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 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA IL

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustees Ron Silver and Mark Slover

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Susie Stockman

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the January 21, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

5. CLOSED SESSION

5.A. Approval of Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(2) Concerning Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees

At 5:09 PM Trustee Harant MOVED TO CONVENE into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(2) Concerning Collective Negotiating Matters Between the Public Body and its Employees or Their Representatives, or Deliberations Concerning Salary Schedules for One or More Classes of Employees. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 5:49 PM President Johnson reconvened the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.B. Santa Parade Discussion

Executive Director Cahill introduced a discussion regarding a potential long-term transition of the Santa Claus Parade from Peoria Area Community Events (PACE) to the Peoria Park District.

Susie Stockman (PACE representative) provided historical context regarding the parade's 138-year history and explained that PACE currently operates the parade but is no longer sustaining multiple events and is utilizing reserve funds to maintain operations. PACE owns approximately 23 floats and two warehouse buildings, and receives an annual tourism grant to support the parade. Expenses include property taxes, sewer fees, insurance, and police/public works support costs.

Staff reported that initial conversations with PACE explored a potential multi-year transition model, allowing PACE to work alongside Park District staff before full operational transfer. Staff noted the event would likely fall under the District's events division and would require formalized collaboration agreements with the City of Peoria, Discover Peoria, and other municipal partners.

Trustees discussed:

- Long-term sustainability of the parade.
- Financial considerations and potential asset transfer.
- Volunteer support and community partnerships.
- Policy implications if the parade becomes municipally administered, including public expression, political participation, and application of District policies.
- The opportunity to integrate the parade with District holiday programming initiatives.

Trustees expressed general interest in continuing to evaluate the opportunity. No formal action was taken.

Staff was directed to continue due diligence and return with additional information, including operational considerations, financial analysis, and policy implications.

Due to time constraints, at 6:33 PM Trustee Harant MOVED TO RECESS the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting, to be reconvened after tonight's Regular Board meeting. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 7:18 PM Vice President Montez MOVED TO RECONVENE the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

6.A. Juneteenth Planning Discussion

Staff provided an update on planning efforts for the 2026 Jubilee Day event to be held June 19–20, 2026. Staff reviewed two location options:

Glen Oak Park Option

Staff outlined a continuation of the 2025 event model at Glen Oak Park, including family activities, vendors, stage entertainment at the amphitheater, and a drone show. Staff noted logistical considerations associated with drone operations in the park, including

satellite signal limitations due to tree coverage and potential reductions in drone capacity. Additional concerns discussed included parking constraints, infrastructure limitations, and the future participation of the car show due to space and security considerations.

Peoria Riverfront Option
Staff presented the Riverfront as an alternative location offering expanded capacity, defined event boundaries, improved emergency access, and greater flexibility for large-scale programming, including a potentially enhanced drone show. Staff also proposed hosting a neighborhood-focused summer event at Glen Oak Park to maintain programming presence in the East Bluff area.

The Committee engaged in extensive discussion regarding:

- Event growth potential and long-term scalability;
- Public safety considerations and law enforcement resource allocation;
- Infrastructure differences between Glen Oak Park and the Riverfront, including defined perimeters, emergency access routes, and crowd management capabilities;
- Community accessibility and the importance of maintaining meaningful programming within the East Bluff neighborhood;
- The role of Jubilee Day as a prominent regional Juneteenth celebration;
- Prior closed session discussions concerning safety and post-event debrief feedback from law enforcement partners.

Trustees expressed differing perspectives regarding the balance between sustaining neighborhood-based programming and mitigating safety and logistical challenges. Concerns were raised regarding crowd dispersal patterns, emergency response accessibility, and the ability to effectively define and secure the event footprint within Glen Oak Park. Conversely, several Trustees emphasized the importance of preserving visible and accessible community programming within the East Bluff and avoiding displacement of established neighborhood traditions.

Following discussion, staff requested direction from the Committee.

A majority of Trustees present (three of five) provided direction to proceed with planning the 2026 Jubilee Day event at Glen Oak Park. Staff will proceed accordingly.

7. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

7.A. Policy Changes Based on Union Contracts

Due to time constraints, this item will be deferred to the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting on February 25, 2026.

7.B. Rental Policy Public Demonstrations

Due to time constraints, this item will be deferred to the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting on February 25, 2026.

7.C. Trustee Attorney Communications Policy Discussion

Due to time constraints, this item will be deferred to the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting on February 25, 2026.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

9. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

10. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

11. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Staff to proceed with planning the 2026 Jubilee Day event at the Peoria Riverfront consistent with majority direction.
2. Staff to continue evaluation of a potential Santa Parade transition and return with additional analysis.
3. Policy/Process Updates (Items 7.A–7.C) deferred to the February 25, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 PM, Trustee Hill MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on voice vote.

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Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary