



**NORTHFIELD PARK DISTRICT
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
OSLAD GRANT APPLICATION AND REFERENDUM UPDATE
MONDAY, AUGUST 25th, 2025
NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER
5:30 PM
APPROVED SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2025**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
 - a. At 5:30pm the meeting was called to order.
 - i. A roll call was made
 - ii. **Present Commissioners:** Brandel, Kennedy, Lutz, Manojlovski, Pave, Pullins
 - iii. **Absent Commissioners:**
 - iv. **Also Present:** Staff members Byron and Reuter
2. OSLAD Grant Application Presentation for the Development of a Pocket Park in the Tower Road Right-of-Way
 - a. Director Bill Byron gave a presentation detailing the intergovernmental cooperation between the Park District and the Village of Northfield that led to the lease agreement permitting the development of a park on the property.
 - b. Janet Cherbak from Gewalt-Hamilton Associates and Bill Byron discussed the site plan and proposed amenities for the new park.
 - c. Public Comment on OSLAD Grant Application for Northside Pocket Park (see sign-in sheet for attendees). Questions and Comments are included below.
 - i. Consider adding more slides to the playground
 - ii. A request for PIP or artificial turf be used for accessibility in wheelchairs.
 - iii. Will the bike trail continue south to run past the new pocket park?
 - iv. Will any signage be added for pedestrians and bikes as the approach Happ Road?
 - v. Are there other options for the swing bays that would take up less space?
 - vi. A traditional structure similar to the fire station shown for younger children would be a nice addition.
 - vii. Can more trees be planted and additional landscape screening be added to provide privacy for neighbors
 - viii. Add benches and flowers to encourage people to meet for coffee in the new park.
3. Willow Park Project Update
 - a. Director Byron provided an update on the Willow Park project and informed everyone that we are awaiting one more permit before construction can begin. The hope is to still complete the project this fall.
 - b. Public Comment on Willow Park. Questions and Comments are included below.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact the Park District's Administrative Office, 401 Wagner Road, Northfield, IL Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Telephone number 847-446-4428; Fax number 847-446-4431. Access for the hearing impaired is through Illinois Relay Services at 1-800-526-0857; requests for a qualified interpreter require five (5) working days advance notice.

- i. Could a gate be added at the top of Old Willow where dogs can leave the park?
 - ii. Concern about the path flooding/freezing on the north side of the park.
 - iii. Are there plans to maintain any new vegetation near the river once we remove the buckthorn?
 - iv. Can water be added to the off-leash area as part of this project?
- 4. Referendum Update Presentation
 - a. President Kennedy spoke about the PD's plans to go to referendum in the spring.
 - i. We are not the Village or the School District.
 - ii. We are one of the lowest taxing bodies in the Chicago metropolitan area.
 - iii. We feel that going to referendum again, after a close failure this past April, will allow us to carry the momentum and help spread awareness prior to next March.
 - iv. Raising user fees would price us out of the market.
 - v. The Master Plan that the community helped develop asks for many projects to be completed in a short time frame.
 - 1. We are looking at a 5-year plan to do \$10 million in projects when we've done about \$10 million on projects over six projects in the last 25 years due to cost restraints.
 - vi. Expansion is only possible with more funding.
 - 1. Land acquisition, Community Center expansion, etc.
 - vii. A \$1 million home is looking at a tax increase of about \$300 – about \$1/day.
 - viii. The referendum money would also help us pay for the maintenance and operation of our current parks and facilities.
 - b. Commissioner Brandel added that the PD has been fiscally responsible through the years and has no plans of that changing with added referendum funding.
 - i. He mentioned that a successful referendum would help us have the funding to be players in land acquisition.
 - c. Director Byron added that we've never gone to referendum before last April and that the community told us they love their low tax rate but wants more from the PD.
 - i. New referendum revenue will go back into the community quickly through park improvements, not to be sat on.
 - d. Public Comment of Referendum Update. Questions and Comments are included below.
 - i. Maintenance is a big concern as we cannot maintain the path/park even with a surplus budget.
 - ii. The new park at Clarkson is wonderful for grandchildren and that property values are helped by the PD being great and taking good care of parks and facilities.
 - iii. Does the referendum anticipate going for new grants, what the current/new tax rates are/will be, and what some of the new projects would be if we had funding.
 - iv. How would we expand the NCC and what property we would be looking to purchase in the future?
 - v. Is population data available, specifically how many school-age children. Having/showing that data could help us with the referendum message.
- 5. Adjournment
 - a. **Motion:** Commissioner Pave made a motion to adjourn at 6:30pm
 - b. **Second:** Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion.
 - c. A voice vote showed unanimous approval
 - d. **Motion Passed**