



**Hammond Port Authority
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2026
hammondportauthority.com**

Members Present and In Person

Kristin Cantrell
Diane Kaminsky
Eva Huerta

Vice Chairman
Secretary/Treasurer
Member

Members Present Via Zoom

None.

Members Absent

Thomas E. Kuhn
Rosemary Wojdyla

Chairman
Member

Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present

Jeffery Smith
Julia Pustek
Jamie Huck
Ashley Gordish
Kevin Smith
Steve Sersic

Port Authority Director
Finance Director
Marina Director
Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary
Attorney- Smith 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 August 18, 2026 meeting of the Hammond Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Vice Chairman Cantrell at 4:31p.m. Three members are present and in person, and two members are absent. Vice Chairman Cantrell, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, and Member Huerta are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn and Member Wojdyla are absent.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for any conflict of interest statements.

There was no conflict of interest statements.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for the approval of minutes.

E. Huerta made a motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2026 as presented. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, D. Kaminsky, K. Cantrell

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for the Director's Report.

Port Authority Director J. Smith reported on the following:

The marina has 528 boaters, with 95 brand new boaters and 8 new returning boaters. The 2025 boating season ended with 455 boaters and 82 new boaters. We anticipate the boaters coming in for the remainder of the season to pay as a transient, which is more cost effective at this point in the year. We are starting to receive reservation calls from loopers looking for transient slips as they travel through the area. The Clipper Room remains busy with general inquiries and party bookings. Recent conditions- including heavy rain, beach closures, and rough waters- have kept many boaters from launching and being out on the lake. With an increase in slipholders, we expected an increase in sales at the ship store and fuel dock. Unfortunately, that hasn't been the case in either department. The beach has started getting busy again in the last two weeks. Conditions have improved, and we have been fortunate with the weather and water quality. During the severe storms last week, the marina fared well compared to the rest of the city. S dock broke loose, but maintenance staff was able to secure and repair it quickly. The Splash Pad continues to see heavy attendance with the summer heat, though it was closed for a few days because of the heavy rainfall. Since the last meeting, the Pavilion hosted Echoes of Pompeii followed by the annual WHAM ride. Both events were extremely well attended, with the official count of WHAM being 972 cyclists. Due to the severe storms, Kashmir was cancelled and will be rescheduled for September. Staff is currently evaluating weather and conditions for this upcoming weekend's scheduled concert. Lost Marsh Golf Course remains extremely active. Niko continues to manage a heavy schedules, with 11 outings booked for this month alone. The parks crew experienced minimal tree damage from last week's storms, with only two small trees coming down across out properties. Following the storm, Mike and the Wolf Lake maintenance crew stepped in to assist Hammond Public Works across the rest of the City. They spent several days helping clear downed trees, debris, and storm damage. Ann Taylor from the Hammond Redevelopment Commission reached out regarding several undeveloped lots in Clark field that are owned by Redevelopment. They asked if our parks maintenance staff could assist with mowing the high weeds along Calumet Avenue. Maintenance staff will be stepping in to maintain the unsold lots and manage the berm along Calumet Avenue. Homeowners of the unbuilt lots have been notified to handle their properties. The HPA Bookkeeper and Board Recording Secretary, Ashley, will be moving to a position in a different department. This will be her last Port Authority board meeting, and she will be greatly missed!

Vice Chairman Cantrell presented the Chairman's Report.

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of August 18, 2026 began at 3:30p.m., Vice Chairman Cantrell, Secretary/Treasurer Kaminsky, and Member Huerta are present and in person. Chairman Kuhn and Member Wojdyla are absent. Three members are present and in person, and two members are 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.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for the Construction Projects Updates.

Port Authority Director J. Smith reported on the following:

US 41 Screen Wall- There is no new update to report.

Fuel Dock UST- We are waiting for HASSE Construction and Northern Indiana Mechanical to get back to us in regards to replacing the tanks. We will share the information with the board, and give it to the attorneys to look over, once we receive it.

O, K, and C Dock Replacement- Staff is reviewing and tweaking the designs for the new docks that were received from Meeco Sullivan.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for New Business.

There was no new business to discuss.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for the approval of Purchase Orders.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the Purchase Orders as follows:

- 626 – Marina Operations
- 628 – Embarkation
- 630 – Lost Marsh Golf Course
- 631 – Parks
- 708 – Payroll

All Electronic Transfers and Bank of New York Mellon

E. Huerta seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, D. Kaminsky, K. Cantrell

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Vice Chairman Cantrell announced the Next Meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Hammond Port Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 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.

Vice Chairman Cantrell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Huerta seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, D. Kaminsky, K. Cantrell

No: None.

Motion passes, 3 approve.

The August 18, 2026 Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM

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Board Minutes Prepared By: Ashley Gordish



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Te Ede

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:

Julia Pustek

Julia Pustek, Finance Director