



**Westmont Park District Board of Commissioners  
Special Board Meeting Notice and Minutes  
Ronald J. Gunter Administration Center  
55 E. Richmond St., Westmont, IL 60559  
August 12, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.**

**Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order**

President Karesh called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Bill Belmonte, Mike Conneely, Karen Moffett, Sue Zapinski, and John Karesh

Staff Present: Bob Fleck, Executive Director; Joel Hymen, Assistant Director; Rosy Fejzic, Finance Manager & Accountant; Luke Wyss, Superintendent of Recreation; Mandy Mackert, HR Generalist; Eric Kruger, Supt. of Parks & Maintenance

Guests: Laura Payne, Ph.D., doctoral students Darcy Lu and Kento Mizui

**Agenda Item #3 – Needs Assessment Presentation**

Dr. Laura Payne began the presentation by discussing her connection to community park districts, as well as her educational and professional experience. She was accompanied by two doctoral students, Darcy and Kento, who are assisting with the development of the needs assessment survey.

Dr. Payne asked the Commissioners questions regarding the Park District's strengths, challenges, and areas of programming interest. The discussion was intended to provide insight into the community and help guide the development of the needs assessment survey. Commissioners provided feedback regarding the Park District's current strengths and areas where they would like to see the Park District grow.

Dr. Payne and her team will review the discussion for common themes and subthemes to help determine the next steps in the survey process.

**Agenda Item #4 – Board Survey Workshop**

Dr. Payne reviewed the survey process, explaining that it will be a collaborative effort incorporating input from staff, the Board of Commissioners, residents, and special interest groups.

The survey will utilize a two-pronged approach. The first component will involve a stratified random sample of Westmont households that may be less likely to respond to a traditional survey. These households will receive postcards containing a survey link and QR code, with the goal of obtaining feedback from both users and non-users of Park District facilities and programs. The second component will make the same survey available to the general public so that anyone interested, including residents of surrounding communities, may participate. The Board discussed whether participation should be limited to Westmont residents. The Board determined that surrounding communities should also be able to participate, recognizing that residents from neighboring communities utilize Westmont Park District facilities, programs, and parks.

The Park District will work to raise awareness of the survey prior to its distribution to encourage community participation.

#### Agenda Item #5 – Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Zapinski and seconded by Commissioner Moffett.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. The Special Board Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

AYES: Zapinski, Moffett, Belmonte, Conneely, Kareesh

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Moffett  
Karen Moffett, Secretary  
Board of Park Commissioners

Westmont Park District

**ATTEST:**

  
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Amanda Mackert,  
Recording Secretary  
Westmont Park District