

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., OCTOBER 27, 2021 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Laurie Covington

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Carl Cannon, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Chief Todd Green, Willie Howe, Peter Kobak (v), Scott Loftus, Jonelle McCloud (v), Mike Miller, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, JD Russell, Tiffany Shipley, Nicole Staley, Greg Walker, and Alicia Woodworth

(v) = Attending virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Cannon, Sherry Cannon, Rob Bell, and Members of ELITE Game Changers program

1) CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:07 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:

Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2021

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of October 13, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, 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 stated that Lakeview Park After Dark held this past weekend on October 22 and 23 was a phenomenal success and thanked all staff and volunteers for their hard work and participation. Expectations were exceeded with approximately 4,000 attendees. She gave a special thank you to Peoria Players, Peoria Public Library, and other groups that participated in the event.

5.B. Superintendent of Parks

Matt Freeman, Superintendent of Parks, presented the September 2021 Closed Service Request Report. Mr. Freeman answered questions concerning frequency of maintenance/work visits to District centers and how work orders are prioritized.

6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:

6.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

Vice President Joyce Harant reported the Finance Committee has examined the bills and moves that the 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.

PEORIA PARK DISTRICT	
PAYROLL SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR 2021	
<u>PAYROLL #20</u>	10/1/2021
GENERAL FUND	\$ 175,708.65
RECREATION FUND	\$ 106,426.61
LIABILITY FUND	\$ 2,993.04
MUSEUM FUND	\$ 45,242.04
POLICE FUND	\$ 11,209.78
DETWEILLER MARINA FUND	\$ -
GOLF FUND	\$ 48,247.26
HISRA FUND	\$ 10,871.82
RIVERFRONT FUND	\$ 8,157.83
RIVERPLEX FUND	\$ 30,422.28
TOTAL ALL PAYROLLS	<u>\$ 439,279.31</u>

**PEORIA PARK DISTRICT
PAYROLL SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR 2021**

<u>PAYROLL #21</u>	10/15/2021
GENERAL FUND	\$ 174,952.28
RECREATION FUND	\$ 106,225.05
LIABILITY FUND	\$ 3,071.04
MUSEUM FUND	\$ 43,642.53
POLICE FUND	\$ 10,974.86
DETWEILLER MARINA FUND	\$ -
GOLF FUND	\$ 47,454.53
HISRA FUND	\$ 11,349.25
RIVERFRONT FUND	\$ 7,217.57
RIVERPLEX FUND	<u>\$ 33,335.98</u>
TOTAL ALL PAYROLLS	<u>\$ 438,223.09</u>

Peoria Park District

Thursday, October 21, 2021

GENERAL	\$	451,295.14
RECREATION	\$	180,778.98
AUDIT	\$	-
LIABILITY	\$	70,805.32
MUSEUM	\$	16,446.99
POLICE	\$	2,910.81
IMRF	\$	-
WORKMAN'S COMP. & UNEMPLOYMENT	\$	53,777.70
BONDED PROJECTS	\$	586,583.75
BOND INTEREST	\$	-
PAVING & LIGHTING	\$	20,804.74
RIVERFRONT EVENTS	\$	73,739.33
DETWEILLER MARINA	\$	-
GOLF	\$	84,965.03
HISRA	\$	5,836.45
RIVERPLEX	<u>\$</u>	<u>47,983.77</u>
Total Payables:		1,595,928.01

STATE OF ILLINOIS: COUNTY OF PEORIA

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the current listing of accounts payable. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, and Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 5 Ayes; 1 Abstention; 0 Nays)

7) NEW BUSINESS:

7.A. 2021 Tax Levy Estimate

Karrie Ross, Superintendent of Finance, stated that in compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act, the Board of Trustees is required to estimate the amount of its proposed aggregate levy not less than 20 days before the adoption of the levy ordinance. The staff recommended proposed tax levy shown below is an estimated aggregate levy decrease of .82%.

**Peoria Park District
2022 Proposed Budget
Tax Levy Estimate**

<u>LEVY</u>	<u>2020 TAX EXTENSION</u>	<u>2021 TAX LEVY ESTIMATE</u>
Audit	\$ 38,021	\$ 51,800
General - Corporate	2,055,215	2,055,200
General - Operations/Building	1,284,510	1,284,500
IMRF	845,105	699,000
Liability	654,997	544,600
Museum	1,438,651	1,438,700
Paving & Lighting	82,003	72,000
Police	510,104	487,000
Recreation	1,849,694	1,849,700
Recreation Centers & Prog.	1,541,411	1,541,400
Social Security	808,111	910,000
Special Recreation Assoc.	415,153	411,000
Workers' Compensation	<u>432,006</u>	<u>365,800</u>
AGGREGATE LEVY TOTAL	\$ 11,954,982	\$ 11,710,700
Bond & Interest	\$ 5,054,185	\$ 5,071,800
TOTAL LEVY	<u>\$ 17,009,167</u>	<u>\$ 16,782,500</u>
TAX RATE	0.82761	0.82081

