

## SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held  
June 17, 2025, at the SEASPAR Office  
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

**Call to Order:** Bill McAdam called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Present:	Village of Brookfield	Luke Gundersen
	Downers Grove Park District	Bill McAdam
	Village of Indian Head Park	Amy Eckert
	Park District of La Grange	Jenny Bechtold
	Community Park District of La Grange Park*	Jessica Cannaday
	Lemont Park District	Louise Egofske
	Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
	Village of Western Springs	Nancy Flores
	Westmont Park District	Bob Fleck
	Village of Willowbrook	Dustin Kleefisch
	Woodridge Park District	Jenny Knitter
	Executive Director	Matt Corso
	Superintendent	Dawn Krawiec
	Superintendent	Karen Lesniak
	Marketing Coordinator	Laura Pulido
	Recording Secretary	Morgan Mason
Absent:	Clarendon Hills Park District	Katie Gock
	Darien Park District	Stephanie Gurgone
Visitors:	Program Manager	Stephanie Stocks
	Recreation Coordinator	Jared Buchholz
	Village of Western Springs	Casey Biernacki
	Westmont Park District	Cliff Vickers

**Public Comment and Correspondence:**

***Introductions of Guests and Interim Board Member***

Bob Fleck introduced the Westmont Park District's intern, Cliff Vickers. Casey Biernacki, Deputy Village Manager from the Village of Western Springs, introduced himself. Nancy Flores, Interim Recreation Director and SEASPAR representative for the Village of Western Springs, introduced herself. The Board and staff introduced themselves.

\*Jessica Cannaday entered the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

***Presentation by Athletics Coordinator Jared Buchholz***

Matt Corso introduced Jared Buchholz, SEASPAR's Athletics Coordinator who began his tenure in February. Jared provided background information about himself. He described the current Athletics offerings, highlighting the new Special Olympics Cornhole sport for which two seasons

have been offered, and Power Soccer, which he plans to have compete in more tournaments. Jared provided the 2024 service hours and registration numbers, including service hours from Athletics for each member entity. He showed photos from recent regional tournaments and highlighted athletes' performances. He noted that SEASPAR's coaches are great and build relationships with participants, while the athletes are driven and motivate the coaches.

Jared noted that the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games was the coming weekend, and 24 athletes were competing with multiple participants in each sport. Jared remarked that he has been impressed with the work the athletes have been putting into their training; they have fun but are competitive, and as good as any athlete can be. He noted that in Power Soccer, he has been seeing growth in participants and received positive feedback from families about the program. Jared noted that his goal is to make an impact and start new programs, and he is currently looking at pickleball, soccer, and floor hockey. The Board thanked Jared for his presentation.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Jenny Knitter moved to approve the Minutes from the May 20, 2025, Board Meeting; Payment of Bills in the amount of \$100,279.80; the Bank Reconciliation ending May 31, 2025; the Income Statement from May 2025; and Current Investments for May 2025 as presented. Bob Fleck seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Woodridge, Westmont, Brookfield, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lemont, Lisle, Western Springs, Willowbrook, Downers Grove  
Voting Nay: None  
Absent, Not Voting: Clarendon Hills, Darien  
Motion Carried

**Recreation Report:**

Dawn Krawiec added to her report that the Woodridge Park District had generously welcomed SEASPAR participants to enjoy the Jubilee carnival for free in a low-stimulus environment on June 13. The 141 participants and family members who attended were grateful for the opportunity. Jenny Knitter noted that the carnival donates the time.

**Administrative Services Report:**

Karen Lesniak noted from her report that the summer trainings have proven helpful now that camps and programs are happening. She is working with staff through situations and noted that everyone is trying hard and doing a good job.

**Marketing Report:**

Laura Pulido added to her report that other SRAs have recently reached out to replicate SEASPAR marketing projects like the EmPowerWear store and branded stickers.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Matt Corso noted that each Board member was provided with six copies of the 2024 Annual Report. The report has been simplified over the years and Matt thanked Laura for her work on the project.

Matt added to his report that the recent focus has been on getting summer started and so far, programs have been running smoothly. He thanked staff for their hard work.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

***SEASPAR Chain of Command***

Matt Corso noted that the SEASPAR Chain of Command was presented to the Board for information purposes. It is also a Distinguished Accreditation requirement.

**Member Entity Projects and Events:**

Amy Eckert reported that the joint Indian Head Park/SEASPAR Movie in the Park event was scheduled for August 16; the movie will be *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. On August 5, the Village would also be hosting its National Night Out, and Amy invited SEASPAR to attend. Amy also noted that a participant had inquired about using the Acacia pool for SEASPAR programming. Matt Corso stated that it would be feasible and they would discuss.

Bob Fleck reported that the Westmont Park District splash pads had received their IDPH permit but there is still much work to do. He invited everyone to the District's 25<sup>th</sup> fireworks celebration on the Fourth of July.

Jessica Cannaday reported that the Greater La Grange YMCA is closing, and the Community Park District of La Grange Park may be assuming operation of the facility in July.

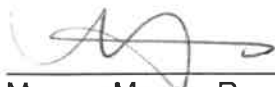
**Adjournment**

Bob Fleck moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of June 17, 2025, at 3:35 p.m. Louise Egofske seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Garvy, Secretary  
South East Association for  
Special Parks And Recreation



Morgan Mason, Recording Secretary