



**NORTHFIELD PARK DISTRICT
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
REFERENDUM INFO NIGHT
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th, 2025
LUSTIG LODGE AT CLARKSON PARK
5:30 PM
APPROVED OCTOBER 27TH, 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, Pullins
 - iii. **Absent Commissioners:** Pave
 - iv. **Also Present:** Staff members Byron and Reuter

2. Referendum Informational Presentation

- a. President Kennedy presented on 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.
 - ix. Community input is crucial to understanding how residents are feeling and why.
 - x. Does D29 possibly going to referendum affect people's feelings towards the Park District going to referendum?

- b. Commissioner Brandel added that doing what is in the best interest of the Park District should take priority regardless of the School District and our hope is that growth for both organizations could lead to more collaborative efforts between both districts.
 - i. He mentioned that without added funding we can maintain what we have but we are limited in growth. More funding would set us up for bigger opportunities when they presented themselves.
 - ii. Part of our mission is for the Park District to serve more of the community, not just certain demographics.
- c. Commissioner Manojlovski mentioned that the referendum doesn't have anything to do with the Willow Park improvements but would be for future projects.
- d. Public Comment on Referendum Information. Questions and comments are included below.
 - i. Any surveying done to understand why they voted no or gather other feedback?
 - ii. Have we spoken to the School District? D29 needs classrooms next year for preschool due to True North folding and needing to absorb those students.
 - iii. Some people are hesitant to come to our parks because they are not fenced in. If we're redoing parks/building new, why wouldn't we fence it in?
 - iv. How are we reaching people? Have we considered more mailings?
 - v. Some people are concerned that the referendum is tied back to the split-rail fence and how that has been handled. Adding frisbee golf will make it a madhouse in that part of the park. Many people there are non-residents, and the residents are nervous about how a referendum will change the park even more.
 - vi. We're a small town with a huge park right off Wagner, so getting to Old Willow from Willow is challenging. Better lighting would help.
 - vii. A lot of non-residents use our pickleball courts and they should be paying to do so. Neighboring park districts make people pay to use their courts, not just have the option to reserve them.
 - viii. With property tax assessments up 30% in Northfield it's hard to imagine paying even more right now. Huge shock value around town.
 - ix. Having two referendums on the ballot could hurt both of them by leading people to vote no on both.
 - x. How have other park district referendums performed recently? Have they passed?
 - 1. Bond referendums are the most common and have generally been successful.
 - 2. Limiting rate referendums less so. Kenilworth tried recently and it failed by a wide margin.
 - xi. People don't know about what we're trying to do with the referendum but providing as much information as possible is the right thing to do.
 - xii. Need to target younger families more and maybe add clarity for what value to use on tax calculator on our website.

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.

- e. See sign-in sheet for attendance
3. Adjournment
- a. **Motion:** Commissioner Pullins made a motion to adjourn at 6:34pm.
 - b. **Second:** Commissioner Brandel seconded the motion.
 - c. A voice vote showed unanimous approval
 - d. **Motion Passed**