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 25, 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, Vice President Steve Montez, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Mark Slover

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Jonelle McCloud, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Mike Friberg, Willie Howe, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth

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 February 11, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the February 11, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried by roll call vote as follows: Trustee Harant – Aye, Trustee Hill – Aye, Trustee Sierra – Aye, Trustee Silver – Abstain, Vice President Montez – Aye, President Johnson – Aye. Results: 5 Ayes; 1 Abstain

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. Jubilee Day Update

President Johnson brought forward reconsideration of the previously discussed Juneteenth/Jubilee Day event location at Glen Oak Park. He shared concerns arising from recent violent incidents in the surrounding neighborhood, including a shooting involving approximately 60 rounds discharged near Fry and Prospect. Based on conversations with community members and local officials, he indicated that tensions may not have fully subsided and expressed concern regarding potential retaliation and the overall safety of residents, patrons, and staff.

President Johnson emphasized that while he had previously supported the Glen Oak Park location, newly surfaced information regarding public safety warranted reconsideration. His primary concern centered on protecting attendees, neighborhood residents, police officers, and Park District staff.

Several Trustees participated in discussion:

Trustee Harant reiterated concerns about late-evening programming attracting negative activity, particularly after dark. She noted that events extending into nighttime hours may increase the likelihood of disruptive behavior spilling into nearby residential areas.

Trustee Silver expressed support for relocating the event to the Riverfront, citing the opportunity to broaden the audience and attract additional community participation downtown.

Vice President Montez voiced hesitation about removing a culturally significant event from a highly dense residential neighborhood and emphasized the importance of intentional replacement programming that meaningfully serves that community rather than appearing as an afterthought.

Trustee Sierra expressed concern regarding revisiting decisions after consensus had previously been reached. He referenced the Board's Code of Ethics and the importance of respecting prior votes, while acknowledging the difficult balance between safety concerns and community investment.

Staff clarified that funding previously discussed (approximately $77,000 allocated for Riverfront programming) was not restricted exclusively to Riverfront use and could, in practice, be invested in Glen Oak Park. However, logistical limitations related to space, tree canopy, landing zones, and show scale at Glen Oak Park were acknowledged as operational considerations.

Additional discussion occurred regarding alternative programming options for Glen Oak Park, including:

- Daytime family-oriented events ending before dark
- Potential expansion of "Streets Belong to Me" programming
- Integration with Zoo Friday evening programming and Summer Fun Pass offerings
- Ensuring any replacement event is purposeful and community-centered

After discussion, President Johnson called for consensus. A majority of Trustees present expressed support for relocating the Juneteenth/Jubilee Day event to the Riverfront. As such, it was the consensus of the Committee to move the Juneteenth/Jubilee Day event to the Riverfront location.

Staff will develop and return with a proposal for intentional, daytime programming at Glen Oak Park to serve the surrounding neighborhood.

6. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

6.A. Rental Policy Public Demonstrations

Executive Director Cahill presented proposed revisions to the Park District's rental policy addressing public demonstrations, now referred to as "expressive activity." The revisions were developed following Board feedback and in consultation with legal counsel.

Attorney Kevin Day assisted in drafting language to ensure:

- Protection of First Amendment rights in traditional public forums (parks)
- Clear differentiation between standard facility rentals and constitutionally protected expressive activity
- Reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions
- Removal of insurance requirements that could be considered prior restraint
- Inclusion of indemnification language and general conditions of use
- Preservation of the District's ability to manage safety and conduct issues

Key elements discussed:

- The proposed language would allow expressive activity use without rental fees or insurance requirements in certain circumstances.
- Commercial activity, fundraising, recreational entertainment, private social events, and alcohol-related events would remain subject to standard rental requirements.
- The application process would be modified to obtain necessary logistical information while minimizing barriers.
- The District seeks advance notice to allocate police and staff resources and avoid scheduling conflicts (e.g., youth programming occurring simultaneously with rallies).

Trustees raised several questions:

- Whether an "Expressive Activity Use Agreement" would be a separate document (staff clarified that modifications to existing rental agreements would be developed following Board direction).
- Whether alcohol would be permitted under expressive activity use (generally no; alcohol-related events would trigger insurance requirements).
- Whether a participant threshold would trigger application requirements (legal counsel advised against establishing a numeric threshold to avoid conflict or enforcement complications).
- Enforcement concerns if individuals demonstrate without submitting an application.

Attorney Day explained that parks are traditional public forums and that narrowly tailored, objective time, place, and manner restrictions are legally enforceable. However, individuals peacefully expressing speech without violating conduct ordinances may be allowed to continue, with encouragement to coordinate in advance.

Following discussion, the Committee directed staff to refine the draft policy prior to advancing it for first reading. Refinements will include development of the Expressive Activity Use Agreement language; clarification regarding alcohol-related events and corresponding insurance requirements; review for consistency across all rental agreements, including indemnification provisions; and confirmation that the policy clearly articulates reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions consistent with First Amendment protections. Staff will incorporate feedback received and return the revised draft through the Board's formal policy review process.

6.B. Trustee Attorney Communications Policy Discussion

Executive Director Cahill reintroduced the revised draft administrative procedure addressing Trustee communications with legal counsel. Modifications had been incorporated based on prior Strategy Committee feedback.

The proposed procedure outlines:

- Primary points of contact with legal counsel (Board President and Executive Director)
- Authorization requirements for individual Trustees requesting legal consultation
- Preservation of attorney-client privilege
- Clarification of governance structure

Discussion focused on:

- Whether the Board President requires full Board authorization prior to contacting legal counsel.
- Clarifying that while the President is a Trustee, the President serves as a primary point of contact acting on behalf of the Board.
- Whether outcomes of legal inquiries should be distributed to the full Board.
- Whether the procedure should be formally incorporated into the Board Policy Manual versus maintained as a Board Administrative Procedure.

Trustees generally agreed that responses from legal counsel, when appropriate and privileged, should be shared with the full Board to ensure transparency and collective governance.

Following discussion, the Committee directed staff to refine the draft administrative procedure prior to advancing it for formal consideration. Refinements will include clarifying the authority of the Board President as a primary point of contact with legal counsel; specifying whether full Board authorization is required in certain circumstances; establishing expectations for distribution of legal opinions or guidance to the full Board, when appropriate and consistent with attorney-client privilege; and determining the appropriate placement of the procedure within the Board Policy Manual or Board Administrative Procedures. Staff will incorporate feedback and return the revised draft for further review.

6.C. Policy Changes Based on Union Contracts

Staff presented personnel policy updates necessitated by recent collective bargaining agreements. Proposed updates affect non-union personnel manual sections to ensure alignment and consistency. Policies referenced include:

- Funeral and Bereavement Leave
- Sick Leave
- Drug and Alcohol Policy
- Parental Leave

Consensus was given to move the listed policies forward for first reading at the 6:30 PM Regular Board Meeting.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Juneteenth/Jubilee Day evening event to be relocated to the Riverfront.
2. Staff to develop a purposeful daytime Glen Oak Park programming proposal for Board review.
3. Expressive Activity Rental Policy revisions to be refined and advanced to first reading.
4. Trustee–Attorney Communications Administrative Procedure to be revised and returned.
5. Personnel policy updates to move forward for first reading at the Regular Board Meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:55 PM, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on voice vote.

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Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary