

**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., July 28, 2021 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** President Robert Johnson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Nick Conrad, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Chief Todd Green, Peter Kobak, Scott Loftus, Jonelle McCloud (v), Karrie Ross, Shalessie Pie, Doug Silberer (v), Alicia Woodworth, Erich Zimmerman (v). (v) = Attended virtually

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Thomas Cahill, Mallory Hibbard, Jill Hibbard, Allyson Wiegard, Randy Williams, Jayson Wiegard, Sandy Randle, Joyce Blumenshine, Bridget Burke, Sharon Kennedy, and David Trachtenbarg.

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice President Harant presided and called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 July 14, 2021 – Public Meeting**

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of July 14, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

**5) STAFF REPORTS:**

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

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that today the District received notification from PDRMA, that due to the COVID variant resurgence being reported recently, they recommend complying with CDC and IDPH guidance that all individuals, including fully vaccinated individuals, effective immediately, wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Peoria County has been designated as substantial. The District will continue to monitor the situation and modify course with additional guidance.

Emily Cahill recognized that today is Trustee Joseph Cassidy's last day as Trustee and thanked him very much for all his time and service to the Peoria Park District. Trustee

Cassidy thanked everyone for their kind words and stated he will miss the Peoria Park District very much.

**5.B. Superintendent of Parks**

Matt Freeman, Superintendent of Parks, presented the June 2021 Closed Service Request Report.

**5.C. Superintendent of Human Resources**

Shalesse Pie, Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the 2021 Peoria Park District scholarship recipients stating the total amount of scholarships given this year is \$3,750. The 2021 scholarship recipients were recently selected. Prospective candidates submit information about themselves including past grades, career expectations and a general overview of their goals and extracurricular activities. The Employee Contribution Fund Committee reviews and selects recipients each year. They also select the recipient of the board scholarship. The following five students were selected for scholarships:

Allyson Wiegand- will be attending the University of North Carolina. She will be pursuing her degree in Psychology. Allyson is the daughter of Jayson Wiegand, Assistant Manager at Bradley Park.

Chelsey Pauli - will be attending Illinois Central College. She will be pursuing her associate's degree in Horticulture Landscape Management. She is the daughter of Luke Pauli, Carpenter - Maintenance Repair Team.

Mallory Hibbard – will be attending Columbia College – Chicago. She will be pursuing her degree in Public Relations and Music Business. She is the daughter of Craig Hibbard, Maintenance Repairman – Riverplex.

Thomas Cahill – will be attending Washington University in St. Louis, MO. He will be pursuing his degree in Finance and Economics. He is the son of Emily Cahill, Executive Director of Parks and Recreation.

Kaitlyn Staley – will be attending St. Ambrose University. She is currently pursuing her degree in Social Work with a double minor in Applied Ethics and Psychology. She is the daughter of Nicole Staley, Purchasing Supervisor.

Shalesse Pie stated the Peoria Park District Job Fair will be held Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the RiverPlex. There are many part-time and seasonal positions available and people can apply and interview for a position on the spot.

**6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**6.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable July 2021**

Trustee Laurie Covington reported the Finance Committee has examined the bills and moves that the Vice President and Secretary be authorized to issue orders on the Treasurer for the several amounts. Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated he is abstaining

from any and all matters relating to this listing of accounts payable including voting, deliberation or consideration as he owns 1% or less of holdings in an assortment of companies included on the current listing of accounts payable.

Trustee Laurie Covington MOVED TO APPROVE the current listing of accounts payable. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alexander Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 1 Abstention; 0 Nays)

**7) NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.A. ICJIA Grant Overview: 2020-21 Accomplishments; 2021-22 Program Plan**

Executive Director Emily Cahill introduced Peter Kobak, Supervisor of Community Connections, to present the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) grant's first year overview, accomplishments and program plan. The District received this grant largely in part due to the advocacy of Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth.

Mr. Kobak gave a brief overview of the ICJIA grant including the following information: The grant is non-competitive and its main purpose and goal is violence prevention and reduction services and strategies, to mediate and intervene with conflicts, and provide other supports to reduce the shooting and homicide incidents in high need communities. The funding amounts are:

- July 2020-June 2021: \$698,453
- July 2021-June 2022: \$1,350,000

Trustee Timothy Bertschy asked: 1) The grant program is open to Peoria Public Schools District 150 – are there opportunities for the home schooled or those who attend private school or can it be extended to them? 2) Can the grant be renewed possibly beyond the upcoming year? 3) In terms of statistics, do we do anything or can we track those who are affected by this program over a period of years and determine if it's been successful?

Peter Kobak stated that the District is currently tracking the outcomes of some of those students and due to the program being relatively new, the administration and tracking processes are getting better. The District began partnering with Peoria Public Schools to first get consent from the families and students, and then get grades for those students. For the students the District was able to track, at least over half maintained or improved their grades through the duration of the program. The program is open to other students. Peoria Public Schools (PPS) has the most students in the area. In addition, PPS has identified that 80% of their student population household is considered low income. This helps the ICJIA grant target the 61605 and 61603 lowest income areas. The District is also organizing field trips to parks and recreation facilities, and subsidizing the trips for other organizations. There is also the ability to apply for PPD scholarships. Executive Director Emily Cahill stated this was the broadest and most effective way to reach the most people.

Mr. Kobak stated the grant is considered a non-competitive grant which means it is an allocation from the General Assembly of the State of Illinois and is not guaranteed in any way, nor can an organization apply for the grant. Receiving it depends on the advocacy of our local legislators. The District is constantly thinking about sustainability and how to keep initiatives going if the District does not receive this funding. However, there is no guarantee this opportunity will come again.

Trustee Alex Sierra asked if the Board will be able to receive a financial allocation report on how the money is being distributed in each program. He believes if the District could track how effective the programs are, it would allow for better financial allocations. Trustee Sierra would like to have a projection on where the District is planning to allocate funds for the current year. He stated the ELITE Gamechangers program has a plentiful amount of good incentives. Do they have a job placement assistance program with the re-entry program? Mr. Kobak stated that before any money is spent, The District has to submit a budget to the ICJIA. The budget proposes where PPD is to spend the money and is laid out in a very detailed manner. Mr. Kobak will make sure Trustee Sierra gets a copy of that budget. As far as job placement, the District tracks the job outcomes of participants and Mr. Kobak indicated he will make that information available to the Board as well.

**7.B. Temporary Construction Easement – Ameren Gas at Mt. Hawley Parcel**

Mike Friberg, Park Planner, stated that Ameren gas transmission has a large high-pressure gas main running under a portion of the District’s Mt. Hawley Parcel. This gas main serves a large portion of north Peoria. Before reaching Park District property, the gas main runs under the railroad tracks immediately adjacent to the Rock Island Greenway. Ameren needs to replace the casing protecting this gas main under the railroad tracks, and is requesting a temporary construction easement in order to complete this work.

Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE the temporary easement request from Ameren at the Mt. Hawley parcel. Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated he is abstaining from any and all matters relating to this item including voting, deliberation or consideration as he owns 1% or less of holdings in the company requesting the temporary easement. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alexander Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 1 Abstention; 0 Nays)

**7.C. Standing Committee Assignments**

Emily Cahill requested the following standing committee appointments to be effective immediately through the end of 2021:

- Finance Committee: Vice President Joyce Harant, Chairperson, Tim Bertschy, Trustee
- Planning Committee: Vice President Joyce Harant, Chairperson, Laurie Covington, Trustee

- Trustee Laurie Covington will join President Johnson on the Peoria Zoological Society Board.
- Trustee Alex Sierra will join Trustee Petty on the RiverPlex Joint Operations Committee.
- Trustee Jackie Petty will serve on the Peoria PlayHouse Advisory Board.
- Trustee Jackie Petty will continue as chair of the Golf Ad Hoc Committee, with Trustee Tim Bertschy also on the committee.
- Vice President Joyce Harant and community member James Stuttle will serve on the Springdale Cemetery Board.
- Executive Director Emily Cahill will join President Johnson on the HISRA Board of Directors.

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the listing of standing committee assignments. Motion seconded by Trustee Timothy Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alexander Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstention; 0 Nays)

**8) CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS:**

**8.A. Request for Use – Pedal for Parkinson’s at RiverPlex on 11.6.21**

**8.B. Request for Use – Run 4 Dray at Donovan Park on 9.25.21**

Trustee Joseph Cassidy MOVED TO APPROVE the Calendar of Consent Items 8.A. and 8.B. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joseph Cassidy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**9) PENDING BUSINESS: None**

**10) CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

Sharon Kennedy of 606 Iris Ct., West Peoria, addressed the Board and presented a petition to express dismay about the lack of communication about the future closing of the RiverPlex Aquatic Center for the months of August and September for maintenance to the air quality system. She stated customers patients of the AquaPlex were not told of the upcoming closing until just recently, making it very difficult to find alternatives in a timely fashion.

David Trachtenbarg of 2419 E. Reservoir Blvd., Peoria, expressed his dismay concerning the possibility of eliminating the amphitheater at Glen Oak Park in addition to the possibility of creating a new outdoor entertainment venue at Donovan Park.

Bridget Burke of 408 W. Morningside Dr., Peoria expressed her lack of support and serious concerns about a possible outdoor entertainment venue at Donovan Park.

**11) COMMUNICATIONS:**

**11.A. Kroger Community Rewards**

Kroger rewards total \$114.61 for the second quarter of 2021.

**11.B. Letters – Glen Oak Amphitheatre**

Two letters from citizens were received concerning opposition to removing the Glen Oak Amphitheatre were read.

**11.C. Dog Park Thank You**

A Facebook message was received by a citizen thanking the District for the dog park on Kickapoo Creek Road.

**12) OTHER BUSINESS:**

Executive Director Cahill encouraged everyone to attend a press conference on Tuesday, August 3 at 10:00 am at Glen Oak Park to hear the District's plans to reimagine and reinvest in the Glen Oak Park. The District wants to engage with the community and get their input. The press conference will also be posted on Facebook Live if you are unable to attend.

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:15 p.m. Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Joseph Cassidy and carried on a unanimous voice vote of the Trustees present. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/73XzyEDUWS/>

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