

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Ron Silver

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Willie Howe, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. CALL FOR MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No requests were received to attend electronically.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD TO ISSUE \$5 MILLION GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

President Johnson stated that this item is a Public Hearing to receive public comments on the proposal to sell \$5 million general obligation park bonds for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and existing land and facilities of the District, and for the payment of expenses incident thereto. All persons desiring to be heard will have the opportunity to present written or oral testimony at this time.

As such, President Johnson requested a motion to recess the Regular Board meeting of the Board of Trustees and convene the Public Hearing, to receive public comment regarding the Park District's intent to sell \$5 million general obligation park bonds.

Trustee Montez MOVED to RECESS the Regular Board meeting into a Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

President Johnson opened the discussion and stated the reasons for the proposed issuance of the bonds are as follows: \$30,000 for payment of debt service, \$1,210,000 for facility improvements, \$1,450,000 for equipment, \$1,970,000 for park and/or golf course improvements, and \$340,000 for other capital projects. All persons desiring to be heard now have an opportunity to present written or oral testimony with respect thereto.

On conclusion of the Public Hearing, Trustee Slover MOVED to adjourn the Public Hearing and reconvene the Regular Board meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the January 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill reported that she had returned to work and thanked Superintendents Karrie Ross and Matt Freeman and the executive team for their leadership during her absence. She noted that the Peoria Zoo will offer donation days through February 14 and encouraged winter visitation, including dining at the Zoo Lodge. Executive Director Cahill also provided an update on the Golf Learning Center and encouraged the public to sign up for project updates. Discussion followed regarding the Park District police services contract and transition planning, with staff indicating that additional information and options would be presented at the February 11, 2026 Strategy Meeting.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

Trustee and Finance Committee Chair Slover stated that the Finance Committee has examined the bills and MOVES that the President and the Secretary be authorized to issue orders on the Treasurer for the several amounts. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Conduct Ordinance Reorganization

First Read

Matt Freeman stated that in 2025, District staff and the Board of Trustees had several discussions regarding updates to the conduct ordinance section of the Peoria Park District policy manual. Through those discussions, it was noted that this section of the policy manual could be reorganized and updated to be transparent to constituents and better serve as the tool it is for District staff. Over the past few months, legal counsel with the assistance of District staff, have been working on updating the document. The “redlined” draft of the updated conduct ordinance section of the policy manual is attached for your review. Additionally provided are the most recent versions of the conduct ordinance section of the policy manual dated Oct. 8, 2025, and a draft of the updated section showing no markups.

9.B. Appointment of 2026 Officers and Advisors

Trustee Harant MOVED TO ACCEPT the Receive and File of the Appointment of the 2026 Officers and Advisors. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried on the following roll call vote:

Trustee Harant - Aye, Trustee Hill - Aye, Trustee Sierra - Abstain, Trustee Slover - Aye, Vice President Montez - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 5 Ayes; 1 Abstain; 0 Nays).

9.C. 2026 Standing Committee Assignments

The 2026 Standing Committee Appointments were presented.

9.D. Sale of Parcel Resolution

Mike Friberg stated that in 2025, two parcels were donated to the Peoria Park District at 3400 W War Memorial Drive. The larger parcel (10.56 acres) was once the location of a trailer park. The smaller parcel (2.83 acres) has been graded and prepared for multi-family development consistent with the townhomes adjacent to it. The donation held no conditions for future use or sale of the parcels. The smaller parcel (2.83 acres) has many constraints, and carries with it certain obligations concerning the roadway that serves it – consistent with its potential development as housing. Section 1 of the Park Commissioners Land Sale Act (70 ILCS 1235/1) allows the sale of parcels of land no longer needed or useful for park purposes. The Act also sets out the further steps required to sell land. The first step in the potential sale of the parcel is the execution of a Resolution to Sell. As such, staff recommends the execution of the Resolution Regarding the Sale of Real Property for Parcel PIN# 13-13-203-011.

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE Resolution No. 148-1 Regarding the Sale of Real Property Sale of Real Property. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

10.A. Mailing Machine Lease per Sourcewell Contract

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Item 10.A. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

11. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None noted at this time.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Superintendent of Finance and Administration Karrie Ross provided a comprehensive overview of the District's current grant activity. She reported that the District is actively managing approximately \$10 million in grant funding across 24 active and recently closed grants, reflecting significant success in diversifying revenue sources beyond property taxes and fees.

Superintendent Ross noted that the presentation was intended as a high-level overview and was not an all-encompassing list of grant activity, but rather focused on grants that are material in size and currently active or recently closed.

She summarized grant funding by source, including private foundations, local government entities, and the State of Illinois, and further distinguished between capital grants and operating/program grants. She highlighted that grant funding is supporting a wide range of District priorities, including but not limited to:

improvements and programming at the Peoria Zoo, Glen Oak Park, and the Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum; the Golf Learning Center; energy efficiency and sustainability initiatives; youth employment and education programs; and Summer of Fun programming.

Superintendent Ross emphasized the importance of diligent grant administration, compliance, and reporting, noting that grant-funded initiatives are increasingly aligned with Board-identified priorities and long-term strategic goals. She also discussed the District’s growing capacity to leverage grant opportunities through strong relationships with funding partners and data-driven program outcomes.

Board members asked questions and engaged in discussion regarding grant funding timelines, State of Illinois appropriations, and the relationship between grant funding and capital investment decisions, particularly as they relate to the Golf Learning Center and other major projects. Superintendent Ross and Executive Director Cahill responded to questions and noted that additional background information and timelines would be compiled and shared with the Board as appropriate.

As a result, Trustee Sierra requested a full and comprehensive funding history of the Golf Learning Center. President Johnson and several other Trustees expressed appreciation for staff’s efforts in securing and managing grant funding and noted the importance of grants as a tool for advancing the District’s mission, supporting economic impact, and enhancing community services.

13.A. Approval to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body.

At 7:35 PM, Trustee Harant moved to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal of Specific Employees of the Public Body. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 8:33 PM President Johnson reconvened the Regular Board meeting.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on voice vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn6QSdAJrNE>

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary