

**VILLAGE OF LINCOLNWOOD
PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
GERALD C. TURRY BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 20, 2026**

Call to Order

Mayor Patel called the Committee of the Whole meeting of the Lincolnwood Board of Trustees to order at 6:05 P.M., Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Gerald C. Turry Village Board Room of the Municipal Complex at 6900 N. Lincoln Avenue, Village of Lincolnwood, County of Cook, and State of Illinois.

Upon roll call by Village Clerk Sokol Delisi, the following were:

PRESENT: Mayor Patel, Trustees Klatzco, Diaz Herrera, Sargon, Ikezoe-Halevi, Gussis, Martel

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

Also present: Village Attorney Hart Passman, Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura, Assistant Village Manager Madeline Farrell, Police Chief Jay Parrott, Parks and Recreation Director Karen Hawk, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Artis, Human Relations Manager Lamar Jones

Approval of Minutes

The January 6, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes were presented for approval.

Trustee Sargon moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes. Trustee Klatzco seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call, the results were:

AYES: Trustees Klatzco, Diaz Herrera, Sargon, Ikezoe-Halevi, Gussis, Martel

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The motion passed.

Regular Business

1. 2025 Annual Report

Presenter: Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura

Background:

The 2025 Annual Report was presented, summarizing key accomplishments and outlining priorities for 2026. The report emphasized planning, implementation, financial stewardship, technology upgrades, infrastructure reinvestment, and program expansion across all departments.

Key 2025 Achievements

- Community Development
 - Affordable Housing Plan adopted and approved under Illinois law.
 - Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals activities initiated.
 - District 1860 development progressed; Marriott dual-branded hotel scheduled to open Q2 2026.
 - Multiple new businesses opened.
- Finance
 - Two comprehensive annual financial reports completed.
 - Municipal grocery tax implemented Jan 1, 2026.
 - Five-year financial forecasting adopted.
 - \$1,150 distributed in family assistance donations.
- Fire Department
 - New vehicle for Deputy Fire Chief.
 - Haas Alert system installed on frontline apparatus for motorist safety.
- Parks & Recreation
 - Secured \$600,000 OSLAD grant for major park renovations in 2026 (playgrounds, courts, pathways).
 - ComEd Park design underway; construction targeted for 2027.
 - Goebelt Park design completed; pending funding.
 - Recreation and Aquatic Center feasibility study completed.
 - Senior programs expanded through private donations.
- Police Department
 - Installed Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) for public safety.
 - Hosted Axon Taser 10 instructor training.
 - Approved low-speed electric bike ordinance.
 - Community engagement events: Lincolnwood Fest, National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop.
 - Introduced metal detectors at Lincolnwood Fest for enhanced safety.
- Public Works
 - ADA Transition Plan advanced.
 - Lead service line replacement continued (below 1,000 remaining).
 - Water rate study completed; 10% increase effective 2026.
 - Stormwater Master Plan updated; cost-share program funded.
 - Facility reinvestment projects completed.
- Village Manager's Office
 - Technology assessments (ERP, HR/payroll, asset management).
 - Flavored vape ordinance under review.
 - Student Achievers fundraiser raised \$2,786.
 - AV system replacement
 - Key staffing changes implemented.

By the Numbers:

- \$45M construction permit value

- 12,092 police calls; 3,509 fire/EMS calls
- 3,240 building inspections
- 13,135 summer camp registrations
- 35,000 Lincolnwood Fest attendees

Looking Ahead to 2026

- TIF Revitalization Pilot Project (\$300,000 budgeted).
- Lincolnwood Town Center redevelopment anticipated.
- Police & Fire locker room upgrades (\$2.13M state grant).
- Pratt Avenue bike lane construction.
- Water fund efficiency analysis.
- Continued park improvements and technology upgrades.

Board Discussion:

The Board thanked staff for preparing the report and making it available for the community to review, noting its value in helping residents gain a better understanding of the Village's accomplishments in 2025.

2. Parks and Recreation Rental Policies

Presenters: Parks and Recreation Director Karen Hawk and Village Attorney Hart Passman

Background:

- Parks & Recreation staff revisited rental policies initially discussed on June 17, 2025 focusing on:
 - Charging admission, selling goods/services, and fundraising on Village property.
- Provided historical rental fees (2024–2025), facility availability, and revenue data.
- Highlighted concerns from a large annual softball tournament that evolved into a major event:
 - Event raised over \$500,000 for an organization (off-site fundraising).
 - Included petting zoo, bounce houses, food trucks, golf carts, and 1,500 participants.
 - Numerous issues: parking violations, smoking/drinking, unauthorized utilities, and code violations.
- Current policy prohibits charging admission, selling goods/services, or collecting fees on Village property.
- Parks & Recreation Board reaffirmed this policy at its December 9, 2025 meeting.
- Staff recommended continuing the current practice but sought Board direction on:
 1. Amending policy to allow rentals that charge admission or sell goods/services.
 2. Amending Village Code to accommodate special events.
 3. Establishing requirements and eligibility for such events.

