

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill, Steve Montez, Vice President Alexander Sierra, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Nick Conrad, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Attorney William Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Chief Todd Green, Dawn Petefish, David Gray, Jess Main, Susie Ingram, Emily Bernadi, Nicole Staley, Kristi Shoemaker, Mike Friberg, Mary Harden, Christina Mitchell, Edward Spencer, Willie Howe, and Alicia Woodworth.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

No Trustees requested to attend the meeting electronically.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At this time, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the following items:

5.A. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

7.A. Planning Committee – Schmoeger Park Lease Agreement

8.D. 2025 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

8.E. Approval of Pre-Travel Expenses for Trustees' Attendance at 2025 IAPD Conference

8.F. Approval of IAPD Credentials Resolutions

8.H. Wildlife Monitoring Radio Tower at Singing Woods Proposal

8.I. Disposal Ordinance #403

9.A. Ratification of Phone Poll Items Dated October 30, 2024: Detweiller Park Water Main and Luthy North House Roof Installation

9.B. Purchase of ASV VT-100 Forestry Compact Track Loader

Motion seconded by Vice President Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, Vice President Sierra, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Please see approved motion above.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill did not have anything to add at this time.

6.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction

Becky Fredrickson presented the October 2024 Project Report and stated that currently, there are no projects materially behind schedule. *Please see Attachment A.*

6.C. Chief of Police

Chief Todd Green presented the October 2024 Police Report. *Please see Attachment B.*

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. Planning Committee – Schmoeger Park Lease Agreement

The Planning Committee Presents the Schmoeger Park Lease Agreement to Full Board for Approval
Please see approved motion above.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. Continuation of 2025 Budget Presentation

In continuation of the 2025 Budget presentation, Matt Freeman stated that the Museum Fund supports 6 different departments and is very diverse. From support of the Peoria Zoo to Luthy Botanical Garden to the important advocacy and experiences offered at Forest Park Nature Center and Tawny Oaks Field Station, this fund is filled with vibrant energy that enhances our community.

Shalesse Pie stated that in Greek mythology, the story of Baucis and Philemon is a testament to the power of genuine connections and the importance of hospitality. When Zeus and Hermes, disguised as weary travelers, were turned away by wealthier households, they found shelter with the humble couple. This couple warmly welcomed them, offering what little they had. In return, the gods rewarded them, transforming their modest home into a beautiful temple and granting them eternal companionship as honored caretakers of the temple.

Sue Wheeler stated that like the lasting bond between Baucis, Philemon, and the gods, our memberships and annual passes create an enduring connection between our patrons and our organization. Through these relationships, we provide a welcoming place where members feel valued, appreciated, and part of a community. Memberships are more than a transaction—they are a shared commitment to our mission, supporting the spaces, programs, and experiences that we create together. We know that when patrons make the commitment to purchase membership that we must honor that by honoring their choice and offering benefits and experiences that justify their investment and reflect our gratitude, deepening the connection.

Jonelle McCloud stated that further, and maybe most importantly, with pricing and promotions, we try to push patrons to consider a membership because it offers a more cost-effective way for families to access ongoing activity and experience for a lower rate than purchase of single admission tickets or passes. Many of our facilities, including the RiverPlex, Proctor, the Zoo, our Golf Courses and the PlayHouse, encourage memberships in order to promote return visits, which in turn help to build healthy habits and loyalty to our brand.

Karrie Ross stated that as Trustees review the financial summaries, please note that in 2025 as in the past, Peoria Zoo is funded by both the Recreation and Museum Funds of the District. Per-user subsidy for the facility is calculated within the Recreation Fund section on page 55 of the budget book. Please note that the 2025 decreased expenses and revenue budgeted in the Luthy Botanical Garden are not associated with decreases in service, rather it's the 2023 and 2024 revenues and expenses that were higher than usual due to an insurable property claim in 2023 and a memorial donation in 2024. Bob Streitmatter and Melissa Davis will continue to offer the quality programming and rental facilitation that the community enjoys, and in 2025 they are budgeting to collaborate with the District's internal forestry crew to remove some aged trees and redesign tree plantings in sections of the garden. Additionally, though the Land Steward department does not directly reflect a datapoint for acreage supported, this department does support and collaboratively manage land stewardship efforts across the District's 9,000 acres, as previously discussed in this presentation.

Jenny Swanson stated that as part of the mandate set forth in the Illinois Park Code, Peoria Zoo offers both donation days and free field trips to all local schools. This helps in ensuring access for many in our community. The District's Summer of Fun Pass and scholarship program also help to promote access for all. We also continue to prioritize sensory access at many of our facilities, whether through exclusive access events or with sensory supports available during open hours. The Museum Fund, home to our flagship environmental facilities, is also home to our environmental expertise. Kristi Shoemaker is a strong leader of our strategic planning efforts focused on this commitment and we express gratitude to her for her work. She, along with her team, plans and executes also helps us to engage patrons of all ages with quality education and advocacy opportunities, whether through guided hikes, field trips, or volunteer activities. Finally, the fund and its members are focused on growing memberships. While the loyalty talked about by Sue and Jonelle is in play here as well, memberships at environmental facilities where admission is free provide a unique way for patrons to help show their support for the care and maintenance of our land.

Shalesse Pie stated that the Peoria Park District Police Department is responsible for the safety of the general public, prevention of crime and disorder, and the protection of the natural resources and facilities of the Park District. In addition to general enforcement of District ordinance rules, Park Police Officers also provide patrols, crowd control, special details, traffic control, and general security assistance at special events.

Jenny Swanson stated that in Greek mythology, Prometheus is celebrated as the titan who brought fire to humanity, an act that symbolized the dawn of innovation and progress. Fire, beyond its literal warmth and light, represents the spark of creativity and transformation. Prometheus' gift allowed humans to build, create, and advance—leading to the development of civilization itself.

