MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE FARGO PARK DISTRICT OF OCTOBER 6, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Park District of the City of Fargo was held on Tuesday, October 6, 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 Joe Deutsch, Zoé Absey, Emily Secor May, Jerry Rostad and Vicki Dawson. Also present were: Susan Faus, Dave Bietz, Jayne Gust and attorney Jeff Gunkelman.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Zoé Absey seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Commissioner Joe Deutsch moved and Commissioner Vicki Dawson seconded a motion to approve the following actions on the consent agenda:

(a) The minutes the September 8, 2026 meeting;
(b) The September bills; and
(c) Solicit Bids for the 2027 Fargo Park District Projects as presented.

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

Susan Faus presented this matter and provided an informational update to the Board on the Park District related matters. No action was taken on this matter.

Approval of Back Forty Developers Agreement

Tyler Kirchner presented to the board on this matter. It was noted that this is part of a 61-acre property located south of 64th Avenue and west of Interstate 29. It was noted that the Agreement would create a 10 food wide path that is 3500 linear feet and help create a loop the Sports Center to the Future Retention Pond. It was noted that the path would be granted to the Park District via easement.

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Emily Secor May seconded a motion to approve the Back Forty Developers Agreement as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Resolutions for Plans and for Specifications; Advertise for Bids; and Acceptance of Bids for Park Improvement District 2026-1 and Park Improvement District No. 2026-2

Broc Lietz presented to the board on this matter. It was noted that these resolutions are attached to the Madelyn's Meadows and Selkirk Place 3rd Addition parks. It was noted that each district passed the protest period. It was noted that that the square footage percentage of protest for Madelyn's Meadows totaled 1% of the overall square footage of the special assessment district. It was noted that the square footage of protest for Selkirk 3rd Addition totaled 0.1% of the overall square footage of the special assessment district.

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Joe Duetsch seconded a motion to declare protests insufficient for Park Improvement District 2026-1 and Park Improvement District 2026-2 as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Vicki Dawson moved and Commissioner Zoé Absey seconded a motion to approve the resolutions for Park Improvement District 2026-1 and Park Improvement District 2026-2, as presented. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval to Apply for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Opportunity for Lindenwood Park Campground Improvements

Tony Schmitt presented to the board on this matter. It was noted that Lindenwood Park was originally established in 1921 and currently receives approximately $200,000 in annual revenue. It was noted that the park had approximately 5,200 camper nights in each of the last three years. It was noted that the upgrades to the camping facilities at the park are needed to modernize the park. Modern campers are larger than the current camping spots, there are electrical and water issues with the current camping locations, and Lindenwood is core park of the Park District. It was noted that this potential grant could award up to $2,000,000.00 in funds to assist with modernizing the camping facilities, would require a dollar for dollar match by the Park District, and that the earliest the project would start is 2029.

Commissioner Zoé Absey moved and Commissioner Joe Duetsch seconded a motion to approve staff to apply for an Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Opportunity for Lindenwood Park Campground improvements, as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2027 Final Budget

Broc Lietz presented to the board on this matter. It was noted that this final budget was part of a six-month process. It was noted that the September board meeting included a deep dive review of the entire budget by each department. It was noted that the final proposed budget is balanced, maintains stability within the Park District while maximizing operational flexibility, invests in the people, facilities, infrastructure, and community services, and positions the Park District to meet current needs while planning future growth.

Commissioner Zoé Absey moved and Commissioner Joe Duetsch seconded a motion to approve the 2027 Final Budget, as presented to the Board. Upon call of the roll, the motion passed unanimously.

Governance Committee Update

Commissioner Jerry Rostad presented to the Board updates from the previous Governance Committee meeting. No action was taken.

Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Zoé Absey presented to the Board updates from the previous Planning Committee meeting. No action was taken.

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 6:30 p.m.

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Jeff Gunkelman, Kennelly Business Law, Clerk