

# SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held  
January 20, 2026, at the SEASPAR Office  
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

**Call to Order:** Bill McAdam called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

|           |   |                   |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| Present:  | Clarendon Hills Park District             | Katie Gock        |
|           | Darien Park District                      | Stephanie Gurgone |
|           | 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  |
|           | Lisle Park District                       | Dan Garvy         |
|           | Village of Western Springs                | Nancy Flores      |
|           | Westmont Park District                    | Bob Fleck         |
|           | Village of Willowbrook                    | Dustin Kleefisch  |
|           | Woodridge Park District                   | Don Ritter        |
|           | Executive Director                        | Matt Corso        |
|           | Superintendent                            | Karen Lesniak     |
|           | Marketing Coordinator                     | Laura Pulido      |
|           | Recording Secretary                       | Morgan Mason      |
| Absent:   | Village of Brookfield                     | Stevie Ferrari    |
|           | Lemont Park District                      | Louise Egofske    |
| Visitors: | Program Manager                           | Stephanie Stocks  |
|           | Recreation Coordinator                    | Kate Giddings     |

**Public Comment and Correspondence:**

***Introduction of Recreation Coordinator Kate Giddings***

Matt Corso introduced Kate Giddings, the newly hired Recreation Coordinator supporting the EAGLES Adult Day Program. Kate gave a brief introduction, noting her experience as a lead staff with NWCSRA and her excitement to work with the EAGLES. The Board welcomed her.

***Presentation by Program Manager Stephanie Stocks, CTRS***

Matt Corso introduced Program Manager Stephanie Stocks, who has been with SEASPAR since 2023. Stephanie provided her background, noting that she began as the Youth Coordinator and was promoted to the Program Manager position in March of 2025. She oversees the Athletics Coordinator, Youth Coordinator, and part-time program staff. Stephanie highlighted her planning of the staff in-services, which are held three times per year before each program season starts. She noted that topics for the in-service typically include behavior management, safety, and program logistics, and highlighted a recent training on effective communication between staff and families. Stephanie noted that the new hire orientation was recently revamped to include video training for each program area. She also highlighted the

recreation of the behavior management training. Stephanie closed her presentation with recent photos of the part-time staff she oversees. The Board thanked her for her presentation.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Matt Corso noted two corrections to the November 18, 2025 Minutes: Jon Pratscher was listed in attendance for Lisle Park District instead of Dan Garvy, and an update about Spring Park was attributed to the Community Park District of La Grange Park instead of the Park District of La Grange. The Minutes would be revised.

Dustin Kleefisch moved to approve the Minutes from the November 18, 2025, Board Meeting as revised; and the List of Disbursements in the amount of \$254,594.46; the Bank Reconciliation ending December 31, 2025; the Income Statement from December 2025; and Current Investments for December 2025 as presented. Dan Garvy seconded the motion.

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

**Recreation Report:**

In Dawn Krawiec's absence, Matt Corso noted from her report that the Meet & Greets with member entity staff are starting again, with Willowbrook and Westmont having already been scheduled. The goal is to have one every other month to meet staff and view facilities.

Matt added to Dawn's report that La Grange Park police officers came to watch SEASPAR's Special Olympics basketball game in Lemont.

**Administrative Services Report:**

Karen Lesniak noted from her report that Open Enrollment was successful. She has also had meetings with the EAGLES Site Directors to review their benefits since December.

**Marketing Report:**

Laura Pulido added to her report that if any Board members would like to participate in the 1980s theme for the next program guide, they can send their photos to her.

Bill McAdam complimented the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Matt Corso added to his report that polos with the anniversary logo would be ordered for the Board, and he would reach out to collect sizes.

Matt congratulated the Park District of La Grange and Village of Indian Head Park on their receipt of OSLAD grants.

Matt added to his report that the audit fieldwork would take place the first week of February, and staff are working on providing preliminary information.

Matt thanked those who attended the Believe & Achieve Recognition Banquet, which hosted about 220 people. The 2027 event would be held on a Thursday night.

Matt added to his report that the service hours for 2025 are complete and he will report on them at the next meeting, but noted that the year saw all-time high service hours.

Matt noted from his report that he would be attending the IPRA/IAPD Conference January 29-31.

Bill McAdam thanked staff for executing the Believe & Achieve Recognition Banquet, noting that the event serves as a reminder of why the work that SEASPAR does is so important. Matt Corso noted that a special recognition was presented to Bill at the event for his service on the SEASPAR Board.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

***Strategic Plan Update***

Matt Corso thanked staff for achieving the initiatives in the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan. Staff have now completed the three-year plan. An RFP will be prepared this year to kick off a new Strategic Plan in 2027. Matt noted that he plans to begin the process this spring so it will be ready for Board approval in the fall.

***Approval of Audit Proposal***

Matt Corso presented the proposal provided by Lauterbach & Amen for audit and tax return services for FY2025, FY2026, and FY2027. He noted that their prices are reasonable and their staff are great to work with. Approving the proposal would authorize Matt to sign the contract for services.

Bob Fleck moved to approve the proposal for audit services by Lauterbach & Amen as presented. Dustin Kleefisch seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Westmont, Willowbrook, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lisle, Western Springs, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Lemont

Motion Carried

***Approval of Revised Personnel Manual***

Matt Corso presented the revised Personnel Manual, noting that new laws and an AI policy were included. The entire manual was reviewed by Ancel Glink. Discussion ensued regarding AI policies and training.

Dan Garvy moved to approve the revised Personnel Manual as presented. Bob Fleck seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Lisle, Westmont, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, Western Springs, Willowbrook, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Lemont  
Motion Carried

***Election of Officers***

Bill McAdam nominated the following slate of officers: Dan Garvy as President, Louise Egofske as Vice President, and Dustin Kleefisch as Secretary. Katie Gock moved to approve the proposed slate of officers. Jessica Cannaday seconded the motion.

Voting Aye: Clarendon Hills, La Grange Park, Darien, Indian Head Park, La Grange, Lisle, Western Springs, Westmont, Willowbrook, Woodridge, Downers Grove

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Lemont

Dan Garvy remarked that it is an honor to serve SEASPAR in any capacity, and the Board will miss Bill when he retires.

***Appointment of Treasurer***

Dan Garvy nominated Stephanie Gurgone to continue her service as Board Treasurer. Bill McAdam moved to approve the appointment, seconded by Bob Fleck.

Voting Aye: Downers Grove, Westmont, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Indian Head Park, La Grange, La Grange Park, Lisle, Western Springs, Willowbrook, Woodridge

Voting Nay: None

Absent, Not Voting: Brookfield, Lemont

***Member Entity Projects and Events:***

Amy Eckert shared that a new neighborhood park would be developed with the OSLAD funding the Village of Indian Head Park receives.

Bob Fleck noted that the Westmont Park District's annual Winter Beer Fest would be held on February 14. Dan Garvy shared that the Lisle Park District hosted a successful Bottles & Brews event the previous weekend.

***Adjournment***

Dustin Kleefisch moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of January 20, 2026, at 3:37 p.m. Amy Eckert seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Dustin Kleefisch, Secretary  
South East Association for  
Special Parks And Recreation



Morgan Mason, Recording Secretary