

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., AUGUST 11, 2021 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington (v), Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant
(v) = Attended virtually

TRUSTEES ABSENT: President Robert Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Nick Conrad (v), Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Chief Todd Green, Peter Kobak (v), Jonelle McCloud (v), Karrie Ross, Shalesse Pie, Tiffany Shipley, Greg Walker (v), Alicia Woodworth.
(v) = Attended virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: Lawrence Maushard and Christine Reynolds

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Vice President Harant 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 July 28, 2021 – Public Meeting

Trustee Alex Sierra requested that in order to maintain consistency, when noting his name in meeting minutes, please use either Alex or Alexander throughout. Board Secretary Alicia Woodworth stated she would be sure to do that.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of July 28, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays).

5) STAFF REPORTS:

5.A. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that tomorrow night is the Parks on Tap event at Lakeview Park 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Not only is this a fun event but this is the kick off for the Talk About It Tuesday/Talk About It Thursday opportunities for the community to come and ask District-related questions. She will be the District representative at tomorrow's event. If tomorrow's event is well-received and productive, a sign-up sheet

will be provided for Trustees to sign up to answer questions and be the District representative for future events.

This Friday, August 13 at 10:00 am the second Facebook Live event will be held for a Q&A session with Emily Cahill. People can post their questions and comments and be answered in real time. Last week's event had approximately 20 people joining.

Monday, August 16 at 6:00 pm Executive Director Emily Cahill will be at the Glen Oak amphitheater for the Park Possible public input session. The goal is to be able to move around the space and talk about it with people and provide a clear message about what the proposed possibilities and plans are for the amphitheater. She has received many comments from the community. On a weekly basis, she will compile and send the comments to Trustees for their review. She has been responding to each email as she receives it. Emily made it clear that the intent is not disinvestment in the park but rather, reinvestment as the District has approximately \$2 million to invest in the park space. She would like to affirm to everyone that this is a beginning conversation with the public and there are multiple ways they can provide and share their feedback. Please visit peoriaparks.org to get more information where you can also view the map of the potential new layout of the park.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy asked what the inclement weather plan was for the event at the amphitheater next Monday, August 16, should it rain. Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that currently there is no final plan however, she encouraged everyone to follow the District Facebook page and website for any changes or updates.

5.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design and Construction

Superintendent of Planning, Design and Construction Becky Fredrickson presented the July 2021 Monthly Project Report. She stated that excellent progress is being made on the Bradley Park bridge construction project. The lower dog park at Bradley Park is also open.

Trustee Alex Sierra commented that he was aware the Trewyn Park project was in the works. As such, he asked why it was not listed on the Monthly Project Report. Executive Director Emily Cahill stated it is because a project has to be funded in some way to be listed on the report as an active project. Once the Trewyn Park project is funded, it will be on the report for 2022.

5.C. Chief of Police

Chief of Police Todd Green presented the July 2021 Police Activity Summary. Trustee Alex Sierra stated there was a major crime shooting across the street from Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Park and press reports did not state if the shooter ran through the park. However, Trustee Sierra was told by residents of the area that there was foot traffic through the park during that incident. He asked Chief Green what existing relationship does the Peoria Park District Police Department have with the City of Peoria Police Department when it comes to shootings or crimes on or near District property?

Chief Green stated the District Police has a very close relationship with the City of Peoria Police. A contributing factor to this relationship is the fact that Chief Green is himself a retired City of Peoria Police Captain and knows and maintains relationships with many of the officers and administrative personnel in that department. He stated when an incident occurs, the District officers are directed to assist City of Peoria officers in their investigation. In addition, when an investigation is necessary, there is a cooperative sharing of information between the two departments.

Chief Green stated that a patron of the Municipal Band concert on the front lawn of the Noble Center expressed their deep appreciation for District Police Officer Ken Ober. Officer Ober had assisted the patron's elderly mother.

Chief Green stated that part-time Peoria Park District Police Officer Adam Rossi was recently named Bradley University Police Officer of the year. The District is very proud and pleased to have Officer Rossi on the team.

Trustee Jackie Petty asked Chief Green how the basketball giveaway program was going. He stated it is going very well, having just given a round of basketballs to community youth. Also, Chief Green had approached some youth in the 1100 block of N. Monroe St. asking them if they played basketball. When they said yes, he gave them a basketball and made them very happy. It was an extremely positive interaction for all involved.

6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

7) NEW BUSINESS:

7.A. Allocation of Funds for Security Camera Illuminators

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that the District has been adding security cameras at the Peoria Zoo in order to move towards the opportunity to have animals out more and ensure the Zoo is properly monitored and covered. It has been discovered that security camera footage can not be viewed properly when filmed in the dark. Lights for the cameras, i.e. illuminators, would alleviate this problem. They have been tested and work very well. Trustee Timothy Bertschy inquired that since the request to spend \$39,007 for these illuminators seems like a very specific amount and therefore assuming a company had bid for the illuminators, should there also be a bid provided from that particular company? Deputy Director Brent Wheeler stated he would look into the matter and provide more detailed information. Trustee Bertschy asked that since it's important to know who the District is buying from, could this request be deferred until the next Board meeting when it is accompanied with either the bid or more detailed information on the purchase of the illuminators? Deputy Director Wheeler stated absolutely and therefore this request for purchase will be deferred until the next meeting.

7.B. Permanent Easement – Stratus Networks in Bradley Park

Superintendent of Planning, Design and Construction Becky Fredrickson stated that Stratus Networks is requesting a permanent utility easement for an underground fiber optic cable and conduit within Laura Bradley Park. The proposed easement is located directly adjacent Parkside Drive, from Main Street to the mouth of the alley between Parkside and Maplewood and is 10 feet in width. The proposed easement lies within an existing permanent easement in favor of the City of Peoria for street lighting for Parkside Drive. Therefore, little additional restriction is placed on park usage that does not currently exist because of the existing easement. Stratus has accepted that their easement is non-exclusive, and they will be sharing the corridor with existing utilities. Stratus is offering \$500.00 to cover legal fees and staff review associated with this project.

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the permanent easement for Stratus Networks in Bradley Park. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty. Trustee Timothy Bertschy abstained from voting. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy (abstained), Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention by Trustee Timothy Bertschy; 0 Nays)

7.C. Change Order – RiverPlex Natatorium HVAC Replacement

Superintendent of Planning, Design and Construction Becky Fredrickson stated that during the RiverPlex natatorium HVAC replacement project, it was determined that the return grill and ductwork will need to be replaced due to deterioration of the metal from the corrosive environment. Due to limited access prior to bidding, because of the location of the grill above the lap pool, it was not clear if the grill and ductwork would need to be included in the scope. Once the pools were drained and access was obtained, it was determined that the ductwork and grill will need to be replaced. In addition to the replacement of the ductwork and grill, while the drop ceiling is removed, all of the metal hangers will be replaced that hold up the drop ceiling. Deterioration of the hangers was discovered and for safety reasons, they need replaced.

Trustee Alex Sierra asked if this is the reason the RiverPlex pool is closed. Becky Fredrickson responded stating yes, it's the reason the pool will be closed for the next approximate 9 weeks. The humidification system needs to be replaced as it is 20 years old. Trustee Sierra stated he wished they would have had this information sooner so that it could have been communicated to patrons in a timelier manner. He stated when this was originally presented to the Board, he had no idea it was a public safety concern. Executive Director Emily Cahill clarified that this change order is only a small piece of the larger project which was approved last March. Becky Fredrickson concurred stating that the equipment purchased for approximately \$738,000 required a 4-5-month lead time. She explained that they were wanting to ensure the equipment had been shipped before notifying patrons the pool would be closed for 9 weeks. Emily Cahill stated that this may not be the only change order for this large project. When maintenance crews are working on the project, they may encounter more necessary repairs or replacements. It's best to take care of all repairs at once while the pool is closed.

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the change order for the RiverPlex natatorium HVAC replacement. Motion seconded by Trustee Timothy Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Abstention; 0 Nays)

7.D. Proposed Policy Revision – 42.00 Process and Procedures for Reporting Improper Governmental Action

Superintendent of Human Resources Shalesse Pie presented to the Board for review a proposed new policy, *42.00 Process and Procedures for Reporting Improper Governmental Action*. The proposed new policy to this section of policy manual is in response to legislation that recently passed and discusses the process for when a whistleblower reports an incident and would be added to the District's personnel policy manual. The proposed revisions are presented for review at this time. The proposed revisions will be presented to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy asked Attorney William Streeter if he had reviewed this and Mr. Streeter stated he in fact had. Trustee Bertschy expressed his comfort in knowing that both William Streeter and Shalesse Pie had both drafted and reviewed this policy. Mr. Streeter clarified that this new policy is part of the police reform legislation that recently came out and almost all of that legislation pertains to the police department however, this one small piece of the law pertains to everyone.

7.E. First District Tour Transportation Request

Peoria Park District (PPD) Trustee Alex Sierra and Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson are hosting a series of tours inviting people to look at parks, roads and infrastructure conditions in the City of Peoria's 1st District. These tours will be conducted every Saturday August 7th – September 25th at 10:00 am for a total of 8 tours. Trustee Sierra requested PPD to provide passenger transportation vans for the upcoming 7 tours. A driver and transportation van for the first tour conducted last Saturday, August 7 was provided by another party. Trustee Sierra stated that as of today, Peoria Public Schools (PPS) has officially committed to providing bus transportation but he is still seeking transportation assistance from PPD. There were approximately 50 people who participated in the tour last Saturday and he anticipates there will be more attending the upcoming scheduled tours. Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that PPD has not received a request of this type from a Trustee in the past so there is not a set precedent. Superintendent of Finance, Karrie Ross, stated that the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) best practice guidance is that the driver of a PPD-owned passenger van for a non-PPD purpose or event, needs to provide proof of insurance coverage of commercial liability of \$1 million, auto liability for non-owned vehicles of \$3 million, and auto damage of \$100,000. In addition, the driver of the PPD-

owned passenger van has to have proof of proper training to drive that particular type of vehicle.

A lengthy discussion took place producing many questions, comments, concerns and issues related to this request. They include:

- Can PPD provide a driver or volunteer to a non-PPD sponsored event?
- PPD providing a driver increases risk to PPD.
- At this point, this event has not been approved as a PPD sponsored event.
- PPD was not asked to make this event an official PPD-sponsored event, but rather support a joint project between PPD Trustee Alex Sierra and Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson.
- Due to PPD being a public tax-supported entity, what is the compensation value given to a Trustee from this type of request?
- Council member Denise Jackson asked the City of Peoria for transportation assistance and to date, has not received a response.
- What precedent is PPD setting with other Trustees if this request is approved?

Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated the Board needs a full understanding and proposal in writing. Trustee Alex Sierra asked if the Board would consider this as an official PPD-sponsored event. If not, he and Peoria City Council member Denise Jackson will need to consider other options as there are many other entities besides Peoria Public Schools who have committed to providing transportation buses, allowing Trustee Sierra to drive without the training and insurance requirements PPD may need. Trustee Laurie Covington asked if the Peoria Park District is promoted in any way during these tours. Trustee Sierra stated no. Attorney William Streeter posed the question - if this is going to be an official PPD-sponsored function, will PPD want input as to the content of the tour program?

After much discussion, Trustee Alex Sierra was asked to provide the following in writing:

- Purpose of tour event
- The people who are directing this event
- What quality control measures are in place to ensure drivers have safe driving records and backgrounds
- What is the advantage and purpose to be gained by PPD from these tours?

Trustee Sierra stated he will submit his proposal in the next couple days and that he'll do his due diligence because he wants the Board and constituents to feel comfortable about this request.

Executive Director Emily Cahill asked Attorney Streeter, before Trustee Sierra submits his proposal to the Board, to please evaluate and weigh in on Trustee Sierra's request. This evaluation should include the determination what, if any, value this request has or are there compensation issues due to the request being directly from a Trustee? There is also the labor requirement of approximately 2 hours per tour times 7 individual Saturdays for a total of 14-16 hours.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated that Trustee Sierra should be very proud of the fact that for the first tour, approximately 50 people came to look at public land and let's try to make this work for everyone.

8) CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS:

8.A. Request for Use – Easterseals Annual Softball Tournament on 9.18.21 at Peoria Stadium

8.B. Request for Use – Peoria Police Department Proctor Center on 8.24.21

8.C. Request for Use – Alpha Phi Alpha – RiverPlex on 8.28.21

8.D. Bid – 2021 District-Wide Chip and Seal

Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Calendar of Consent Items 8.A. thru 8.C. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Item 8.D. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty. Trustee Timothy Bertschy abstained from voting. Motion carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy (abstained), Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 4 Ayes; 1 Abstention by Trustee Timothy Bertschy; 0 Nays)

9) PENDING BUSINESS: None

10) CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Mr. Lawrence Maushard of 710 E. Arcadia Ave, Peoria addressed the Board concerning his desire to keep the amphitheater at Glen Oak Park.

11) COMMUNICATIONS:

11.A. Public Mask Wearing Request

Executive Director Emily Cahill noted the District is asking all PPD staff to wear masks at all times where social distancing is not possible. Also, children and unvaccinated individuals are asked to wear a mask at all times. Updated signs will be posted with this message.

11.B. Thank You

A thank you note was received by President Robert Johnson and family.

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that today is Bonnie Noble's 80th birthday and if you'd like to send her a card or note, she will be happy to give you Bonnie's address.

13) ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:20 p.m. Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/7IKmlcSnt6/>

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