Estimated tax rate for 2021 tax collections assumes no change in the taxable EAV.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2021 tax levy estimate. Motion seconded by Vice President Joyce Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

7.B. Climate Change Update

Executive Director Emily Cahill stated that due to the request at the last Board meeting to provide information about the District's efforts and response to climate change, the District's Environmental Policy and Stewardship Policy are provided for reference. These policies are used to guide the District's environmental efforts and are a continuous work in progress. They are updated as part of the District's strategic planning process. Matt Freeman stated that a Green Team was established to make process changes in operational facilities and to continue the work of the Environmental Policy.

Mike Miller, Supervisor of Environmental & Interpretive Services, was introduced to talk further about the District's carbon footprint and environmental efforts. He stated there are very good things to report about the District's climate resiliency. Each year, the District's parks pull out CO₂ from the atmosphere as plants use photosynthesis to grow leaves, roots, branches and flowers. This CO₂ is locked into the vegetation and the carbon is sequestered into the plant tissues and removed from the atmosphere. This ecosystem service is something we often forget as the world becomes focused on carbon footprints and economic models tend to focus solely on reducing this figure.

What type of impact on atmospheric CO₂ do our District land holdings provide? Prairies in Illinois can sequester between 5-18 tons of CO₂ per acre per year. In the District, we have approximately 40 acres of prairie habitat and restorations. Total CO₂ sequestration is between 200 and 720 tons of CO₂ per year. The healthier and more diverse the prairie, the higher the carbon banking service. A majority of the prairie's biomass is below ground in the root systems. This is the most permanent type of carbon sequestration since that carbon is locked in the soil. Forests in Illinois can sequester between 2.5 – 10 tons of CO₂ per acre per year. In the District, we have approximately 6,300 acres of forested habitats. Total CO₂ sequestration is between 15,750 and 63,000 tons of CO₂ per year. The healthier and more diverse the forest, the higher the carbon banking service. Forests lock the bulk of CO₂ in wood (roots, trunks, branches and leaves). Parks in Illinois can sequester approximately .5 tons of CO₂ per acre per year. The Peoria Park District has approximately 1,100 acres of public parks and

greenspace. Total CO2 sequestration is approximately 550 tons of CO2 per year. By modifying maintenance schedules to reduce mowing intervals and increasing native plantings within parks, we can increase the amount of CO2 sequestered. It is an accurate approximation that the District CO2 footprint is less than the carbon sequestration services offered. Between 16,500 and 64,270 tons of CO2 are sequestered in our parks and natural areas each year. This amount of carbon sequestration is equal to the annual carbon footprint of between 4,000 and 16,000 automobiles. The better we care for the ecological health of our parklands, the higher the amount of CO2 we sequester. The District can do more such as invest in alternative energies and building efficiencies (solar, insulation, HVAC upgrades), invest in efficient fleet vehicles and explore non-fossil fuel alternatives. We can maintain healthy habits by promoting ecological stewardship and restoration and modify maintenance to reduce mowing frequencies. We can update the District's Environmental Policy to include goals and action steps from the strategic plan. This can serve as a prioritization tool and a method for tracking progress.

Trustee Kyle Bright stated that on page 3 of the Environmental Policy Action Item A. states *Conduct ongoing monitoring and research and focus local universities and conservation agencies on our stewardship needs.* He asked Mr. Miller if the District has identified any academic program alignment at institutions where the District can have externships from students of those institutions. Mr. Miller stated the District has many current and ecological graduate research conducted by Bradley University and the University of Illinois, and also non-graduate programs at Illinois Central College and the Student Action for the Environment (SAFE) Program. Much research is also conducted in the District's 1,600 acres of nature preserves.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated his concern for the protection of District assets against rain (erosion) and asked if there's a plan to protect from degradation as a result of climate change. Mike Miller stated the reason why the District started its environmental efforts was to address erosion in our parks due to rainfall. The erosion rates are continuously being evaluated and we are now seeing soil being built up because of the ecological health of the District's slopes. Erosion control has always been a driving force of the stewardship master plan we have for District preserves.

