

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, NOVEMBER 20, 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, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Vice President Alexander Sierra

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Nick Conrad, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Karrie Ross, Brianna Cobb, Jennifer Swanson, Attorney William Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Chief Todd Green, Kristi Shoemaker, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:40 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

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the November 6, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill stated that earlier today, an email was sent to Trustees about the Grandview Drive Route 29 effort. There are no action items included, just information. Becky Fredrickson stated that staff wanted to make the Board aware of the fact that there's going to be a public hearing on December 4th from 4-6pm at the Peoria Heights Grade School gymnasium that will discuss the Route 29 widening project, which will impact Peoria Park District Property. This will impact a stretch of land along Bielfeldt Park, Grandview Drive, both of which will be acquisitioned by IDOT as well as temporary and permanent easements. Trustee Bertschy thanked staff for the informative email explaining this. In regards to the bike trail that is being created, will that cross or get near the trails that the Park District has in the bluffs? Becky Fredrickson stated no, this is just along Route 29 for now. President Johnson asked what properties will be involved in this? Becky Fredrickson stated the Grandview Drive pavilion will be moved and it involves a 20 foot stretch that IDOT will have to acquire from the Park District. When that is done, IDOT will put in the bike trail and make a connection from that into our park and will benefit park users.

6.B. Peoria Zoological Society Update

In Max Lakes' stead, Executive Director Cahill provided the update, stating that staff has been working with Skystone Partners from Cincinnati, Ohio, in doing a feasibility study to help determine what is a realistic amount for a capital campaign to support some of the improvements at Peoria Zoo necessary to bring the older parts of the Zoo up to the same standard that Africa! Currently is and to address some of those concerns that were raised by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in their last site visit as part of the accreditation process. A development assessment is also being conducted by Skystone Partners, which allowed them to work with both the Park District and PZS to address capacity as far as organization structure collaboration between the two entities works and to be the foundation for the capital campaign which is the next part of their assessment. Skystone came back with a series of recommendations. Some of them will impact the structure of the current operating agreement with PZS and as such, there will not be an annual PZS/Park District Operating Agreement presented for approval in December for 2025, as it is still being redeveloped.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

The Finance Committee Presents the Accounts Payable for Approval

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Finance Committee met and reviewed the accounts payable materials that are provided in the agenda materials and based upon that, the Finance Committee voted to approve payment of the accounts.

For that reason, as Chair of the Finance Committee, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the accounts payable that were shown in the agenda materials. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

7.B. DEIA Committee – Policy Revision/Updates

The DEIA Committee Presents to the Full Board for First Read

Brianna Cobb stated that at the last DEIA Committee meeting, a proposed amendment to the introduction of the policy manual was presented. It was to add additional language to make it more inclusive for all people, add a welcoming resolution, add the District's priority documents, and to add an acknowledgement of our native land history. It was approved by the DEIA Committee to bring to the Board for first read and approval.

Trustee Montez stated that the revision document is five pages long. Is all that to be added to the policy manual? Brianna Cobb stated yes, for the introduction it is intended to establish a welcoming energy and behavioral tenet for staff as they become acclimated to the Park District. Trustee Montez asked if a section will be added that states the strategic commitments that we welcome all to our spaces, and then add the resolution that was approved in June of 2020? Brianna Cobb replied yes, everything that is in red has been added and reaffirm the District's commitment to DEIA. Trustee Montez stated that he wished that an edit to the policy of this magnitude would have had a discussion in the Strategic Ad Hoc Committee, which is Board of the Whole, rather than come up for a full vote at this time. Executive Director Cahill reminded everyone that at this time, it is only a first read. It will be presented at the next Regular Board meeting for vote. Per DEIA Committee request, this went to the Committee for approval to

submit to the full Board for review tonight and approval on December 11. Trustee Montez stated that he does not believe he is ready to vote on this because of the extensive change to the policy manual made by one committee and he doesn't know how many members got to vote on it to move it to the Board. He's hoping that for this large of a change of policy, it would have a broader discussion rather than just the members of the DEIA Committee. He does like the addition of our land's history. In the excerpt "we are dedicated to fostering relationships with Indigenous communities, respecting their sovereignty, and supporting their cultural heritage", Trustee Montez stated that he's struggling with the term "sovereignty", as he understands what the word means, but how is it meant here? Brianna Cobb stated that she believes it's up for interpretation, however, in this case she believes it is indigenous population's ability to move freely, attain their autonomy and preserve their resources and cultural heritage, and be acknowledged and recognized as the original stewards of the nation. Attorney Streeter stated that if a change is requested, and this is just a first read of the policy change, an updated version can be presented at the next Board meeting for vote so long as there are no major changes to the original proposed policy revisions. Trustee Montez stated that prior to the next Board meeting, he will discuss any issues he has with the DEIA Committee Chair.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. Proposal – Alternative Energy Consultant

Becky Fredrickson stated that In July 2024, staff put out a request for proposals for a consultant to provide analysis and guidance on fossil fuel reduction & alternative energy opportunities District wide. The District received five responses. Staff reviewed the proposals and individually each staff member determined McKinstry's proposal to be above the others. Staff then interviewed McKinstry and felt good with them and their proposal. As such, staff recommends approving the proposal totaling \$97,000.00 from McKinstry for consulting services to provide analysis and guidance on fossil fuel reduction and alternative energy opportunities District wide.

Trustee Harant thanked staff for going through the RFP process and she's confident that staff has done their due diligence. She is also hoping that this consultant can help the Park District look at various portions of land that would be suitable for ground-mounted solar or smaller wind turbines so that we can begin integrating those ideas into natural areas where appropriate, so people can begin to see that as normal.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Alternative Energy Consultant Proposal. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.B. 2025 Administrative and Operational Support Services Agreement between the Peoria Park District Foundation and the Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria, Illinois

Executive Director Cahill presented the 2025 Administrative and Operational Support Services Agreement between the Peoria Park District Foundation and the Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria, Illinois, noting there are no material changes from the current 2024 agreement.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2025 Administrative and Operational Support Services Agreement between the Peoria Park District Foundation and the Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria, Illinois. Motion seconded by Trustee Covington and carried on the following roll

call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

9. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

9.A. Purchase of a Ventrac Tractor 4520 N per Omnia Contract

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent item 9.A. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

10. PENDING BUSINESS

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

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Board was gracious enough to grant his request to review the minutes against at the actual transcript last meeting. That meeting was only a week ago and he has not had sufficient time to do so. As such, Trustee Bertschy asks to pass voting on this item to the first Board meeting in January 2025. As such, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO DEFER voting on the Minutes of October 2, 2024 Regular Board Meeting until the first Regular Board meeting in January 2025. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Hill, Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

11. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Nick Cowley of Peoria addressed the Board with his concerns regarding various Park District spaces.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Harant stated that from information gleaned at the national level, there will more than likely be raids of undocumented people and could possibly happen in Peoria and impact people in the Park District's programs, its parks, police, and staff. The Park District does have a welcoming resolution which states where it stands, but she's not certain what rights the Park District has if someone is in a building and that starts happening. Executive Director Cahill stated that this was a topic of conversation at the Board level previously, and PDRMA was relied upon to give guidance on it in regards to legal rights and opportunities to be responsive. She anticipates it would be the same process for this, to rely upon PDRMA and the District's general counsel for guidance.

Trustee Harant stated that a discussion needs to be had soon about next year's July 3rd event. Executive Director Cahill stated that this will be on an agenda in early January.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:14 pm Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried by unanimous aye of those present.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJas9Rfbjx8>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary