

A REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Whitefish Bay was held in-person March 2, 2026.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the press and posted on public bulletin boards.

I. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

President Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees Dettmann, Haller, Kasper, Saunders, Serebin, Vanevenhoven and President Buckley

Also Present:

- Village Manager – Kelsey McElroy-Anderson
- Village Attorney – Chris Jaekels
- Assistant Village Manager – Anna Christopherson
- Police Chief – Patrick Whitaker
- Director of Public Works – Matt Collins
- Director of Building Services – Joel Oestreich (via zoom)
- Library Director – Nyama Reed (via Zoom)
- Deputy Clerk – Erin Granstrom

II. **Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Trustee Haller, seconded by Trustee Dettmann, to approve the consent agenda with amendment. Motion carried 7-0.

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held on February 16, 2026.

III. **Report of the Village Officers**

1. Village Attorney – No Report.
2. Village Manager – Continuing to monitor weather for a last rake out. This will be posted on our website and social media when determined.
3. Village President – Met with Congresswoman Moore and Kelsey this past week. Much of the time was spent discussing grants and funding for lead service line replacement.
4. Miscellaneous Trustee – No Report.

IV. **Petitions and Communications**

Jack Orchard (622 E Carlisle Ave) inquired if staff learned anything from the situation last year around leaf and yard waste collection. The use of overtime before or after the snow event was mentioned. It was suggested to share what was learned on social media.

V. **General Business**

1. **Discussion/action on Ordinance No. 1923 amending Municipal Code § 8-67 related to Pickleball at Klode Park.**

An overview of past discussions both in the Village and outside the Village was provided. Changes that have been made were mentioned. Staff has met with both players and neighboring residents to try to come to an agreement that both sides could be satisfied by. Proposed hours included in the memo in the meeting packet were reviewed. Enforcement discussions with residents and players were described with an agreed upon recommendation of locking gates during off hours along with additional signage. Quiet equipment, reduced number of nets, a reservation system, court ambassadors, prohibition of amplified devices and alternative locations have all be investigated. A recommended start date of May 1, 2026 was proposed, and reasons for this

date were listed.

Camthu Pham (4830 Woodburn St) commented on the number of nets available, stating that only two courts would not be an adequate number of courts.

Paul Smith (4785 N Lake Dr) thanked Kelsey for her work in this process and provided proposed minor changes to the summer hours to make hours more consistent. Mr. Smith also recommended that in non-summer hours, due to inclement weather leads to significant reduction hours, the start time could be 11:00 am six days of the week. Mr. Smith stated that gates are a good solution to enforcement.

Susan Swedler (4640 N Oakland Ave) commented that in a previous meeting the noise from pickleball was said to cause mental health issues. Ms. Swedler stated she was sent a non-peer reviewed study; therefore, though she acknowledges the sound can bother neighbors, there is no science at this time to support the claim it causes mental health issues.

Rich Ross (5335 Diversey Blvd) supports the compromise solution but encouraged conducting a survey of decibel readings. Mr. Ross has gathered sound readings around the park and mentioned results prior to and after the sound barriers were installed. He noted that studies mentioning a 500-foot distance from structures were developed for a new court in an undeveloped area. A sound engineer has been contacted by the Village and informed that mitigating sound within 100 feet of a court is very difficult without the use of quiet equipment.

Carolyn Noori (114 W Lakeview Ave) commented that the sound barriers are only on a portion of the court and therefore, if they surrounded the entire court, they would be more effective. It was mentioned that in the Fox Point case, for the sound barriers to surround the courts they would need to be 12 feet tall, requiring new fencing, and that the use of quiet equipment would also be needed. The cost of sound barriers was discussed.

Amy Westrup (201 W Devon St) mentioned that the cost of locks seemed high. She stated that the current sound curtains are not always fully attached. Previous removal of hedges and the possibility of being locked into the courts was mentioned. She stated that the limited hours are not a problem but does not like the limited days of the week. She noted that locking the courts also limits other sports from using the courts.

Mike Friedman (6256 N Bay Ridge Ave) commented on the number of residents affected by the courts in comparison to the Village population. The number of hours allowed originally, and the ordinance proposal was compared. He stated that non-summer hours, having some days that start at 9:00 a.m. would be beneficial.

Jack Orchard (622 E Carlisle Ave) commented on the Village of Shorewood installing sound barriers as well as their discontinuation of those barriers. He proposed a "plan B" by removing the temporary nets. He stated that varying hours were hard for users of the courts.

Steve Kappes (5960 N Lake Dr) stated he is a resident near the courts and that pickleball affects his life, and noted this is a national problem. He stated that studies have shown that sound cannot be mitigated within 100 feet of a pickleball court. Decibel readings of various sounds were mentioned. Residents have had their sleep affected. The sound was described in both lower and upper levels of homes. Enforcement was agreed to be an issue. Mr. Kappes mentioned that some comments on social media have been disrespectful to the residents who live near the courts. The reduction in hours was noted to still be 40 hours a week.

Tyler Emory (4677 N Wilshire Rd) inquired about the reduction in decibels from quiet equipment and commented on the reduction in noise. The cost of locks was compared to the cost of quiet equipment, suggesting that the investment in quiet equipment is more economical.