Vice President Joyce Harant asked if there is an actual stewardship plan document. Mr. Miller stated yes, there is a collection of best practice stewardship for each of our nature preserves. Vice President Harant stated the District should be goal setting and create a carbon reduction and sustainability

plan so the public can see it to show that the District is committed to the efforts. Emily Cahill stated the District is very committed to the cause and works very hard accordingly, although it may not always be reported. A lot of work is being done at a very fast pace so please be patient while the District develops a better tracking and reporting of the progress and efforts made. A conversation was had concerning goal setting, aligning the reporting of efforts with the strategic plan, capital improvement plan, and setting the groundwork for future funding to achieve those pre-determined goals. Trustee Alex Sierra commented that the Southern District is the only District that does not have preserve land holdings and as we move forward he would like to see that change.

7.C. ELITE Data Presentation by Carl Cannon

Carl Cannon, Supervisor of Community Outreach, introduced members of the ELITE Game Changers program youth ages 7-17 who attended tonight's meeting. Mr. Rob Bell stated the youth are from all areas of Peoria. Mr. Cannon stated the ELITE Game Changers evolved from the District ELITE Re-Entry Program and work directly with youth. They are very effective in changing negative behavior. Their goal is to accept the youth and then reintegrate them into their school and peers. Currently there are 15 adults in classes in the Re-Entry Program. Since Game Changers has started this year, approximately 60 youth have been processed, 16 in-class, 4 in-home virtual attendees, and 26 that came out of the summer program. They come from 12 different Peoria schools including Peoria's Quest Charter Academy. The students participate in many community-sponsored events, job fairs, training, and various other initiatives. Mr. Cannon stated that although he is unable to reveal who the sponsor is at this time, there is a corporate sponsor that will fund amazing projects on the south side and near-north side.

Trustee Alex Sierra stated Mr. Cannon mentioned job fair and case load tracking. What does that tracking look like internally? Mr. Cannon stated that when a student successfully enters their freshman year, they were not held back a grade. They then proceeded to sophomore year successfully. They are managed in real-time and ELITE partners with parents. They successfully complete the Character Matters initiative. Mr. Cannon stated if he receives an applied-for grant, the youth will be tracked for one-year post job placement.

7.D. ELITE Rental Agreement from Dream Center Peoria

Emily Cahill stated that ELITE Community Outreach facilitates multiple programs for the District, including the ELITE Re-Entry and Gamechanger Programs. The Gamechanger Program serves students who would otherwise be suspended or expelled from school, mainly due to behavior. Students spend the traditional

school day with the program. The team, with support from Peoria Public Schools certified teachers, is able to help them to complete assignments, alter negative behavior, and improve attendance. The team picks up the students every day and they participate in programming from 8:00 am-2:00 pm. Due to demand, this program has outgrown Lakeview Recreation Center and the District does not have a viable safe option to support the expansion of the program. After discussion with Dream Center Peoria, they have extended the opportunity to lease space at Dream Center. This is a good option because the participant youth will also be able to access after-school programming at Dream Center without additional transportation burden. This switch was not budgeted for, but Carl Cannon has found a private donor who will underwrite the monthly lease payment to Dream Center. The agreement has been reviewed by PDRMA legal counsel.

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the ELITE rental agreement with Dream Center Peoria. Motion seconded by Trustee Timothy Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays)

7.E. Change to Expenditure Policy in Section 3.04(C) and (D) of Section III (Business) of the Policy Manual

Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction, presented to the Board for review a proposed change to the *Expenditure Policy in Section 3.04(C) and (D) of Section III (Business)* of the policy manual as part of the District's commitment to promoting economic development of minority-owned and women-owned businesses. These changes reduce the number of quotes required for smaller projects and provide the following benefits: A. Allows more flexibility in obtaining qualified contractors and vendors including minority and women-owned; B. Reduces staff time hunting for additional vendors/contractors willing to provide quotes; and C. Allows for quicker selection and engagement, leading to quicker completion, and benefiting park patrons.

8) CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS:

8.A. Request for Use – Toys for Tots Walk – RiverFront Trail

8.B. Engineering Proposal – Cassidy Park Stormwater Overflow

8.C. Quote – 2022 Golf Range Balls

8.D. Proposal: 2022 Golf and Groundskeeping Supplies

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent items 8.A. thru 8.D. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote:

Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, 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:**

12.A. Gwynn Playground Replacement Update

Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction, Becky Fredrickson, stated that as a result of community input at the October 13, 2021 meeting, slight modifications have been made to the Gwynn Park playground. The wormhole and ropes have been eliminated. Musical chimes, a sensory spinner and other ground-level elements have been added. The overall project cost was previously approximately \$182,000 and with these modifications, it is now approximately \$184,000.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:24 p.m. Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty 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/8Xlmg3VJ9y/>

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