

GATEWAY SPECIAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 11, 2025

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, September 11, 2025**, at the Oak Brook Park District Family Recreation Center, 1450 Forest Gate Road in Oak Brook, Illinois. A Quorum was present.

Roll Call:

Present

Michele Sullivan, Countryside

Mike Hayes, Hinsdale

Robert Pechous, Oak Brook

Matt Russian, Pleasant Dale

Kathy Kasprzak, Westchester

Jeremy Fila, York Center

Board of Directors not in Attendance:

Sarah Lagesse, Elmhurst

Jim Pacanowski, Burr Ridge

RGA Staff

Catherine Campos, Senior Director of Community and Family Support Services, Ray Graham Association

Ryan Massengill, Superintendent of Recreation, Ray Graham Association

Kim Zoeller, President & CEO, Ray Graham Association

Visitors

Jessica Marquez, Elmhurst

Approval of September 11, 2025, Agenda:

A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center to approve the September 11, 2025, agenda and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Board Member Comments:

- A. Sarah will be doing agendas and packets moving forward, so anything need to be included please copy her on that as well.

Communications:

- A. Jessica Marquez (Division Manager of Recreation) represented Elmhurst for Sarah Lagesse considering her absence.

Approval of August 14, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center to approve August 14, 2025, meeting minutes, and seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. The Board was polled.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of September 11, 2025, Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Michele Sullivan, Countryside to approve September 11, 2025, meeting minutes, and seconded by Mike Hayes, Hinsdale. The Board was polled.

On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- One note made by treasurer; it says MC (member contribution) instead of SC (service contract) on the line for check registry.

Reports

RGA Monthly Report (Ryann Massengill)

- A. Summer Wrap-up
 - a. End Summer season with 114 individuals.
- B. Elevate
 - a. Currently have 18 Individual registered for Elevate
 - b. Elevate celebrated 1 year on Tuesday, September 9. Ryann noted that the program started with just three individuals three days a week, and now has 18 individuals, running 5 days a week, and three of the days are full of 12 individuals.
 - i. Hired another instructor to take on more students and a second location. They are expected to start at the end of September.
 - ii. Finalized additional year with Oakbrook, added every Tuesday and Thursday at Central Park West, participants are enjoying the consistency.
- C. Fall Programs
 - a. Fall programs started on Monday, September 8.
 - b. 135 individuals registered. 647 program registrations total.
 - c. York High School Basketball does not participate with the transition program, so those students have joined in the Gateway basketball program.
 - d. 32 weekly youth and adult programs, program list can be found on back of RGA report.
- D. Strategic Plan Update
 - a. Summarized information gathered from families.
 - b. Questions regarding needs for individual age groups, specifically teens, special dance events, social clubs, etc.
 - c. Gateway is known for their Athletics, seeing what can be added to expand offerings.
 - d. Comments back about the need for growth, marketing and public relations.
 - e. Looking forward to coming back next month to look specifically at Year 1 initiatives to set timelines and dates to help move the process along. Service Contract should coincide with strategic plan.
- E. August Highlights
 - a. Weeklong summer vacation trip to Gatlinberg, TN with six individuals. Ended the month with State Softball in Springfield, Gators Red Team took 2nd Place.
- F. Catherine e-mails out an educational series to be shared with families. October topic; employment for people with disabilities, asked that agencies share these with their communities as well.

Old Business:

- A. Agency Recruitment
 - a. Reached out to Broadview, Summit and McCook to set up meetings with them. Have not heard back at this point, but looking to follow-up. If no response, board will continue to reach out to other agencies.
- B. Discussion for Minimum Fund Balance
 - a. Met with Ray Graham to discuss vehicles, they do feel like they could help absorb vehicles under the service contract. Currently doing an assessment of their fleet to see how they can best accommodate and use their resources.
 - b. If we do shift away from vehicles, we would then look at the service contract and how that reduces what is paid by agencies.
- C. Service Contract
 - a. Discussion of length of service contract.
 - i. The current contract is 18 months due to RFP. Historically it has been a 2-year contract. Did have a 4-year 2013-2017.
 - b. Hinsdale, Pleasant Dale and York Center voiced favor of a two-year contract.

New Business:

- A. Service Contract
 - a. iPARKS Coverage
 - i. Switched to a calendar renewal (begins September 13)
Motion made to approve the iPARK coverage made by Jeremy Fila, York Center, second by Matt Russian, Pleasant Dale.
On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Follow-up on Fundraising
 - a. RGA grants administrator has identified 10 grant possibilities.
 - b. When grant opportunities come up, action needs to be made quickly. RGA asks to forward to apply for those if they were to come-up.
 - c. RGA Development team does a yearly Direct Appeal. We can still do our regular appeal, but then segment out Gateway families as well. RGA is in a position to specifically highlight a Gateway participant/program to do that, and will need to start working on that now.
 - i. Logistics of how money is collected for RGA/Gateway to be determined.
 - ii. Could use the success of Elevate or Athletics programming as our story.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jeremy Fila, York Center, to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michele Sullivan, Countryside. The Board was pulled. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 3:32pm.

Mike Hayes, Board President

Sarah Lagesse, Recording Secretary