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 4:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA IL

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Mike Friberg, Kristi Shoemaker, Max Lakes, Melissa Sierra, Mary Harden, Attorney Kevin Day, Attorney Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No requests to attend meeting electronically were received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Hill MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the September 23, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. Policy Modification – Equal Employment and Artificial Intelligence

Shalesse Pie presented proposed amendments to the Equal Employment and Artificial Intelligence policy to conform to the Illinois Human Rights Act. Corporate counsel assisted with the revisions. In response to questions, staff confirmed that artificial intelligence is not used to screen applicants or make hiring decisions. The proposed policy was expected to proceed to the Board for a first reading later that evening.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. 2027 Budget Discussion – Peoria Zoo

Max Lakes reviewed the Zoo's 2026 performance and 2027 outlook, including community outreach, education, animal experiences, attendance, memberships, revenue and expenses. Highlights included 45 Zoomobile visits reaching approximately 3,400 people, approximately 25,000 student visits, the Bleat Retreat goat experience, and partnerships with area schools and healthcare organizations. Staff reported lower admissions, particularly during periods of heat and rain, reduced Glow Wild attendance, and higher part-time payroll and other operating costs. Discussion addressed corporate rentals, membership programs, seasonal marketing, animal care and visitor experiences, and the

proposed capital improvements. Staff described plans to emphasize guest experience, selected adult evening events and revenue opportunities in 2027.

6.B. 2027 Budget Discussion – Peoria PlayHouse

Melissa Sierra reviewed 2026 Peoria PlayHouse programming, outreach, attendance, memberships and financial performance, as well as the 2027 operating outlook. Discussion addressed the growing share of discounted Explore memberships, the financial implications of reduced admission and membership revenue, rentals, birthday parties, grants and fundraising, and proposed adjustments to staffing, marketing and membership rates. Staff also updated the Committee on ongoing facility improvements and the anticipated reopening in early November following the temporary closure. Trustees discussed accessibility, affordability, membership retention and strategies to attract new visitors.

6.C. Capital Improvement Plan

Becky Fredrickson presented the proposed 2027 general obligation bond issue and five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Staff explained that the plan is a flexible forecast of anticipated capital needs and that approximately 100 proposed projects were evaluated using weighted criteria, including safety, regulatory compliance, asset preservation, operational and community impact, equity, financial sustainability and readiness. Approximately 60 projects, plus mechanical equipment, were included in the proposed bond issue. Based on financial-advisor guidance and the timing of debt service on anticipated alternative revenue source bonds, the proposed 2027 bond issue increased from $4 million to $5 million. The additional $1 million would accelerate the Newman golf course irrigation replacement, increasing its 2027 allocation from $500,000 to $1.5 million. The RiverPlex security camera project was removed from the 2027 list, with $10,000 reassigned to PlayHouse porch waterproofing and $10,000 to Glen Oak bathroom improvements. Trustees discussed scoring priorities, projects whose locations have not yet been determined, and continued removal of hazardous ash trees. Staff indicated that the bond issue and five-year plan would return during the November Board process.

6.D. Legal Services RFP

Karrie Ross reviewed the proposed process and scoring materials for the legal services request for proposals. Proposals are due October 20, 2026. Trustees discussed review criteria, the availability of information concerning firms' staffing and diversity, the number of trustees participating in scoring and interviews, and the need for interview participants to have reviewed the proposals. Staff plans to distribute responsive submissions and scoring materials after the deadline, with a target of October 22, for review ahead of the next meeting on October 28.

6.E. Detweiller Marina and Playground Property Update

This item was deferred.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9.B. Patron Communication

The Committee received patron correspondence dated October 12, 2026, concerning Glen Oak Park. The correspondence was included in the Regular Board meeting agenda materials for review.

9.B. Approval of Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent

At 6:16 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO CONVENE Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 6:39 PM, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO RECESS the Closed Session. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 7:31 PM, the Closed Session meeting reconvened.

At 8:35 PM, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN the Closed Session. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:38 PM, Trustee Slover MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary