



**Hammond Port Authority  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 19, 2026  
hammondportauthority.com**

**Members Present and In Person**

Thomas E. Kuhn	Chairman
Diane Kaminsky	Secretary/Treasurer
Rosemary Wojdyla	Member
Eva Huerta	Member

**Members Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Members Absent**

Kristin Cantrell	Vice Chairman
------------------	---------------

**Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present**

Jeffery Smith	Port Authority Director
Julia Pustek	Finance Director
Jamie Huck	Marina Director
Ashley Gordish	Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary
Steve Sersic	Attorney- Smith Sersic

**Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Others Present**

None.

**Others Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The May 19, 2026 meeting of the Hammond Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Kuhn at 4:30p.m. Four members are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, Member Wojdyla, and Member Huerta are present and in person. Vice Chairman Cantrell is absent.

**Chairman Kuhn called for any conflict of interest statements.**

None.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the approval of minutes.**

E. Huerta made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2026 as presented. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the Director's Report.**

Port Authority Director J. Smith reported on the following:

As of now, the marina has 461 boaters signed up with 69 brand new boaters and 5 new returning boaters. Last year at this time, we had 383 boaters with 48 new boaters. At the end of the 2025 season, the marina finished with 455 boaters and 82 new boaters. We have already surpassed last season's overall number, and it's still very early in the season. Staff noted that activity around Memorial Day typically increases significantly as school begins letting out and more customers but their boats in the water. Based on current activity and continued inquiries, we remain optimistic about the potential to reach 500 boaters this season. The Clipper Room continues to receive calls for bookings and inquiries remain steady. The fuel dock is now fully open and operating regularly compared to an on-call basis. The ship store has remained busy and some new inventory has arrived for the season. Staff is hopeful sales will continue increasing as traffic picks up. We are continuing to hire part-time seasonal workers as activity around the marina increases. With more boats in the water, weekends are expected to become significantly busier. The beach is scheduled to open this weekend. Lifeguards are going to be here preparing the beach, lifeguard house, and surrounding facilities for opening day. The America 250 and 35 Year Marina anniversary banners are being installed throughout the marina on light poles and entry areas. Additional banners and new lights on the Clipper Room balcony will be installed as part of the seasonal startup. The marina is expected to be fully decorated and preparing for events leading into Memorial Day and continuing throughout the July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Splash Pad is still currently closed; however, all equipment has been installed and is ready for operation. Supplies are being ordered and stocked. We anticipate opening Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting. The Summer Concert Series at the Pavilion is fully booked, including the Friday night DJ show. This past weekend, HAPAPALOOZA was held at the Pavilion from 7am until 9pm. Hammond Arts and Performance Academy performed throughout the day. Raquel continues to receive calls and inquiries regarding additional events and Pavilion rentals. Lost Marsh Golf Course remained busy throughout the month of April despite the frequent rainfall. There has been a continued interest in booking outings, and the numbers are up compared to last season. Mike and the Wolf Lake maintenance staff continue to mow grass throughout the parks. They have also been focusing on placing mulch in various locations as a part of ongoing seasonal maintenance and cleanup efforts. Meier's Landscaping and Lawn Service Inc. was recently out planting ten trees as a part of the program with Barron Funeral Home. Staff had previously requested notification prior to the work being completed; however, no notification was received before the planting took place. Stantec, the company that manages the Lost Marsh mitigation area and shoreline treatment, has recently been back on site. Staff spoke with representatives last week, as they reported that the shoreline treatment completed last

year responded very well and has shown noticeable improvement in the area. The Lost Marsh mitigation site near the toll road remains heavily saturated and was previously underwater due to the amount of rainfall received over the past several weeks. Stantec had originally planned to access the area several weeks ago but continues to wait for conditions to improve before additional work can be completed. Following Monday afternoon's storm, three trees came down along the bike the trail near 122<sup>nd</sup> Street on the north side of George "McCaskey" Lake. Public Works assisted Mike and his crew in getting the trees cleared and the trail reopened.

**Chairman Kuhn presented the Chairman's Report.**

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of May 19, 2026 began at 4:00p.m. Chairman Kuhn, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, Member Wojdyla, and Member Huerta are present and in person. Vice Chairman Cantrell is absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
2. Initiation or Pending litigation
3. Personnel matters

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2) (B), (D), (9). The Board certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the Construction Projects Updates.**

Chairman and Construction Committee Chairman Kuhn reported on the following:

Amoco Park Walking Trail- Staff has decided to hold off on making any further decisions regarding the project until the BP strike is over.

US 41 Screen Wall- There are no updates to report.

Marina ChargePoint Station Upgrade- There are no updates to report.

Fuel Dock UST- The paperwork for IDEM has been completed. Staff has met and coordinated with the Horseshoe Casino.

B & T Dock Installation- The installation of B and T dock are complete.

B & T Dock Plumbing- B dock plumbing is complete. T dock plumbing is expected to be done by the end of the week.

B & T Dock Electric- B dock electric is complete. T dock electric is expected to be done by the end of the week.

**Additional Items**

- There are a few planting beds that were installed for the community garden.

**Chairman Kuhn called for Old Business.**

There was no old business to discuss.

**Chairman Kuhn called for New Business.**

E. Huerta made a motion to approve the following use agreements at the Pavilion at Wolf Lake Memorial Park: Hammond Arts & Performance Academy for HAPAPALOOZA, Leon's Triathlon, and Morton High School for Graduation. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion.

Discussion: E. Huerta added that HAPAPALOOZA already took place on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with rehearsals on May 14<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup> from 7am-9am. Leon's Triathlon will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with setup on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Morton's High School Graduation will take place on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 11am-7pm with rehearsals on May 28<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup> from 8am-1:30pm. R. Wojdyla added that HAPAPALOOZA seemed to have a really great turnout. It's a positive event for the City.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the transfer of funds which is per budget. It is \$150,000 from Fund 628 to Fund 630 Lost Marsh Golf Course and \$300,000 from Fund 628 to Fund 630 Parks. E. Huerta seconded the motion.

Discussion: T. Kuhn mentioned that these are normal, yearly transfers that are per budget.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

E. Huerta made a motion to approve the Wolf Lake Pavilion use rates schedule and the 2026 Wolf Lake Aquatic Play Center rates. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the approval of Purchase Orders.**

R. Wojdyla made a motion to approve the Purchase Orders as follows:

- 626 – Marina Operations
- 627 – HPA Construction
- 628 – Embarkation
- 630 – Lost Marsh Golf Course
- 631 – Parks
- 634 – Marina Construction
- 708 – Payroll
- Electronic Transfers

D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

**Chairman Kuhn called for Public Comment.**

None.

**Chairman Kuhn announced the Next Meeting.**

The next regular meeting of the Hammond Port Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2026. These meetings will be held at 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN 46320. The Board may attend in person or by Zoom with the stipulations adopted in Resolution 21-03 approved by the Board on July 27, 2021. The Executive Session will begin at 4:00p.m, the Construction Meeting will begin at 4:15p.m. and the Regular meeting will begin at 4:30p.m.

**Chairman Kuhn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

E. Huerta made a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, R. Wojdyla, D. Kaminsky, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

The May 19, 2026 Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:42pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM**

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of May 19, 2026 began at 4:00p.m. Chairman Kuhn, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, Member Wojdyla, and Member Huerta are present and in person. Vice Chairman Cantrell is absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
2. Initiation or Pending litigation
3. Personnel matters

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2) (B), (D), (9). The Board certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

Board Minutes Prepared By: Ashley Gordish



Hammond Port Authority  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 19, 2026  
hammondportauthority.com

*TE Kuhn*

Thomas E. Kuhn, Chairman

*Kristin Cantrell*

Kristin Cantrell, Vice Chairman

*Diane Kaminsky*

Diane Kaminsky, Secretary/Treasurer

*Rosemary Wojdyla*

Rosemary Wojdyla, Member

*Eva Huerta*

Eva Huerta, Member

ATTEST: *Ashley Rose Gordish*

Julia Pustek, Finance Director

Ashley Gordish, Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary