

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, OCTOBER 8, 2025 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Joyce Harant

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Eddlemon, Kristi Shoemaker, Yoginee Nawale, Mary Harden, Hedy Elliott, 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 6:41 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with one Trustee absent.

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.

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of the September 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the September 24, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Trustee Sierra welcomed Hedy Elliott, Director of the Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning, to introduce two recent graduates, Renley Fuller and Levi. Trustee Sierra expressed his appreciation for the program and the impact it has on adult learners in the community. He shared his personal reflections after attending the recent graduation ceremony, describing the event as deeply moving and inspiring. He thanked Ms. Elliott and her students for joining the meeting and noted how meaningful their accomplishments were both personally and to the broader Peoria community. Ms. Elliott reported that 22 GED students graduated in the most recent cohort—the program’s second graduation of the year—and thanked the Board for its continued support. She introduced graduates Renley Fuller, recipient of the George Jacob Scholarship, and Levi, both of whom briefly addressed the Board. Mr. Fuller expressed his gratitude for the program and shared his future plans to study human rights law at Illinois Central College and pursue mentorship through Equality Illinois. Levi spoke about his persistence in completing the program while raising his young son and thanked Ms. Elliott and the Park District for their support.

President Johnson and several Trustees commended the graduates for their perseverance and success, noting how their stories reflected the District's mission of improving lives through lifelong learning opportunities.

President Johnson recognized Ms. Regina Benson, who shared concerns regarding support and accommodations for her children with special needs in Park District programs. Ms. Benson, a parent of two daughters with autism enrolled in fall programs, expressed uncertainty about staff availability and comfort with dropping her children off at programs. She requested more communication and support for parents of children with disabilities. President Johnson thanked Ms. Benson for attending and sharing her concerns, assuring her that appropriate staff would contact her directly to discuss her daughters' participation and ensure their needs are met.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill announced that Zootober kicks off the following evening with a member and staff preview night, followed by four weekends of events. She thanked the Zoo and Events staff for their ongoing efforts in preparing for the event and invited all Trustees to attend.

7.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction

Becky Fredrickson provided the September 2025 Project Report, noting significant construction activity. No questions were raised by Trustees.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. Planning Committee – Memorial Bench at FPNC

Planning Committee Chair and Vice President Hill reported that the Planning Committee reached consensus to move forward with a memorial bench request at Forest Park Nature Center.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Memorial Bench at FPNC. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Conduct Ordinance Amendment

Approval

Attorney Kevin Day reviewed that the proposed Conduct Ordinance Amendment had been previously presented for reading and discussion and was now ready for approval.

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the Conduct Ordinance Amendments. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.B. Acceptance of Artwork: Donovan Sculpture Garden

Executive Director Cahill recommended acceptance of the loan of the sculpture 'Shirley Armstrong' (The Whale) by artist Preston Jackson, currently at the Peoria Heights Library. The piece complements existing works at Donovan Sculpture Garden and will be hosted for a two-year term at no cost. Staff will finalize an artist agreement to ensure proper insurance and liability coverage.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Acceptance of The Whale Sculpture at Donovan Sculpture Garden. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.C. Intergovernmental Agreement: Land Transfer – Columbia Park

Executive Director Cahill summarized that this agreement transfers property from Peoria Public Schools to the Park District for Columbia Park.

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the Intergovernmental Agreement: Land Transfer at Columbia Park. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.D. Amendment to Agreement for Zoo Design Services

Staff recommended approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Torre Design Consortium contract, adjusting the project scope and design fee from \$12.4 million to approximately \$8 million. The revised scope includes the animal hospital, meerkat exhibit, and carousel with birthday party rooms.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Amendment to the Agreement for Zoo Design Services. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.E. Proposal: Engineering Services Owens Renovation Site Work

Becky Fredrickson presented the proposal for engineering services for site work at Owens Recreation Center as the first phase of the facility's renovation. Trustees discussed the diversity profile of the firm and coordination between engineering and architectural contractors.

Vice President Hill MOVED TO APPROVE the Proposal for Engineering Services for Owens Renovation Site Work. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.F. Proposal: Design Services Owens Renovation

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the Proposal for Design Services for Owens Renovation. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

10.A. Quote: Luthy South Greenhouse Roof Installation

10.B. Janitorial Services Franciscan Recreation Center

10.C. Grain Products and Wood Shavings for Peoria Zoo

10.D. Quote: Gwynn Family Aquatic Center Pool Painting

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

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 10.B. through 10.D. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

11. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

12.A. Communications Received

Thank you note from the Peoria Chinese Association was presented.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

President Johnson commended staff for their dedication and extensive work preparing Zootober, noting the event's importance to the community. Trustees echoed appreciation and expressed enthusiasm for attending.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:12 pm Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qawUw19wzds>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary