its own committee to set the benefits determinations for lots. It was noted that the SAC’s purpose is to establish the benefit that a neighborhood park has on a neighborhood and put that benefit into a monetary figure using both tangible and intangible metrics. It was noted that the before the Commission is the proposed metric guide that the SAC will use when placing benefits on lots for neighborhood parks. I

Commissioner Jerry Rostad moved and Commissioner Joe Deutsch seconded a motion to approve the metric for benefit determination to establish special assessment districts as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously

Fare Increase Proposal for Metro Senior Ride Service

Cindy Girdner presented to the Board on this matter. It was noted that Valley Senior Services (VSS) is requesting a fare increase from \$3.00 to \$4.00. It was noted that the last fare increase was in 2012, when fares were increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00. It was noted that VSS has traditionally kept its fares in line with MAT Paratransit, who recently increased their fares from \$3.00 to \$4.00. It was noted that the fare increase would be implemented on approximately August 1, after notice to its users is provided to allow time for feedback. VSS expressed concerns that if the fares are not increased that they may need to cut back on services it provides. VSS expressed that if there are seniors who cannot financially afford a ride that it finds solutions to still provide rides.

Commission Absey expressed concerns about the fare increases due to senior citizens living on fixed budgets and other expenses in their lives have increased in recent years. Commissioner Absey was concerned that the fare increase could be a barrier to seniors accessing rides. Commissioner Dawson expressed concern with the process of approving the increased fares first and then seeking input from the senior community. Commissioner Dawson requested that VSS go get data about its users, about their feelings of the fare increase, how VSS identifies seniors who need its services, and what the increased fares will go toward, and then come back to the Board with a proposal. Commissioner Rostad additionally expressed concerns regarding senior citizens being approached about the fare increase who will be reluctant to provide VSS with information regarding their financial conditions. Commissioner Rostad requested that VSS take a proactive approach in identifying seniors who are in need of services. Commissioner Deutsch proposed a phased increase in fares over a period of years. Commissioner Deutsch further expressed concerns about approving the fare increase prior to having the feedback from the senior community.

No action was taken on this matter.

Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Vicki Dawson presented to the Board on updates from the Planning Committee. No action was taken on this matter.

At the conclusion of the above agenda items, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and upon unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:12 p.m.

Jeff Gunkelman, Kennelly Business Law, Clerk