OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY AD HOC COMMITTEE/BOARD OF THE WHOLE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant, Steve Montez, Alexander Sierra, Ron Silver, Mark Slover, Vice President Reagan Leslie Hill, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Conrad, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Friberg, Attorney Kevin Day, and Alicia Woodworth.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:24 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the December 10, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. Conduct Ordinance Reorganization

Matt Freeman provided an overview of the proposed reorganization and updates to the Conduct Ordinance section of the Peoria Park District Policy Manual. He stated that throughout 2025, District staff, the Board of Trustees, and legal counsel had engaged in multiple discussions regarding the need to update and reorganize this section of the policy manual to improve clarity, transparency, and usability as an operational tool for staff and the Board. As a result of those discussions, legal counsel, in coordination with District staff, prepared a revised draft of the Conduct Ordinance section.

Mr. Freeman explained that the revisions primarily focus on reorganization, clarification, and updates to reflect current legal standards and operational practices. He noted that the intent of the discussion at this meeting was to present the draft for initial review and feedback, with a formal first reading anticipated at the next regular Board meeting, followed by potential consideration for approval at a subsequent meeting.

Staff and legal counsel reviewed several substantive areas of the draft with the Committee, including updates to definitions, renumbering and reordering of sections for clarity, and modifications to language addressing smoking and vaping restrictions, cannabis

regulations, and park shelter definitions to ensure consistency with current state statutes. Legal counsel explained the rationale for removing the prohibition on solicitation of money, noting recent developments in constitutional law and emphasizing that other sections of the Conduct Ordinance addressing disorderly conduct, harassment, or aggressive behavior would continue to apply as appropriate.

Discussion also included revisions to park access hours, with staff explaining that outdated and age-specific curfew language was removed and replaced with a more concise and consistent statement of general park hours (sunrise to sunset unless otherwise posted), allowing for flexibility where posted hours differ by facility or program.

The Committee reviewed updates to fine amounts, noting that while the maximum allowable fine thresholds were increased to align with current statutory authority, the changes do not mandate higher fines but instead provide flexibility should circumstances warrant. Additional updates addressed e-bike regulations, ADA mobility devices, and trail use, with staff explaining how the proposed language aligns with state classifications and anticipated signage enforcement.

Staff also highlighted the addition of alternative penalty language allowing for community service or workforce development opportunities in lieu of monetary fines, explaining that this reflects past District practices and provides equitable enforcement options. Trustees asked clarifying questions regarding appeal and hearing procedures, which legal counsel explained were existing provisions retained for consistency.

Finally, staff explained that several sections were removed from the Conduct Ordinance because they are more appropriately addressed as separate Board policies rather than conduct regulations. Trustees expressed appreciation for the level of work completed and provided feedback on specific sections, including requests to ensure all newly added language is properly redlined for transparency.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. Status Update: Police Services Contract

Matt Freeman provided a status update regarding the District's Police Services contract. He reminded the Committee that since April 2025, the Peoria Park District has contracted with ICMG to provide interim leadership support for the District's Police Department, with the current contract scheduled to expire on January 31, 2026. He further noted that at the October 8, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee/Board of the Whole meeting, the Board reached consensus authorizing staff to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for contracted Police and Public Safety leadership services.

Mr. Freeman explained that development of the RFP has taken longer than anticipated due to the complexity of the services involved and the need for extensive legal review, including considerations related to risk management, liability, and the distinction between independent contractor and employee relationships. He stated that staff sought direction from the Committee regarding whether to pursue a short-term extension of the current ICMG contract through March 31, 2026, to allow sufficient time to complete the RFP process.

Extensive discussion followed among Trustees, staff, and legal counsel. Trustees raised concerns regarding governance, accountability, legal exposure, and the level of control the District would retain under a contracted leadership model. Legal counsel provided context regarding the legal complexities of contracting for police leadership services, including employment classification, benefits, and operational control, noting that these issues significantly complicate the RFP process.

Several Trustees expressed a preference for discontinuing the contracted interim model and returning to a traditional internal leadership structure, citing confidence in existing staff, concerns about ongoing contractual costs, and discomfort with the legal and operational risks associated with external leadership arrangements. Trustees also discussed the District's prior efforts to recruit a permanent Police Chief, potential future recruitment strategies, and the possibility of utilizing outside consultants on a limited basis for specialized expertise rather than full leadership services.

Staff acknowledged that, while there had been positive outcomes and lessons learned during the interim contract period, they understood the Board's concerns and emphasized that any future approach would need to align with the Board's direction and risk tolerance. Trustees provided consensus that staff should not pursue an extension of the current ICMG contract and should instead allow the agreement to expire as scheduled on January 31, 2026.

Legal counsel reminded the Committee that the agenda item was limited to discussion and direction regarding extension of the current contract, and that any consensus should be confined to whether to extend or not extend the agreement.

Based on the discussion, there was clear consensus of the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee/Board of the Whole not to extend the current Police Services contract beyond its January 31, 2026 expiration date.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.A. Approval of Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(5) The Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the use of the Public Body, Including Meetings Held for the Purpose of Discussing Whether a Particular Parcel Should be Acquired; and Section 2(c)(11) Concerning Litigation, an Action Against, Affecting or on Behalf of the Public Organization has Been Filed and is Pending Before a Court or Administrative Tribunal, or when the Public Organization finds that an Action is Probable or Imminent; and Section 2(c)(2) Concerning Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees.

At 6:10 PM Trustee Silver MOVED TO CONVENE into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(5) The Purchase or Lease of Real Property for the use of the Public Body, Including Meetings Held for the Purpose of Discussing Whether a Particular Parcel Should be Acquired; and Section 2(c)(11) Concerning Litigation, an Action Against, Affecting or on Behalf of the Public Organization has Been Filed and is Pending Before a Court or Administrative Tribunal, or when the Public Organization finds that an Action is Probable or Imminent; and Section 2(c)(2) Concerning Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 6:35 PM, President Johnson reconvened the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:38 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried unanimously on voice vote.

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Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary