



SSSRA

South Suburban Special
Recreation Association

Board of Directors Meeting | SSSRA, 19910 80th Avenue, Tinley Park
Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 9:00 am

Minutes

I. Call To Order / Roll Call

Adams called South Suburban Special Recreation Association's Board of Directors meeting for January 22, 2026, to order at 9:00 am.

Members Present

LeRoy Barnes, Jr., Country Club Hills Park District

Yonetta Walker, Hazel Crest Park District

Mike Gianatasio, Homewood-Flossmoor Park District

Lisa Hill, Matteson Recreational Division (9:11 am)

Josh Zoberis, Oak Forest Park District

Jesus Vargas, Olympia Fields Park District

Kevin Adams, Park Forest Department of Recreation, Parks & Community Health

Members Absent

Ashley Turner, Richton Park Parks & Recreation Department

Meghan Fenlon, Tinley Park-Park District

Others Present

Lisa Drzewiecki, SSSRA Executive Director

Sarah Sizemore, Superintendent of Finance

Heather Specht, Superintendent of Recreation

Cheyenne Dejaynes, SSSRA Intern

II. Approval of Agenda

Gianatasio made the Motion to approve the Agenda. Barnes seconded the Motion. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. November 20, 2025

Gianatasio made the Motion to approve the regular Minutes for November. Vargas seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved unanimously.

B. Closed Meeting on November 20, 2025

Barnes made the Motion to approve the closed meeting Minutes for November. Vargas seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved unanimously.



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IV. Correspondence

Drzewiecki presented a letter from PDRMA congratulating SSSRA for winning a \$1,000 grant to further our wellness program. Sarah Sizemore and Megan Siebert applied for the grant with the goal to have a wellness room and possibly a treadmill.

Drzewiecki presented another letter from PDRMA highlighting SSSRA's participation in the 2025 Risk Management review. SSSRA earned an overall rating of 86%, which is 10% higher than the overall rating of PDRMA members. It is 13% higher than members with a similar range of total contributions, and 2% higher than the special recreation type. Thank you to Laura Pubins, Megan Siebert and Heather Specht for providing information to PDRMA.

Drzewiecki presented a thank you letter to Gwen Bohannon and Anthony Pitts for their ongoing financial contribution of \$3,000 for our Camp Pinewood weekend trip. This trip is now a three night trip. It grew from 12 participants to 25.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Community Announcements

Country Club Hills will be selecting a new director soon.

Homewood-Flossmoor Park District welcomed back Jennah Carlson as the Ice Arena Manager.

SSSRA is closed on Friday, January 23 due to the extreme weather. Staff will be taking paid time off or working from home. Homewood-Flossmoor Park District is also considering closing for Friday, January 23. Juanita Williams is following up on Inclusions for that day.

Adams asked if anyone uses their facilities as warming center for the community. Gianatasio uses a couple of their facilities, so those will stay open.

Park Forest is hosting a homelessness awareness event that was supposed to take place outside on January 23, but that has been moved indoors.

Adams asked if anyone would be leading sessions at the IPRA conference. Adams is filling in for a session on Saturday called Leading Innovation, Building Trust and Well-Being with Staff. He is co-presenting with Jonelle Bailey. Adina McCollough will be leading a session on AI assistance on Saturday.



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VII. Unfinished Business

A. Motion to Approve Resolution 2026-01, Overnight Travel Events and Program Policy

The policy was approved in November, but it was important to have a more comprehensive policy in place. The current policy here is reflective of PDRMA's recommendations and SSSRA's practices. It also includes the memo of understanding for private transportation arrangements between SSSRA staff and the families. SSSRA is requesting that the board pass the Overnight Travel Events and Program Policy.

Gianatasio made a Motion to approve the policy. Barnes seconded the Motion.