Chief Green stated that much like Prometheus' gift of fire, innovation and modernization in our programming are the sparks that fuel growth and revenue generation. By embracing new ideas, we create programming that is not only engaging and relevant but also drives financial sustainability. Innovation is the key to attracting new audiences, increasing participation, and unlocking new revenue streams that support our broader organizational goals. In 2025, the District has prioritized several technologies- focused improvements including a transition to a new

crime reporting system in collaboration with Peoria Police Department. This comes after a transition in our body cameras in the fall of this year. We also continue to rely on security cameras to be our eyes in places where we can't have a physical presence. We look forward to the addition of light towers and a speed tracker sign to our inventory to help us maintain and promote safe activity in our spaces and places and as part of our programming and events.

Max Lakes stated that we will also transition Peoria Zoo and Luthy Botanical Garden to RecTrac, which will allow Zoo programming and membership to be registered for and renewed using the same platform as Peoria PlayHouse and our recreation centers. While this transition is time consuming and requires additional staff training and hardware acquisition, the ability to support patrons on the same platform for registration and most of our memberships is an opportunity that can't be deferred. An upgrade to our Zoo website is also in progress and our IT team is working to improve the audio capabilities at the Zoo and Luthy. Individually, each of these efforts makes us better. Together, they will change the way our patrons experience our facilities.

Becky Fredrickson stated that highlighted capital investments in this fund include the purchase of a mobile camera trailer and replacement of a police and security vehicle.

Nick Conrad stated that focuses in the Police Fund include training for all officers in dealing with patrons who exhibit mental health issues which is a growing concern in our community, state, and nation. This comes as part of a state-mandated rigorous annual training requirement for all badged officers. Police and security will also continue to work with our IT staff and their local police colleagues to identify and deploy technology where it makes sense to expand our reach and ability to keep District assets safe. And finally, our Park Police and security are a key to our District's ability to offer quality events, supporting both our patrons and staff as we contribute to local vibrancy.

Executive Director Cahill stated that the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association (HISRA) is a special revenue fund and is a cooperative programming effort provided by the Peoria Park District, Morton Park District, Chillicothe Park District, and Washington Park District. Each District provides property tax support at a tax rate of 2 cents annually. Since HISRA is a special revenue fund cooperative, it utilizes its operating budget net revenues to fund capital expenditures, which includes building improvements and vehicles.

Data regarding HISRA outputs and outcomes are provided to the HISRA board which is comprised of two representatives of each member district. President Johnson and I serve in this role for the Peoria Park District. HISRA's 2025 budget was approved by the HISRA Board on October 16. This budget looks a little different than ones you have seen in the past as we have pulled HISRA's FOCUS Adult program into its own fund to separately track expenses in these programs. This has pulled expense for 1.2 FT staff and all PT staff and programmatic expenses to this budget line.

HISRA has made quite a few programmatic changes and additions in the last two years. In 2024 HISRA added three Special Olympic Sport options and a camp option was also added. Vocational components have also been added to our FOCUS program in the last two years. HISRA staff will focus on quality improvement in 2025. There are no substantial changes to programming in this budget. This budget does include teen programming as an extension of our teen summer camps. This provides opportunities for those teens to remain connected and engaged throughout

the school year and continue to work on some of the skills acquired in these summer camps. In 2024, HISRA added production Fridays to our FOCUS program to increase production of our consignment items for retail locations and pop up sales. This will continue in 2025. In 2025 HISRA will extend priority registration to our seasonal programs. In 2024 we debuted priority registration for summer camps only. As a result, member district registration increased 12.2%. This budget also includes capital needs in our building, the most significant of which is parking lot improvements.

Brianna Cobb stated that in ancient Greek culture, *Xenia*—the concept of hospitality—was a sacred duty. Zeus himself was the god of hospitality, ensuring that everyone, from the highest noble to the humblest traveler, was welcomed and respected. Under Xenia, hosts were expected to open their doors, offering food, shelter, and safety to strangers, regardless of their background or status. This practice built trust, community, and a sense of belonging that transcended boundaries.

Executive Director Cahill stated that inspired by the spirit of Xenia, our philosophy is to ensure that our parks and programs are accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to everyone. We believe that every individual in our community, regardless of age, ability, or background, should have a place to enjoy, connect, and feel welcomed. Just as the ancient Greeks opened their doors to all, we strive to create spaces where everyone can come together, fostering a culture of inclusion and shared community. The commitment to accessibility and hospitality ensures that everyone feels at home in our parks and programs. In the spirit of Xenia, we see our spaces as shared resources, open and inviting for all, where each person finds not only enjoyment but a sense of belonging and community. This is especially meaningful as we work to increase accessibility across our locations. HISRA is focused on making recreation programming available to everyone, whether through the support of inclusion services that support participation in traditional park district programs or through HISRA-provided services that engage and build capacity. This year, HISRA received funds from the Heart of Illinois United Way that supported our work to build a more shared community.

Emily Bernardi stated that the United Way also awarded the Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning grant funds that help support our GED education and workforce development supports. Our GED program meets people where they are and offers assistance and empowerment that creates an understanding in each of our students that they can be anything and go anywhere that they aspire to. Moonlight addresses the educational needs of those who are 16 and older by providing the tools and resources needed to obtain a high school diploma. Moonlight's open entry and open exit program allows students to start and finish at times that are convenient to them. This eliminates the barrier of accessibility to students who may have work, family, or other time constraints. While other programs operate on a semester basis, Moonlight conducts classes year-round. Many Moonlight staff members have a Professional Educator License issued by the Illinois State Board of Education or advanced education in mathematics and language arts. These qualified individuals work with students one on one or in a small group setting. This model is unique to the area because most programs instruct students in large group settings. The benefits of a high school diploma to clients and the community include improved self-confidence, access to better jobs and higher income, increased opportunities for post-secondary education.