Michael Palesse (5834 N Shore Dr) stated that his family moved to the area because of Klode Park. The decibel level of 66 decibels was described as equivalent to a regular conversation, which he described as similar to the

sound in neighboring backyards.

Henry Lawniczak (1627 W Mill Rd) apologized to neighbors who received disrespectful comments on social media. He described the relationships he has developed playing pickleball and expressed concerns about closing the courts two days a week, especially on the weekend, forcing people to go elsewhere and harming the community.

Mel Johnson (405 E Montclair Ave) stated that the sound screens have been effective. Mr. Johnson commented that pickleball is important for the quality of life of the players. It was mentioned that people are able to have conversations on the courts easily. He opposes the proposal to reduce the number of courts. He stated that pickleball should be regarded as a raging success for the parks, encouraging healthy recreation. Mr. Johnson feels the concerns of a few neighbors are being weighed against the larger number of pickleball players.

Amy Wagner (5961 N Shore Dr) thanked Kelsey and the entire Board for their diligence in addressing the issue. She agreed that pickleball players should be able to enjoy the sport but not at the expense of the neighbors. She cited the effect on property values and the ability to sleep for those who reside near the courts. Dr. Wagner stated she is no longer able to work from home and finds it difficult to rest after long shifts. Investigating an indoor location was suggested.

Paul Ross (5335 N Diversey Blvd) asked for clarification on the compatibility mentioned earlier in the meeting versus the sound issue being considered tonight. Since there is no set limit on sound, a list of compatible activities was requested.

Paul Smith (4785 N Lake Dr) stated that setting decibel limits is problematic, as there are many pieces of landscaping equipment that would not be allowed. He stated that he is asking to simplify hours.

Trustee Serebin mentioned a previous comment that the Board erred in allowing pickleball at Klode at all, listing issues that have been addressed in the past, and stating she does not feel that there should be no pickleball in the Village. Trustee Haller agreed that the sport is a success but acknowledged that the concerns of the neighbors are valid and need to be taken into consideration in coming to a compromise. Trustee Saunders commented on similar situations in other areas around the country. She stated the Board did the right thing when originally allowing pickleball at Klode; however, with the explosion of pickleball, it is no longer the right thing for Klode Park. Trustees Dettmann, Kasper, and Vanevenhoven support coming to a compromise. It was suggested not to lock gates, to make the courts available for tennis or other activities outside the specified pickleball hours, and to clarify the wording of the ordinance. The tracking of calls to the police department was discussed. There was discussion on whether the hours proposed in the meeting packet are acceptable or need to be adjusted. There was a desire from several trustees to adjust the proposed hours to simplify them but to keep two days of no pickleball, with aspects of the proposal that the Board would like to maintain.

President Buckley shared a proposal he developed: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for summer hours; winter hours proposed are Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., a 50% reduction in hours and consistent times across days. Changes to President Buckley's proposal were to move one day of no play to the weekend and summer hours to be 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It was also proposed that summer hours be 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and weekends 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and winter hours 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. After discussion, there would be no play on Wednesdays and Sundays, and hours of 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Steve Kappes (5960 N Lake Dr) commented that the two days off a week are very important to the neighbors. He stated that starting later is better, pointing out that the revised hours increased from 39 to 45 hours a week. Re-evaluation after a period of time was mentioned.

Mel Johnson (405 E Montclair Ave) stated that the later start time penalizes the morning players.

Paul Smith (4785 N Lake Dr) suggested 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and adjustment of winter hours also.

There was a comment that the updated proposal expands hours from 39 to 45 hours a week.

It was moved by President Buckley, seconded by Trustee Haller that the Village Board approve Ordinance No. 1923 amended to have summer season from May 1st through October 15th of Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday off, winter season October 15th to May 1st Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with Wednesdays and Sundays off. Motion failed 3-4 with Trustees Dettmann, Saunders, Serebin and Vanevenhoven dissenting.

It was moved by Trustee Haller, seconded by Trustee Vanevenhoven that the Village Board approve Ordinance No. 1923 as presented in the meeting packet with an amendment of winter hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-2 with Trustees Saunders and Serebin dissenting.

Enforcement was further discussed. Use of police department time for enforcement was agreed upon to be an inefficient use of department hours. Use of funds for locks or other items like sound mitigation was further discussed. Locking versus not locking the courts was further discussed. Installing a lock now or in the future was discussed. There was a suggestion of a sprinkler system that would go off to enforce closing hours. Locks would help with days of no play, and it would be easier to issue a citation. Escalated fines were suggested for repeat offenders.

It was moved by Trustee Serebin, seconded by Trustee Saunders that the Village Board authorize the purchase of locks discussed using the 2025 surplus. Motion carried 4-3 with President Buckley and Trustees Dettmann and Vanevenhoven dissenting.

2. Discussion/action on contract for financial software for special assessment tracking.

Village Manager McElroy-Anderson commented that with the Lead Service Line project there will be an increase in special assessments. BS&A is used for other financial software currently and offers a special assessment module to assist in tracking. The module would be implemented in 2027, which is when payment would be required. There was an inquiry as to whether the annual fee is expected to change.

It was moved by Trustee Serebin, seconded by Trustee Dettmann that the Village Board approve the contract with BS&A Software LLC for Special Assessment Software. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business, it was moved by Trustee Saunders seconded by Trustee Kasper to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.



Erin Granstrom, Deputy Clerk