

GATEWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Thursday, August 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

Chairman Mike Hayes, Hinsdale, called the Gateway Special Recreation Association Board of Directors Meeting to order at **3:00 pm on Thursday, August 18, 2025**, at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, 1450 Forest Gate Road in Oak Brook, Illinois. A Quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Board of Directors in Attendance

Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge Part District
Michele Sullivan, City of Countryside
Sarah Lagesse, Elmhurst Park District
Mike Hayes, Village of Hinsdale
Brian Dewolf, Oak Brook Park District
Matt Russian, Pleasant Dale Park District
Kathy Kasprzak, Westchester Park District
Jeremy Fila, York Center Park District

Board of Directors not in attendance:

Kathy Kasprzak, Westchester Park District

Visitors

Todd Linder, Recreation Coordinator, Village of Hinsdale
Ryan Massengill, Superintendent of Recreation, Ray Graham Association
Catherine Campos, Senior Director of Community and Family Support Services

Approval of August 18, 2025, Agenda

A motion was made by Jim Pacanowski to approve June 2025, agenda and seconded by Jeremy Fila. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

Board Member Reports and Comments:

Matt Russian- I-Parks insurance renewal will shift to January 1, 2026, start; prorated transition this year. Need motion on next month's agenda to approval I-Parks renewal. Contribution invoices were emailed with August meeting agenda. Printed invoices available.

Brian Dewolf introduced self. New Superintendent of Recreation for Oak Brook Park District, and will now represent Oak Brook Park District as a Board of Director.

Communications

Mike Hayes- new member packet is complete.

Approval of July 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by **Jim Pacanowski Burr Ridge** to approve **July 17, 2025**, meeting minutes, and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. The Board was polled. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of August 2025, Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by **Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge** to approve **August 2025**, treasurer's report, and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. The Board was polled. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RGA Monthly Report

Ryan Massengill

- Elevate program marks the one-year anniversary in September. Still at 18 individuals enrolled.
- Summer Camp ended with 141 campers. Surveys distributed to gather parent feedback; more written input requested.
- Fall registrations opened on Monday; Elevate program marks the one-year anniversary in September. Still at 18 individuals enrolled.
- Unified sports (bowling, bags, pickleball) are expanding with strong parent involvement. Unified starting to take off.
- Vehicles doing great.
- Talked to parents about putting requests for programs in writing. Big push with end of summer surveys.
- July highlights included Hawaiian Luau, golf qualifiers, and youngest-ever bowling qualifier. Next is regionals. Red team for softball is qualified for state. Next year anticipating more interest in softball. Basketball filling up. Going from 5 to 6 teams.

Catherine Campos

- Passed out RGA Action Plan, new additions in red.

Ryan Massengill

- New recreation specialist (ISU graduate) starts Monday. Internal candidate; started this past summer as a seasonal staff.
- Gave tour of Hanson Center to Hinsdale Village President.
- Keep letting Ryan know about events to attend.
- Outreach efforts included Countryside back-to-school event.

Old Business:

Mike Hayes-Agency Recruitment: Recruitment flyer finalized and attached in packets. Next step is to call some of the agencies and talk to them about joining SRA. Committee formed: Mike, Ryan, Matt (as available), Laure (Oak Brook). Laure will go with Mike Hayes to talk to Riverside. Initial contacts will be limited to Mike and Ryan, with other board members added as needed.

Minimum fund balance will remain a standing agenda item. Continued focus on raising funds through community support and partnerships.

New Business

Mike Hayes- Met with Ryan and Kim met at Hanson Center to talk about how RGA can assist with costs. Ryan discussed potential transfer of vehicle ownership/maintenance to RGA to reduce ~\$80K annual cost. History noted: Gateway acquired vehicles when RGA didn't have enough vehicles to meet the needs of participants. Would need to work with legal. Board open to exploring further; Kim, Ryan, and legal counsel to draft proposals. RGA will need to put together proposals. Kim wants to meet with Mike at Hanson center to further discuss.

RGA may help with SRA costs: identifying ~200 participants for direct donation outreach, and applying for operational grants, with potential funds used to offset Gateway's operational fees. Everyone encouraged to share any other ideas.

Adjournment

A motion was made by **Jeremy Fila** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Michelle Sullivan**. The Board was pulled. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at **3:42pm**.

Approved on: _____
Date

Mike Hayes, Board President

Sarah Lagesse, Recording Secretary