Karrie Ross stated that finally, a review of the District's Non-Operating Funds as allowed for by the Illinois Park District Code will be given.

Non-Operating Funds include:

- *Audit Fund, which covers the costs associated with the annual external audit of the District's financial statements.
- *Bond and Interest Fund that levies the taxes needed to make the District's principal and interest payments on its general obligation park bond issues.
- *FICA Fund, which pays the District's portion of Social Security and Medicare for all employees.
- *IMRF Fund pays for the District's required contribution to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.
- *Liability Fund that pays for the District's risk management program and the District's property and liability membership contributions to PDRMA, the District's risk pool.
- *Paving and Lighting Fund pays for street and parking lot lighting within parks and some roadway and parking improvements.
- *Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Fund pays for the District's workers' compensation coverage and unemployment compensation costs.

Scott Loftus stated that in Greek mythology, Chiron, the wise centaur, was renowned for his knowledge and teaching abilities. Unlike other centaurs, who were often wild and unruly, Chiron was known for his wisdom. He mentored some of the greatest heroes of Greek mythology, including Achilles and Hercules, helping them to hone their skills and achieve greatness. Chiron was born half-human and half-horse. Distressed by giving birth to such a being, his mother abandoned Chiron, but he was later raised and mentored by the gods, particularly Apollo and Artemis, who taught him medicine, music, archery, hunting, and prophecy. Chiron became famous as a wise and gentle teacher and his myth is often associated with themes of healing, knowledge, and self-sacrifice. His story contrasts with the image of the typical centaur, and he represents the civilizing power of education and mentorship. Chiron is also symbolic in later interpretations of Greek myth as the "wounded healer", a concept suggesting that those who experience deep wounds may become great healers themselves.

Cody Haines stated that Chiron's legacy teaches us that the true strength of any organization lies not just in its resources but in the support of and investment in its people. By investing in professional development, we channel the spirit of Chiron, nurturing the talents, skills, and wisdom of our team members. Just as Chiron's guidance helped heroes reach their full potential, our commitment to professional growth ensures that our staff can continue to evolve, innovate, and lead. Professional development is not just an investment in individuals; it's an investment in the future of our organization. By fostering continuous learning and skill-building, we equip our team to face challenges, seize opportunities, and drive our mission forward. Like Chiron, we understand that nurturing talent is key to achieving lasting success. In 2024, the District has focused on building out a strong patron service training that is required for all staff across the organization. The training includes a workbook and a guided discussion between staff and their supervisor related to job expectations for patron service and empowerment related to recovering a patron who has a negative experience. I have also been able to facilitate several trainings for our leadership team, with Shalesse Pie, that have focused on DEIA and supervision skills. In 2025, Brianna and I will lead the effort to implement a second module in our Paycom system that tracks employees from application through hire. This module focuses on professional development and the Learning Management System, LMS for short, will allow us to better track training

requirements for staff at all levels from onboarding to job-specific trainings. Tracking of completion and due dates will go from something that we track manually today to something that will show up in Paycom, where staff already go to track payroll and time off. 2025 will also mark the first time in several years that the District has the capacity to fund tuition reimbursement opportunities as offered in our policy. We look forward to building a robust, sustainable support for our PPD family this year and beyond. The majority of these funds do not have maximum taxing rates, which gives the District the ability to fund these needs at necessary rates.

Executive Director Cahill stated that as a Board of Trustees, you are responsible for ongoing monitoring of our 2025 fiscal performance in order to guide any course changes that may be needed beyond actions that are guided by policy. Here are some indicators that you should watch for as we progress through the coming year. In 2025, we will continue to prioritize becoming and staying competitive in the local market. Wage increases for full-time staff, as well as targeted increases above and beyond minimum wage seek to increase our quality applicant pool. While we tease about trying not to make Mother Nature angry, she does have a lot of control over our budget. A wet spring impacts revenue generation in both golf and at the zoo in ways that are hard to recover from. A hot summer reduces participation in outdoor events or programs and increases irrigation costs for golf. And snow? Controlling snow and ice on our more than 20 miles of park roads and many parking lots and sidewalks not only increases our staff costs, but also potentially pulls people in to work long hours during the holiday season.

Next, keeping an eye on usage levels across our facilities, especially those that are reliant on membership and/or admission revenues, must be a part of ongoing review. This type of charges for service revenue is material to the District's overall budget and declines in these revenues in any key area, such as Golf, RiverPlex, PlayHouse, or Zoo, may indicate a need for modifications. The District continues to emphasize the need for and the opportunities that come with grant revenues. The generous support of Representative Jehan Gordon Booth as she has advocated for ICJIA violence prevention dollars has been critical to our strategic efforts to build out programming that supports our commitment guides.

However, these grants track with a July to June fiscal year and therefore come with some risk. This year, we have been able to budget to support the second six months of programming from other sources, but that is not always the case. We note here that our tracking and budgeting does NOT include the impacts of Natural Disaster or Pandemic. That will fall outside of this standard process, but will obviously require quick responses like those taken in 2020 as part of COVID.

With that said, please also remember that when considering what factors or indicators may require a shift in our inventory or board action to resolve a budget issue in 2024, most individual budgets are relatively small enough that the challenges raised here don't cause organization-wide "earthquakes". Exceptions to this are Peoria Zoo, RiverPlex and Golf.

There are a variety of factors, many of which are outside of our control, that can have significant impact on our operating budgets. Those items that are in our control include food and beverage in both our golf and zoo operations. As we move closer to the establishment of an operator agreement with Fox Pub and Bearded Owl for the Golf Learning Center, we look forward that this collaboration can have on our ability to generate revenues that we currently can't capture after

golf rounds and as part of golf outings. We also look to firmly implement improvements at Peoria Zoo in order to generate revenue during special events, but also during daily operations at a higher rate and quality. We also continue to make progress in our work to prepare for a capital campaign to support the zoo and look forward to collaborating with Peoria Zoological Society to improve our zoo. Likewise, we express gratitude to OSF for their collaboration and support of the RiverPlex.

Brianna Cobb stated that In Greek mythology, Dionysus, the god of wine, celebration, and joy, was known for his ability to bring people together in moments of laughter, festivity, and fun. As a god who represented freedom from every day cares, Dionysus inspired joyous gatherings where everyone, regardless of background, could join in shared enjoyment. Festivals in his honor were filled with music, dancing, and the spirit of connection, symbolizing the power of communal joy.

In much the same way, we see ourselves as the Dionysian spirit within our community, providing moments of happiness, freedom, and togetherness through our parks and programming. From lively festivals and events to simple days spent in the park, we create spaces where fun and joy are accessible to all. Our role is to bring people together, offering experiences that lift spirits, encourage laughter, and build shared memories.

Alicia Woodworth stated that like Dionysus, we are dedicated to fostering a community where enjoyment is a central part of life, creating opportunities for everyone to connect, celebrate, and experience the joy of being together. Through our work, we bring the gift of fun, reminding our community of the importance of happiness and shared experiences. As Park District staff and trustees, we work so that others may play. Often, we do so behind the scenes and without fanfare or celebration. Emily assigned this part to us because of that very fact because our faces aren't ones that get seen very often and so we stand here tonight as examples of the more than 800 people who have supported the work of the Peoria Park District this year.

Willie Howe stated that without all of us, so many things that our communities look forward to and sometimes take for granted wouldn't be here. Sometimes those things may be silly.... For example, without my team, the ghost projection at ZooTober wouldn't have worked and the laughter that we heard from the sometimes dozens of people who stopped and stayed on the boardwalk to see the ghosts would have been silenced.

Alicia Woodworth stated that at other times, those things can be difference makers. They include a quiet place to sit and reflect in nature that makes a difference between a good and a bad day. They include a connection made with someone who doesn't look like you or believe what you do but who shares a love for strawberry flavored soda. We all make those things happen together and we made a difference.

Executive Director Cahill stated that Willie and Alicia, along with Vernon and Mark and Dale and Angela and Jalen and Tim and Nyk and Melinda and Bob and Eddie and so many others work every day and sometimes night because they believe that our spaces and places are for everyone to enjoy. We get goosebumps when we walk through fallen crunchy leaves in autumn. We help each other and regardless of our job title, we all pitch in and get stuff done. We constantly think of new ways to do things because nothing is written in stone and everything can be done better. We also know that it is imperative that we honor our philosophies and find consistent, clear paths

filled with intention and value in times of plenty so that, like the Ant from the beginning of our presentation, we've done all that we can to be ready for winter when it comes. This concludes the fund review for 2025 and District staff are pleased to present a balanced 2025 budget with operating revenues equaling operating expenses.

As presented, it should be celebrated that we have found a cadence that supports consistent, quality programming and spaces. In my time here, we have had budget processes that were hard. They were emotional and they required difficult decisions about closing facilities or ending services. That is not the request tonight and that should be honored as a really good thing. As we build out our strategy for those challenges that we've referenced tonight. Owens Center, Zoo, Golf, RiverPlex and others, we will be ready to apply the structure that we have built together that supports philosophy and informed decision-making honoring the truth that we started. Our parks and programming are for everyone and we will make hard decisions accordingly and together. The Peoria Park District is fortunate to have a dedicated publicly elected Board of Trustees and staff who are committed to serving the residents in our District and surrounding areas. This powerful leadership is essential to conducting the financial operations of the District in a responsible and prudent manner while continuing to serve the changing needs of our citizens.

8.B. Approval of 2025 Operating Budget

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2025 Operating Budget. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, Vice President Sierra, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.C. Approval of 2025 Bond Issue Budget

Vice President Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the 2025 Bond Issue Budget. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, Vice President Sierra, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.D. 2025 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Please see approved motion above.

8.E. Approval of Pre-Travel Expenses for Trustees' Attendance at 2025 IAPD Conference

Please see approved motion above.

8.F. Approval of IAPD Credentials Resolutions

Please see approved motion above.

8.G. Revised Marketing Agreement

This item was pulled and will be resubmitted at a later date.

8.H. Wildlife Monitoring Radio Tower at Singing Woods Proposal

Please see approved motion above.

8.I. Disposal Ordinance #403

Please see approved motion above.

9. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

9.A. Ratification of Phone Poll Items Dated October 30, 2024: Detweiller Park Water Main and Luthy North House Roof Installation

9.B. Purchase of ASV VT-100 Forestry Compact Track Loader

Please see approved motion above.

10. PENDING BUSINESS

10.A. Approval of Minutes of October 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Vice President Sierra stated that he will make a motion to deny these minutes, as he severely disagrees with how the minutes were presented. Minutes can only tell so much and when there are transcribed meeting notes, it misses so much important context of what people say. While he understands that someone can watch the video of the Board meeting, it is completely unreasonable to expect people to watch a recorded meeting and read a document and reference that, and expect them to capture every single detail. It is his opinion that it is unreasonable to expect people from throughout the community to watch the video and read the referenced document, and, it is his understanding that the intent of minutes is not for transcribed notes. Those are two compelling reasons for the Board to not set a precedent in accepting transcribed minutes and deny these minutes as presented.

As such, Vice President Sierra MOVED TO DENY the Minutes of the October 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Hill asked why these particular minutes were transcribed in this way. Secretary Woodworth stated that there were several reasons. First of all, it was not an item on the agenda, where the agenda did not reflect the normal, perfunctory items. Also, the conversation was 65 minutes long and was difficult to summarize that unscripted, unanticipated discussion. That conversation ended up being a very consequential discussion, two days later. Secretary Woodworth stated that she did not know how objectively summarize such a long, unanticipated, consequential discussion. As such, she stated the best way that she knew to present the discussion in the minutes, was to provide a transcript of that portion only. In order to remove any sort of possible subjectivity in a summary, a transcript of the discussion was provided.

Vice President Sierra asked if any member of the Park Board requested that transcript be placed in the minutes. Secretary Woodworth stated no. A Trustee did ask for a separate transcript of that discussion, but they did not ask it be placed as part of the minutes. Secretary Woodworth stated that it was her decision to place the transcription in the minutes. The reason being, if a Trustee asked for a transcript of the discussion, Secretary Woodworth would of course send that to all Trustees. She explained that it would be somewhat confusing If that full transcript was provided separately to Trustees and then to have just a brief summary of that discussion placed in the minutes. Secretary Woodworth emphasized that she was not asked by anyone to place that transcript in the minutes and that it was entirely her decision to do so.

Trustee Covington stated that she thinks the transcript should stay in the minutes. In her own experience when looking at prior years' minutes to research a particular item, she wishes some of them were more detailed in order to get a clearer idea of what transpired. A general summary is not always useful. She stated that the transcript states what was said and by whom and under the circumstances with all of the push back and press, she thinks it's important that it should remain in the minutes.

Trustee Bertschy stated that he did not second Vice President Sierra's motion to deny the minutes because there has to be meeting minutes. His issue is that this is so different than anything seen in prior minutes, and these are not minutes. Minutes are to be a summary of the meeting. There are many consequential things at Board meeting, for example, tonight the Board voted on a \$40M budget, and that's very consequential. As such, he would not anticipate a word-by-word transcript of the discussion leading up to the vote. Another example, earlier this year there was a very consequential discussion about July 3rd and a word-by-word transcript of the discussion was not submitted in the minutes. The minutes of October 2 are just way out of the norm of what is done and he thinks it's wrong. Trustee Bertschy stated he is concerned about the precedent it might set. He did not go through the 18 pages of transcript and watch the video to make sure it was exactly what was said. He experiences frequent issues with his microphone and he's not sure if what he said would be accurately reflected in the transcript. Trustee Bertschy stated that he thinks Secretary Woodworth is talented and could summarize the conversation in about four paragraphs. He doesn't agree that if in the future, there is a conversation that someone deems to be of consequence, it would possibly result in a word-for-word verbatim transcript of the discussion in the minutes.

As such, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO NOT APPROVE the Current Form of the Minutes of the October 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, and ask the Board Secretary to resubmit the minutes that removes the transcript and replaces them with a summary of the discussion, the way she has with every other conversation that the Board has had the last four years he's been on the Board. Vice President Sierra seconded the motion.

Vice President Sierra stated that if any Board member needs a reason of why he has severe concerns about transcribed minutes, he would really encourage them to do a deep reflection of comments that's been made over the course of his four years on the Board. Think about some of the most concerning things that Board members have actually heard said. The community would not want things like that on paper, in minutes, without some sort of supporting context.

Trustee Montez stated that he's the Board member that asked for the transcript. He asked for a transcript of that discussion because the Board was asked to make an apology for things that were said in discussion that he felt the Board had neither in content or in intent, insulted someone or put them in an ill light. It doesn't mean that words can't be misunderstood and clearly, they were. As such, his request for the transcription was just to know who said what. It was not his request or intention that it be placed in the minutes, however, he is not against it. He's on a public Board and recorded all the time. He does not back away from what he said and owns whatever he said. If it was said in the Board meeting, then it's what was said and he owns it. As such, he will not vote to exclude this transcript.

Trustee Bertschy stated that he honors the reason for why Trustee Montez asked for the transcript. His issue is that if the Secretary is going to start doing transcriptions of the minutes, let's not cherry-pick the topics in which it's done. Who will decide what will or won't be transcribed for the minutes? It's a process issue and that's why he made the motion he did. Trustee Bertschy stated that he stands behind everything he said, there's no issue there. This is a process issue for him.

President Johnson stated that he doesn't understand why there's an issue with a discussion being transcribed or not. Personally, he thought that with a transcription, you would get more accurate minutes by stating exactly what everyone said, rather than paraphrasing that long discussion. If it was paraphrased, someone could come back and state they did or didn't say something, how can it be accurate then? President Johnson stated that for him what was done, was personal. It was

phenomenal and he did not like that the Park District had to be put on watch like that, when a phone call could have resolved it. Regardless, the Park District took the high road and wrote a letter.

Trustee Harant suggested that the Board ask that discussion be summarized in the minutes, then the transcript could be attached for readers if they so choose to read more exact information. Trustee Bertschy stated he would oppose that idea because it's then still part of the minutes. He sees no reason to deviate from a minutes-system that worked very well for a very long time.

Executive Director Cahill stated that historically, minutes have not been the kind of minutes that are seen now, the past few years. Prior to this Board, the minutes were very brief, however, that has not been the expectation set forth by this Board over the last couple of years. There are several citations that show where Board members have asked that additional information be added to the minutes, with clarifying statements about what they said. Executive Director Cahill stated that she supported Secretary Woodworth's decision to put the transcript of the discussion in the minutes because she already had them and also, because it's very difficult to develop an objective subjective description of a lot of what is done and is called into question many times. As such, the path here was to take that away so that it wasn't an opportunity to have to relitigate every single thing that happened when the District's intent was not necessarily how it was perceived at all. The goal was to honor what happened because it was specific to what vocabulary was used in what way. It was the effort and intent to make sure that it was clear what was said because that was called into question. Executive Director Cahill stated that a transcript is not the norm, but the intent was to provide as much information as could be provided because this was so sensitive and specific to language.

Trustee Bertschy stated that he doesn't agree with the short form of minutes that used to be provided. He thinks the context of the minutes that he's seen since he's been on the Board has been fantastic over the past three years and he thinks Secretary Woodworth has done a great job. They give context and the heart of the discussion and if somebody felt like something they said was taken wrong in the minutes, corrective actions were taken without question. A longer form of minutes that get to the gist of the discussion the way that has been done is fine and has been good. Trustee Bertschy stated that he wants to make things simpler for everyone, not more complicated. There's no question that the form of these minutes is different than anything that has ever been seen before. Why go down that path?

President Johnson stated that with this particular situation and where it came from, it was personal to him. It was very bothersome that the Park District was pulled into it. He felt that if someone said something that someone else thought was disrespectful, which he didn't feel like anyone was disrespected by the Park District, they should have discussed it with a phone call directly to him. But instead, they went public with the perceived disrespect and the Park District issued a letter of apology. President Johnson stated that he was all for having the word-for-word discussion in the minutes that way it's clear who said what. To him, this was a personal attack and it greatly hurt his feelings. He feels that if he were not President of the Board, this whole situation would never have occurred and the Park District would never have had to go through this. He was disrespected and did not even get a phone call from anyone. A letter was issued because he didn't want anyone to feel they were disrespected by the Park District or anyone else. Staff works very hard in all they do and he didn't like that they were pulled into this. It wasn't done right and should have been done differently with respect. He supported the verbatim minutes because they stated exactly what was said by everybody. He understands what Vice President Sierra is saying about the fact that transcribed minutes are not the norm, but this was different and hates that the Park District had to go through this.

Trustee Hill stated that if someone is offended, they have every right to bring that up, and personally, it stings. However, as a Board, she doesn't want to be reactionary and change up the way things are done because someone is offended or not or maybe offended by the wrong person or right person. She agrees that minutes should be minutes and be a summary. She hasn't heard any overarching reason why the transcript needs to be included in the minutes. To include more details just because someone is offended and to prove whether something was or wasn't said and are absolved of wrongdoing, is reactionary and that's not something should be done by the Board. She doesn't believe there is a need for a verbatim transcript to be included in the minutes. Her concern is why are things cherry picked? If that practice is started, things could be reflected very differently. As such, she believes minutes should just be a summary of what occurred and if someone wants further detail, they have every ability to gain that through mechanisms already in place.

Trustee Harant stated in regards to reactionary, she thinks that the action that had to be taken by the Board, a letter of apology, was a reaction. It was a decision the Board thought they had to make based on the detailed and hour-long discussion that ensued in that meeting. Trustee Harant asked if there was ever a Board meeting where after the meeting, because of a discussion, a discussion where no action or vote taken but only discussion, the Board had to issue an apology to an organization? She thinks that is extraordinary and it justifies a transcript so that the public can have full knowledge of what was said. She believes it was such an extraordinary situation and is not precedent-setting for regular meetings. She doesn't see that as a concern for the Board, but the Board's action to issue a statement was so extraordinary. The statement wasn't based on an action the Board took, it was based on a discussion that took place.

Trustee Bertschy stated that everyone needs to move on from the situation. The only reason he is opposed to putting the verbatim transcript in the minutes is because of precedent-setting process. Everyone needs to put it behind them and move forward. It was very painful for a lot of people, including the community.

At this time, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO NOT APPROVE the current form of the minutes of the October 2, 2024 Regular Board meeting, and that the Board Secretary is to resubmit the minutes that removes the transcript and replaces them with a summary of the discussion. Motion seconded by Vice President Sierra and DID NOT CARRY on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy - Aye, Covington - Nay, Harant - Nay, Hill - Aye, Montez - Nay, Vice President Sierra - Aye, and President Johnson - Nay. (Results: 3 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 4 Nays).

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the October 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Bertschy then MOVED TO TABLE Trustee Montez's motion on the basis of several comments in the transcript that were attributable to him, are not correctly stated, put in inappropriate context, or misrepresented. Motion seconded by Vice President Sierra and CARRIED on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy - Aye, Covington - Aye, Harant - Aye, Hill - Aye, Montez - Aye, Vice President Sierra - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

11. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

Recent Contact Us email communication was presented concerning Sculpture in Bradley Park.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Bertschy stated that he appreciates the new seating arrangement with Executive Director Cahill, Attorney Streeter, and Secretary Woodworth back in the horseshoe. He thinks it makes a lot of sense.

Trustee Bertschy stated that November is Native American month. There is much respectful discussion about our forefathers and the indigenous people that lived in this area and he didn't want the month to go by without recognizing the fact that the Park District honors them and the things that they stood for.

Trustee Harant stated that Trustees received a letter from a community member about the road going up into Glen Oak Park. Their concern was that a decision was made to keep it closed but there was no data or information as to why that was needed. Trustee Harant asked staff to please have a discussion as to whether it still needs to be closed. Executive Director Cahill stated that as a reminder, it was a Board vote to keep it closed. Staff will pull more information and report back.

Vice President Sierra stated that in regards to the October 2, 2024 Board meeting minutes, he doesn't understand what Trustees Covington, Harant, Montez, and President Johnson are trying to accomplish by voting the way they did. He's trying to understand the intent behind having the transcribed discussion in the minutes, with the video available that provides a verbatim transcript as to what was said. This has been an opportunity to put this behind, but for some reason, the Trustees noted are all very determined to have the transcript. As such, his question is that since Trustee Montez stated that he only requested the transcript and that they not be placed in the minutes, Secretary Woodworth stated that no Trustee asked her to place the transcript in the minutes, but President Johnson said earlier that he made that request or directive, was this a Trustee request or not?

Secretary Woodworth stated that she understands the confusion with interpreting President Johnson's comments about the transcript. However, to reiterate, no Trustee asked to have the transcript placed in the minutes. She stated that she was not asked by any Trustee, including President Johnson, to place the transcript in the minutes. There was no discussion whatsoever with anyone, prior to the publishing of the minutes.

President Johnson stated that he was merely stating that he agreed with the inclusion of the transcript in the minutes and not that he requested it in the first place.

