

**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., May 12, 2021 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson.

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Chief Todd Green, David Gray, Willie Howe, Peter Kobak, Jocelyn McDowell, Mike Miller, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Tiffany Shipley, Greg Walker, Alicia Woodworth.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Alex Sierra, Alicia Sierra, family members of President Robert Johnson.

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**2) ROLL CALL**

**3) MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All stood for a moment of silence and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4) MINUTES:**

**4.A. Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2021 – Public Meeting**

Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of April 28, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Timothy Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

**5) STAFF REPORTS:**

**5.A. Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Emily Cahill presented upcoming dates and activities. On Thursday, May 13 at 10:30 am, the District will host a press conference at the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum to celebrate the reopening plans of the Peoria PlayHouse with a planned date of May 28 and new summer programs

including Mobile Recreation, Parks on Tap, as well as some summer employment opportunities. ELITE graduation is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 at 6:00 pm at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. On May 19, the Golf Learning Center will host a test run for Parks on Tap from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Finally, on May 21, the District will host the annual Streets Belong to Me event at Proctor Recreation Center. The event is expanding in 2021 to include the entire city of Peoria. The goal is to have everyone commit to a non-violent summer. There will be many activities offered including the Streets Belong to Me Hoopfest on the Peoria RiverFront with children from third through eighth grade participating in a 3 on 3 tournament on Saturday, May 22.

These events, and others, are possible due to the transition to the Bridge Phase in COVID re-opening as of Friday, May 14. Staff continues to collaborate with the Peoria City/County Health Department to ensure safety of all participants.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy inquired as the major impacts that the Bridge Phase COVID changes have on District activities. Executive Director Emily Cahill responded that the greatest impact is on increased capacity for facilities and programs. Cahill also stated that the Park District will not be focusing on whether individuals have been vaccinated but rather making certain we are compliant with the recommended number of people at any one event.

**5.B. Police Report: April Statistics**

Chief of Police Todd Green presented the April 2021 police report. In order to provide clarification for the Board, Chief Green defined mob action as it is listed on April's police report. He stated it is two or more people acting in concert in order to create a disturbance.

Chief Green shared that this is National Police Week and wanted to extend his gratitude and support not only to the Park District officers but to those nationwide as well. In addition, he extended his thoughts and prayers to those who have died in the line of duty.

**5.C. Planning**

Mike Friberg, Park Planner, presented the Planning Department's monthly report in the place of Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction. Mr. Friberg provided the 2019 and 2020 PPD labor statistics for projects awarded. Trustee Timothy Bertschy commented that while the diversity and minority statistics are very good, he hopes that the goal would eventually be to double or triple those statistics. While everyone agreed, Mr. Friberg responded that the problem is a capacity issue where the supply of minority owned companies to award projects to does not match or exceed the demand for them.

A collaborative approach with other governmental agencies may need to be implemented to support local initiatives and training programs in order to increase the availability of minority owned businesses.

Mr. Matt Freeman, Superintendent of Parks reported on the West Peoria welcome sign that is on the corner of Newman Parkway and Sterling Ave. (Madison Golf Course). A company called Grow by Design reached out to West Peoria concerning adopting the sign. They will landscape and hardscape around the sign and be responsible for its labor and maintenance.

**6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**6.A. Planning Committee Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2021**

**6.B. Trailing Name Dedication: Camp Wokanda**

To be named publicly at a later date in order to surprise the namesake recipient of a Camp Wokanda trail, a motion was made to approve the recommended trail naming dedication. Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE the not yet publicized name of the Camp Wokanda trail. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

**7) NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.A. Contract Termination: Windstream**

Willie Howe, Information Security Supervisor, presented information to support the contract termination of Windstream, the current telephone service at the Noble Center and use a company called Telnyx. Telnyx is less expensive, requires no contract, has more features and provides superior customer service.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE terminating the contract with Windstream and employ Telnyx as the new telephone service provider. Motion seconded by Vice President Joyce Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

**7.B. Appointment: Board Secretary, Treasurer**

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated Alicia Woodworth has been hired as the new Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board. Once approved, she will be sworn into office.

Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE Alicia Woodworth as the new Secretary to the Board. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Secretary Woodworth was then sworn in.

**7.C. Letter of Understanding: Greater Peoria Sanitary District**

Mike Friberg, Park Planner, presented a Letter of Understanding from the Greater Peoria Sanitary District (GPSD) in the place of Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction. Mr. Friberg detailed GPSD's request to utilize the new bridge in Bradley Park to access their work site in order to replace a large sanitary sewer pipe that runs under Dry Run Creek. GPSD does not anticipate any significant structural damage to the bridge.

Trustee Jacqueline Petty MOVED TO APPROVE to accept the GPSD's request as outlined in GPSD's Letter of Understanding. Motion seconded by Trustee Joseph Kennedy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**7.D. Land Acquisition/Purchase Contract: Faraday/Logan Parcel**

Mike Friberg, Park Planner, presented a contract for potential land acquisition in the place of Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction. This parcel of land is .09 acres, adjacent to Logan Park, and currently vacant. After having completed the Phase 1 environmental study on the property, staff recommends purchasing the parcel for \$817.00 plus any additional closing costs and attorney fees.

Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE the purchase of this parcel of land. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8) CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS:**

**8.A. July 17, 2021 John H. Gwynn Jr. Park Request for Use**

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the use of John H. Gwynn Jr. Park by the River City Community Festival. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline

Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Following further discussion on this Request for Use, Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE staff authorization to negotiate use and payment with organizers to reduce costs associated with use of a stage at the event. The labor associated with this will be performed by PPD staff and these hard costs must be covered by the organizers. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.B. Quote – Recycled Plastic Picnic Tables & Umbrellas for Peoria Zoo**

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the purchase of recycled plastic picnic tables and umbrellas for the Peoria Zoo as outlined in the staff recommendation. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.C. Quote – Purchase of a Bed Knife Grinder**

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the request for purchase of a golf maintenance bed knife grinder. Motion seconded by Trustee Jacqueline Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

- 9) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None.
- 10) **CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** None.
- 11) **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.
- 12) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated a meeting with the candidate for the Trustee of the Southern District will be conducted with the hopes of having approval of the candidate available by the May 26, 2021 Board meeting.

Executive Director Emily Cahill asked Board members to please fill out a communications survey and leave the survey before they leave for the evening.

President Robert Johnson inquired about a Board retreat possibly in June or July. Executive Director Emily Cahill stated this item is listed on the Board's communication survey requesting their availability. Once this information is compiled, the retreat will be scheduled as soon as possible.

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:17 p.m., Trustee Jacqueline Petty MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Joseph Cassidy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jacqueline Petty, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeoriaParkDistrict/videos/520322849135525>

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Secretary to the Board