

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND
PARK**

MEETING DATE: May 11, 2026

MEETING LOCATION: City Hall, 1707 St Johns Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035

I. Call to Order

At 4:32 PM, Mayor Rotering called the meeting to order and asked for a roll call:

II. Roll Call

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia (remote), Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Director of Public Works Bannon, Community Development Director Fontane, Assistant City Manager Jason, Police Chief Jogmen, Finance Director McCaulou, Fire Chief Schrage, Assistant City Manager Taub, Commander Curran, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Business Development Manager Elder, Management Analyst Cherry, Social Services Specialist Alejandro

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez, All Together (Marisa Schulz), SWA (Ben Waldo, Sofia Mingo)

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on April 27, 2026

Councilmember Lidawer moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Committee of the Whole Held on April 27, 2026. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion Passed (7 - 0).

MOVER:	Councilmember Lidawer
SECONDER:	Councilmember Blumberg
AYES:	Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia, Lidawer, Blumberg
NAYS:	None

IV. Scheduled Business

A. Discussion Regarding the Permanent Place of Remembrance Initial Design Concepts
City Manager Neukirch introduced the discussion regarding the Permanent Place of Remembrance.

Marisa Schulz, representative for All Together, presented the results of the survey and listening sessions that took place over the past few months.

Ben Waldo, representative for SWA, presented the preliminary concept designs for the Permanent Place of Remembrance.

The Council, Mr. Waldo, and City Manager Neukirch discussed the concepts presented for the Rose Garden, including design 1 - Woven Together, design 2 - Mending Lines, and design 3 - Petals. They discussed the concepts that were presented for Port Clinton Square, including design 1 - Woven Together, design 2 - Love Letters, and design 3 - Petals.

A majority of the Council was in consensus with concept design 1, Woven Together, for the Rose Garden. There were different opinions regarding the concepts for Port Clinton. Staff emphasized that the next step in the process is to obtain feedback about the design concepts from victims, next of kin and the general public. Information will be compiled and then a follow-up report and recommendation will be presented to the City Council at a Special meeting on June 8, 2026.

At 6:15 PM, the Council recessed the Committee of the Whole meeting.

At 6:22 PM, Mayor Rotering reconvened the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Present: Mayor Rotering, Councilmembers Center, Bruckman, Ross, Tapia (remote), Lidawer, Blumberg

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Neukirch, Director of Public Works Bannon, Community Development Director Fontane, Assistant City Manager Jason, Police Chief Jogmen, Finance Director McCaulou, Fire Chief Schrage, Assistant City Manager Taub, Commander Curran, Communications Manager Bennett, Assistant to the City Manager Palbitska, Business Development Manager Elder, Management Analyst Cherry, Social Services Specialist Alejandro,

Also Present: Corporation Counsel Elrod, Assistant Corporation Counsel Martinez

B. Policy Discussion Regarding the Possible Advancement of Term Limits

City Manager Neukirch introduced the policy discussion regarding term limits. She noted that if term limits were to advance, it would not affect current terms or previous time served by current elected officials as any term limits imposed in the future would not be retroactive.

Management Analyst Cherry presented information regarding term limits including municipal survey information, the legal process for advancing term limits and suggested policy questions for Council consideration

The Council, Corporation Counsel Elrod, and staff discussed the Council's interest in pursuing a referendum, if the referendum should appear on the November 3, 2026, or April 6, 2027 ballot, what parameters should be considered for the term limits, and if the term limit policy should account for non-consecutive terms.

A majority of the Council was interested in having Corporation Counsel draft a resolution to include the referendum on the November 3, 2026 ballot. The Council will reconvene at a future meeting to discuss the specifics as it relates to the number of terms and how those terms could be served.

C. Update: Status of 445 Central

City Manager Neukirch noted that an update regarding 445 Central would be provided during Business from the Staff at the City Council meeting.

V. Adjournment

Councilmember Center moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilmember Blumberg seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, Mayor Rotering declared the motion passed unanimously.

The Committee of the Whole adjourned its meeting at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ashley Palbitska
Assistant to the City Manager/Deputy City Clerk