Trustee Hill asked that moving forward, will transcripts of all meetings be needed? President Johnson stated that depends on what the Board wants. Trustee Hill stated that's not what she wants and that she was just concerned because it seems that now there's cherry picking, choosing without any rubric. President Johnson stated it's not cherry picking and was only based on a particular conversation.

Trustee Harant stated that the Board Secretary had stated that she determined on her own to include the transcript, because she didn't think she was able to adequately summarize the discussion because it was so contentious and argumentative and resulted in the Park District having to make a formal apology.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:29 pm Vice President Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried by unanimous aye of those present.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ni-Hw2HoD0>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary

**PLANNING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
MONTHLY PROJECT REPORT
OCTOBER 2024**

PROJECTS IN PLANNING AND/OR DESIGN	PROJECTS OUT TO BID/QUOTE	PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION	PROJECTS MATERIALLY BEHIND SCHEDULE	PROJECTS COMPLETED
<p>Bike Trail - Growth Cell 1A Section Bradley Serv. Bldg Restroom/Sewer Connect Bradley Sidewalks Bradley Softball Infield Bradley Dry Run Creek Retaining Wall Engr. Cassidy Pier Upgrades Detweiller Drainage Improve off Rt 29 Donovan Storage Bins Donovan - Cyd's Lower Roofs Replace FPNC Valley Loop Trail Bridges - Upgrades FRC Sidewalk by Concession Bldg Giant Oak Park Fence Golf Cart Path Improvements GVD Pavilion Move GVD Erosion Repairs near Country Club Kellogg Culvert Replace on #1 Kellogg Drainage in front of 7 & 9 Greens Exec Kellogg - Consult for Storm Water Capture Lakeview Family Aquatic Center - Demo Lakeview Rec Elevator Engineering Luthy Storage Area Fence Luthy Conservatory Boiler Burner Replace Newman Replace Steps on Tee #1 Noble Center Ice/Snow Guards - Serv. Entr. Peoria Players Rooftop Unit Engineering Peoria Zoo Path Improvements - Ausi Peoria Zoo Generators (Biocenter & Giraffe) Peoria Zoo Viewing Window Repl - Ph. 2 Pond Aerators Proctor Polish Locker Room Floors RiverPlex Whirlpool Replace RiverPlex Vestibule Air Curtains Sommer Farm Living History Utility Improv.</p>	<p>Detweiller Connect to Public Water - Bore Luthy North Greenhouse Roof Replace</p>	<p>Camp Wokanda Lodge Siding - Ph. 2 Camp Wokanda Cherokee Cabin Siding Camp Wokanda Handicraft Roof Replace Camp Wokanda Handicraft Ceiling Replace Charter Oak Path Replace Donovan Storage Bldg Extens. FPNC Parking Lot Renovation - Ph 1 FRC Playground Glen Oak Restroom Building Glen Oak Electric Train Glen Oak Electric Train Shelters Glen Oak Tennis Court Lights - Upgrade Glen Oak Shelter GLC Improvements - DCEO Grant GLC Golf Simulators GLC Irrigation Improvements Golf - Add 3 Forward Tees Gun Range Road Improv. GVD Sidewalk Replacement Gwynn Path Replacement Lakeview Swings Lakeview Splashpad Logan Exercise Equipment Morton Square Arch Swing Morton Sq. Sidewalks Newman Replace Irrigation Pump Owens Back Bridge Replace PlayHouse Slate Roof Replace RiverPlex Refinish Wood Aerobics Floor RiverPlex Women's Steam Room Renov. RiverPlex Front ADA Door Replace Tawny Oaks Visitor Center A/C Trewyn Swings Trewyn Fascia Painting Zoo Africa Nighthouse Roof Coatings</p> <p align="center">Bold Type indicates projects that have moved to a new column since last month.</p>		<p>Bike Trail Drainage at Bishop Bradley Ballfield Dugout Improv. Bradley Upper Playground Improv. Camp Wokanda Replace Well Transformer Camp Wokanda Cherokee Roof Camp Wokanda Road/Hill Improv Cassidy Walking Paths Charter Oak Path Culverts Replace Charter Oak Tennis Court Crack Repair Chartwell Path/Culvert Repair Detweiller North Road Inlet Replace Detweiller Septic Tank Replace Detweiller Mill & Repave Edges of N. Road-Ph 2 Events Walk-in Cooler FPNC Dumpster Pad Glen Oak Site Work Glen Oak Playground Perimeter Fence Glen Oak Playground Replacement Glen Oak Lagoon Path GVD Erosion Repair at Grand View Ave GVD Full Depth Patching HISRA Roof Coating Kellogg Pump House B/F Preventor Repl. Kellogg Canopy/Cart Parking Renovation Kellogg Irrigation Panel Installation Kellogg Concrete by Starter Shed Kinsey Parking Entrance Paved Lakeview Splashpad Equipment Lakeview Prefab Restroom Building Lakeview Park Repair Storm Sewer/Culvert Lakeview Rec Refinish Wood Gym Floor Lakeview Rec Gym Painting Logan Site Improvements Logan Kickball Surface Re-seal Logan Path Replacement Luthy Inlet Replace Madison Storage Building Madison Concrete NE of Clubhouse Repl. Morton Square Site Improvements Newman Storage Bldg Newman Pump House Door Installation Noble Center Exterior Painting Ph. 2 Noble Center Front Window Replacement Noble Center Compressor</p>

PROJECTS IN PLANNING AND/OR DESIGN	PROJECTS OUT TO BID/QUOTE	PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION	PROJECTS MATERIALLY BEHIND SCHEDULE	COMPLETED PROJECTS
				<p>Owens Zam Garage Door Repl Owens Locker Room Painting PlayHouse Inlet Replace Proctor Wood Gym Floor Refinish Proctor Ext Window Trim Repair Proctor Pool Paint RiverPlex Pool Heat Exchangers RiverPlex Refinish Wood Gym Floor Rock Island Greenway Asphalt - Chanute Stadium Roadway Improve - Ph. 3 Trewyn Main Room Floor Replace Zoo Tiger People Barrier Zoo Swift Fox Exterior Exhibit Zoo Cooler/Freezer Zoo Spider Monkey Exterior Exhibit Zoo Boardwalk Staining</p>

POLICE ACTIVITY SUMMARY – October, 2024



TOTAL NUMBER OF ALL REPORTS: 25

CRIME REPORTS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Offense Type</i>	<i>Case #</i>
Forest Park Nature Center	10/05/24 17:10	Lewd Conduct, Driving on Suspended License Case Summary: Adult Arrest	24-189
Prior at McBean	10/07/24 19:09	Traffic Enforcement-DUI Case Summary: Case referred to States Attorney's Office	24-192
Kinsey Park	10/08/24 14:31	Traffic Enforcement License Suspended, Possession of Controlled Substance, Active Warrant Case Summary: Adult Arrested	24-193
Logan Park	10/09/24 15:19	Theft Case Summary: Stolen Recovered Phone No Prosecution Desired	24-195
Glen Oak Park	10/09/24 18:00	Traffic Enforcement (Disregard Traffic Sign) Case Summary: Traffic Citation issued	24-196
Detweiller Park	10/13/24 07:15	Criminal Damage to Property Case Summary: Vandalism to Park Shelter	24-198
Logan Park	10/17/24 21:12	Services to Other Agencies Case Summary: Juvenile fight with mace refer to City for further investigation	24-200
Detweiller Park	10/19/24 19:40	Fleeing and Eluding, Possession of Cannabis and Park Ordinance Violations (In Park after Dark) Case Summary: Adult Arrested	24-202
Glen Oak Park	10/23/24 08:15	Criminal Damage to Property Case Summary: Theft of Building Materials and Burglary to Park Storage Buildings by Unknown Suspect	24-207
Bielfelt Park	10/20/24 19:05	Use of Cannabis on Park Property Case Summary: Ordinance ticket issued to Adult Offender	24-212

MONTHLY TOTAL – CRIME REPORTS: 10

NON-CRIME REPORTS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Offense Type</i>	<i>Case #</i>
Camp Wokanda	10/05/24 17:30	Other Investigation Case Summary: Trailer made contact with park power line pole	24-190
Glen Oak Park	10/06/24 16:00	Other Investigation Case Summary: Juvenile with minor Injury	24-191
Rock Island Trail	10/09/24 09:30	Abandoned Vehicle Case Summary: Abandoned 4 wheeler on trail	24-194
600 SW Adams	10/12/24 11:00	Citizen Assist Case Summary: Vehicle located	24-197
Riverfront Park	10/17/24 12:46	Other Investigation Case Summary: Bon Fire at Riverfront	24-199
1400 Block E. Lake	10/19/24 18:27	Service to Other Agencies Case Summary: Assisted City Police with Juvenile Fight	24-201
1100 Block Moss Ave.	10/20/24 17:54	Other Investigation Case Summary: Traffic Investigation involving Security Car	24-203
2900 Block W. Wiswall	10/21/24 11:07	Service to Other Agencies Case Summary: Shooting-Crime Scene Support	24-204
Bradley Park	10/22/24 21:00	Other Investigation Case Summary: Secured Property	24-206
Glen Oak Park	10/23/24 10:00	Found Property Case Summary: Bicycle	24-208
300 Block N. DuSable	10/26/24 16:21	Other Investigation Case Summary: Assist City in Search for Armed Suspect	24-209

MONTHLY TOTAL – NON-CRIME REPORTS: 11

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Tickets Issued</i>	<i>Case #</i>
Detweiller Park	10/05/24 10:26	None	24-188
University at Glen	10/21/24 15:32	None	24-205
Willow Knolls at Radnor	10/28/24 16:16	None	24-210
Central Pool	10/29/24 10:30	None	24-211

MONTHLY TOTAL – TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTS: 4

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Ticket #</i>
Forest Park Nature Center	10/05/24 17:30	Suspended License	24-5904
Kinsey Park	10/08/24 14:30	Suspended Registration Uninsured Vehicle Suspended License	24-5959

Glen Oak Park	10/09/24 18:00	Disregarding One Way Sign	24-196
Galena Marina	10/19/24 19:40	Aggravated Fleeing Police Use of Cannabis	24-6221
Grandview Drive	10/19/24 19:40	Speeding	24-6216

MONTHLY TOTAL – TRAFFIC CITATIONS: 8

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS


<i>Location</i>	<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Case #</i>
Forest Park Nature Center	10/05/24 17:10	Lewd Conduct Case Summary: Ordinance Ticket issued to Adult Offender	24-189
Galena Marina	10/19/24 19:40	Fleeing & Eluding: Use of Cannabis Case Summary: Ordinance Ticket issued to Adult Offender	24-202
Bielfeldt Park	10/30/24 19:05	Use of Cannabis Case Summary: Ordinance Ticket issued to Adult Offender	24-212

MONTHLY TOTAL – ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS: 4

PARKING VIOLATIONS

<i>Location</i>	<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Offense</i>	<i>Ticket #</i>
Peoria Players	10/04/24 21:48	No Parking Zone	06728
Rock Island Trail	10/09/24 09:30	Abandoned Vehicle	01533
Glen Oak Park	10/09/24 18:20	No Parking Zone	08043
	19:45	Improper Parking	08044
	19:54	No Parking Zone	08045
	19:56	No Parking Zone	08046
Bradley Park	10/10/24 20:59	Abandoned Vehicle	06730
Peoria Players	10/11/24 21:51	No Parking Zone	06732
	21:55		06733
	21:58		06734
	21:51		06731
Lower Grandview	10/11/24 20:11	Improper Parking after hours	05595

MONTHLY TOTAL – PARKING VIOLATIONS: 12

Reviewed by: 

Date: 10/05/24

