

SOUTH EAST ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL PARKS AND RECREATION

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting Held
April 28, 2026, at the SEASPAR Office
4500 Belmont Road, Downers Grove, IL 60515

Call to Order: Dan Garvy called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:	Village of Brookfield	Matt Odom
	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
	Lemont Park District	Louise Egofske
	Lisle Park District	Dan Garvy
	Village of Western Springs	Mike Kenny
	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:	None	
Visitors:	Adult Day Program Manager	Lauren McVey
	Recreation Coordinator	Kate Giddings

Public Comment and Correspondence:

Presentation by Adult Day Program Manager Lauren McVey, CTRS, and Adult Day Program Coordinator Kate Giddings

Matt Corso introduced Lauren McVey, Adult Day Program Manager, and Kate Giddings, Adult Day Program Coordinator. Lauren presented an overview of the goals of the EAGLES Adult Day Program, including lifestyle, education, and service. She provided participant numbers for each of the four EAGLES sites, which are similar to last year. She also presented a breakdown of participants in the program and on the waitlist from each member entity. Lauren noted that most participants stay in the program long term but introduced the new participants who had joined the program since last year's presentation. She also recognized the site directors, regular staff, and substitutes who make the EAGLES program a success. She noted that Congressman Sean Casten recently visited the Lisle and Darien sites and mentioned the visits in his newsletter, noting how he enjoyed visiting with the participants.

Kate Giddings presented an overview of the activities that the EAGLES participants enjoy. She noted that the program receives a Commit to Be Fit grant that funds wellness programs and healthy food. With a focus on staying active, participants enjoy fitness, martial arts, and ballet classes. Kate also highlighted partnerships that the EAGLES have in their communities, including a chili cook-off with the Darien Fire Department, bowling with students from local schools, playing bingo at the Lisle Senior Center, and more. She noted that an exciting new partnership is with The Morton Arboretum, where the EAGLES participants are now full volunteers. Other activities recently offered included dances, monthly drumming classes, museum visits, getting together with other adult day programs, and more.

The Board thanked Lauren and Kate for their presentation. Discussion ensued regarding the age range, hours, days, and transportation for the EAGLES program. Matt Corso noted that the goal is to open a fifth site and thanked the Board for supporting the program, which generates half of SEASPAR's program revenue and expenses, and covers its direct costs. Bob Fleck thanked the member entities who provide space for the program.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Bob Fleck moved to approve the Minutes from the March 24, 2026, Board Meeting; the List of Disbursements in the amount of \$126,719.54; the Bank Reconciliation ending March 31, 2026; the Income Statement from March 2026; and Current Investments for March 2026 as presented. Dustin Kleefisch seconded the motion.

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

Recreation Report:

Dawn Krawiec added to her report that the Actors Guild's spring performance of *Mary Poppins* was held at the Lincoln Center on April 25, and the room was bursting at the seams with audience members. The program started in the fall and continued into the winter/spring season, culminating in this final performance. A new playbill with participant photos and character bios was a big hit with the audience. The play was well done with at least 120 audience members in attendance.

Administrative Services Report:

Karen Lesniak noted from her report that she is preparing for the summer season with agreements and certifications of insurance, and added that she is meeting with Youth Coordinator Sophie Bordenave to go over safety precautions for summer camp. Two trainings for site directors and camp staff will occur before camp to share safety guidance with the staff as well.

Marketing Report:

Laura Pulido noted that she was very proud of the turnout for the Actors Guild performance following the marketing it received.

Executive Director's Report:

Matt Corso welcomed Mike Kenny who was representing the Village of Western Springs at the meeting.

Matt offered congratulations to several member entities on new projects, including the Lemont Park District's opening of Athens Park, the Park District of La Grange Park's groundbreaking on the expansion of their recreation center, and the Village of Willowbrook's upcoming opening of Borse Park. Matt noted that SEASPAR participants benefit from new amenities that the member entities offer.

Matt added to his report that Board members would receive a stakeholder survey for the strategic plan in mid to late May. A separate survey would be sent to participant families.

Matt added to his report that the Board meeting dates would return to the normal third Thursday of the month in May, with the next meeting being May 19.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Review of Prior Executive Session Minutes and Recordings

Jenny Knitter moved to approve staff's recommendation to authorize the destruction of the executive session recording dated May 21, 2024. Louise Egofske seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Member Entity Projects and Events:

Louise Egofske reported that projects from the 2024 referendum would be initiated soon, including renovations at The CORE, a new park, renovations of tennis and pickleball courts, and more. She noted that a lot of projects would be going on simultaneously.

Bill McAdam reported that the new Executive Director for the Downers Grove Park District, Michael Gianatasio, would be starting May 1, with Bill staying on through the end of May during the transition.

Adjournment to Executive Session:

At 3:38 p.m., Bob Fleck moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of April 28, 2026, to Executive Session under Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act for the discussion of the employment, compensation, and performance of the Executive Director. Jessica Cannaday seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Reconvene in Public Session:

The regularly scheduled SEASPAR Board Meeting of April 28, 2026, reconvened in public session at 3:56 p.m.

Action Following Executive Session:

Jenny Knitter moved to approve a 5% salary increase for the Executive Director. Bill McAdam seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Bob Fleck moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board Meeting of April 28, 2026, at 3:57 p.m. Amy Eckert seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kleefisch", is written over a solid horizontal line.

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

Morgan Mason, Recording Secretary