Board Discussion:

- Concerns Raised:
 - Significant staff time and costs (approx. \$15,000) for setup, policing, and cleanup.
 - Burden on residents (parking, disruption).
 - Current fees (\$7,500) insufficient; event grew beyond expectations.
 - Legal implications if allowing profit-making events on taxpayer-funded property.
- Key Points:
 - Event is now a large-scale special event, not a standard rental.
 - Need for clear cost recovery, deposits for damage, and profit-sharing.
 - Consider limiting to one event per year and requiring 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.
 - Explore higher permit fees (\$25,000–\$50,000) plus reimbursement for all costs.
 - Require transparency, accountability, and strict compliance with Village Code.
 - Discussion on timing (Labor Day weekend) and impact on park construction in 2026.
- Legal Input:
 - Allowing one group may require opening access to similar groups.
 - Village can limit number of events and set parameters but must avoid discriminatory practices.
 - Legal review needed for code changes and tax implications.

Board Direction:

- General consensus to:
 - Explore allowing the event in 2026 on a smaller scale, subject to strict conditions.
 - Require substantial profit to Village (suggested \$25,000 above all costs).
 - Limit to one event annually; set clear parameters and penalties for violations.
 - Develop a special event permit process with:
 - Higher fees, insurance, and deposits.
 - Village-coordinated utilities, dumpsters, and portable toilets at renter’s expense.
 - Mandatory Board approval and organizer attendance at meetings.
 - Enforcement of fines for non-compliance.
- Staff to:
 - Work with legal counsel on code amendments and guidelines.
 - Prepare revised application and requirements for Park Board review in March and Village Board in April.
 - Engage event organizer with updated expectations and limitations.

3. Aquatic Center Admission Process and Non-Resident Pool Pass Cap Increase

Presenter: Parks and Recreation Director Karen Hawk

Background:

- Admission Policy for Youth:
 - Current rule: Youth 13+ may enter alone; 12 and under must be accompanied by a responsible person aged 16+.

- Compared to neighboring districts, Lincolnwood’s age threshold is on the higher end (others allow as young as 9–10).
- Verification Challenges:
 - Passholders’ ages can be verified in the system; daily admissions are harder to confirm.
 - New process for 2026:
 - Youth passes (ages 12 and under) will have a distinct design for easy identification.
 - Staff will ask additional questions (address, school, date of birth) for daily admissions.
 - Proof of residency required for adults; stricter checks for youth entering alone.
- Goal: Prevent non-residents from entering at resident rates and ensure compliance with age policy.

Board Discussion:

- Consensus: Board supports implementing a more thorough check-in process for youth and adults.
- Verification Enhancements:
 - Use distinct passes for youth.
 - Rotate questions to confirm residency and age.
 - Consider technology upgrades and AI for future improvements.
- Responsible Age: Confirmed as 16+ for accompanying minors.
- Peak Usage & Capacity:
 - Pool capacity per IDPH: 1,000 (includes deck area).
 - Highest recorded count: 587 (average peak ~196).
 - Staff typically closes entry at ~800 for safety.
 - Discussion on monitoring peak times and providing residents with “busy hour” charts online.
- Data Needs:
 - Track peak attendance (manual hourly counts).
 - Include cash admissions and guest entries for better analysis.
 - Suggestion to use interns or AI for data compilation.

Board Direction:

- Admission Process: Consensus for stricter verification measures starting 2026.
- Non-Resident Pass Cap:
 - Increase by 150 passes (from 2,150 to 2,300).
 - Potential additional revenue: \$27,000.
 - Monitor closely in 2026; reassess based on peak attendance and overall impact.
- Future Actions:
 - Collect detailed peak attendance data (weekends, holidays).
 - Explore publishing peak-hour charts for residents.
 - Revisit policy if crowding or safety concerns arise.

Adjournment

Trustee Martel moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 7:34 P.M., seconded by Trustee Sargon.

The meeting was adjourned by voice vote.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sokol Delisi', written over a horizontal line.

Sokol Delisi
Village Clerk