Country Club Hills – Yes
Hazel Crest – Yes
Homewood-Flossmoor – Yes
Matteson – Absent
Oak Forest – Yes
Olympia Fields – Yes
Park Forest – Yes
Richton Park – Absent
Tinley Park – Absent

VIII. New Business

None

IX. Staff Report

A. Program

1. Specht shared the outreach report for October, November and December. Specht will be reaching out to school districts and reminded the board to let SSSRA know if they have events coming up for SSSRA to attend.
2. Specht shared the fall 2025 Inclusion report. SSSRA supported 17 participants through Inclusion services. Programs included before and after school care, preschool, basketball, karate and special events. 13 participants from Homewood-Flossmoor and four from Tinley Park.



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IX. Staff Report (continued)

A. Program

3. Stingrays State Bowling Tournament

Six bowlers went to the Special Olympics State Bowling Tournament in Decatur on December 6. Five athletes won first place medals and one athlete won a second place medal.

4. Stingrays TR Section Basketball Tournament

Three teams competed on November 16. Stingrays 1 competed at Oak Lawn Park District. Stingrays 2 competed at Northern Suburban Special Recreation Association. Stingrays 3 competed at Lincoln Way Special Recreation Association. Stingrays 1 and 2 won first place, Stingrays 3 won third place.

5. SSSRA Show Choir and Drama Show

SSSRA's Show Choir and Drama Club performed on December 1. Show Choir performed *Dancing Through the Decades* and Drama Club performed an original production, *Road to the Red Carpet*. Over 100 guests were in attendance for the show. A recording of the show is available. Planning is already in progress for the spring performance.

6. Winter Intern

Specht introduced Cheyenne Dejaynes, SSSRA's winter and spring Intern. Cheyenne attends Western Illinois University and is completing a degree in Education.

7. Fall 2025 Survey Results

Specht shared highlights from the results of SSSRA's fall survey. Based on the suggestions in the survey, SSSRA will offer more programs during the day and potentially offer a vacation trip. Staff will also be sending reminder emails to families prior to programs or special events. These reminders will include dates, times and locations.

8. Winter Spring 2026 Programs

Thank you to the board for helping SSSRA find facilities for programs and special events. We are already planning summer 2026, so the board may be receiving requests from Juanita Williams.



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IX. Staff Report (continued)

A. Program

9. Special Events

Specht highlighted upcoming February special events, including Hoops + Heroes on Tuesday, February 24.

B. Administrative

1. Staff Professional Involvement, Activities and Training – November and December 2025

Drzewiecki discussed the Staff Professional Involvement activities, and noted that Megan Siebert, Support Staff Manager, attended the IPRA lunch and learn, Balancing Compliance and Compassion.

2. Budget Preparation Timeline

Drzewiecki mentioned setting the first committee meeting date for the week of March 9. The budget committee includes Adams, Gianatasio, Vargas, Fenlon, and Cole. Staff are busy preparing expenses.

3. Administrative Assistant Hiring Timeline

SSSRA has had 23 candidates and six or seven are being interviewed. The target start date for the position is February 23 or March 2.

4. Cash Raffle Update

SSSRA raised \$4,055 for the Scholarship Program. Thank you to the board for selling tickets to support SSSRA.

5. Grants and Donations Update

Drzewiecki shared a special thank you to the Wolf family of Park Forest for their \$15,000 contribution to SSSRA's Scholarship Program.

Suburban Service League donated to help repair the mechanical components of one of SSSRA's buses. SSSRA will repair the exterior. The bus will look and run like a brand new bus versus the cost of purchasing a new bus.



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X. Financial Report

A. Claims List

1. November 2025

Gianatasio made the Motion to approve the Claims List for November 2025 as presented. Vargas seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

2. December 2025

Hill made the Motion to approve the Claims List for December 2025 as presented. Barnes seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Financial Statement

1. November 2025

Hill made the Motion to approve the Financial Statement for November 2025 as presented. Vargas seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

1. December 2025

Gianatasio made the Motion to approve the Financial Statement for December 2025 as presented. Barnes seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

XII. Adjournment

Hill made the Motion to conclude the regular Board of Directors Meeting at 9:24 am. Barnes seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2026