

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:30 P.M., January 12, 2022 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler (v), Attorney Bill Streater, Attorney Kevin Day (v), Sean Budds, Nick Conrad (v), Becky Fredrickson (v), Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg (v), Gigi Gibson (v), Chief Todd Green, Willie Howe, Scott Loftus (v), Peter Kobak, Brittany Moldenhauer (v), Shaless Pie (v), Karrie Ross (v), Rebecca Shulman, Doug Silberer (v), Yvonne Strode (v), Greg Walker, and Alicia Woodworth (v) = Attending Virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: Melanie Anderson, League of Women Voters of Greater Peoria

1) CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 December 8, 2021

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of December 8, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

4.B. Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2021

Vice President Harant stated that the minutes of December 13, 2021 were very brief and did not capture the entirety of the meeting. Going forward, she would like to see meeting minutes more reflective and detailed of all items discussed in Board meetings. President Johnson concurred and Alicia Woodworth acknowledged this statement and request for more detailed minutes in the future.

Trustee Laurie Covington MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of December 13, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

5) STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Executive Director's Report

Emily Cahill stated that as part of the District's efforts to engage and retain a high-quality workforce, staff has worked to update the benefits associated with working at the District and as an employee or a volunteer. These new benefits went into effect on January 1, 2022. Seated Trustees qualify for benefits at the same level as full-time employees.

Emily stated that for the staff holiday party held on December 17, 2021, in addition to the traditional holiday luncheon and gifts, drawings and announcements were included. Staff recognition awards, the 2021 Impact Awards, were implemented for the first time where staff members could nominate co-workers for opportunities to be recognized. A traveling trophy award was also implemented as a way to cultivate our culture of gratitude and celebrate teammates who deserve the recognition and encouragement. The Impact Awards categories were as follows:

- Others First Award: Honoring the PPD family member who has put patrons and peers before themselves. Ernest Starks won this award with Chief Todd Green having nominated him.
- Exceeds Expectations Award: Honoring the PPD family member who showed innovation and a strong internal motivation to meet the needs of those we serve. Dale Hanson won this award with Mike Friberg having nominated him.
- Behind the Scenes Award: Honoring the PPD family member whose role is important but not regularly visible to the community. Dawn Petefish won this award with Yvonne Strode having nominated her.
- PRAISE-worthy Award: Honoring the PPD family member who best exemplifies the PPD's PRAISE model in this service year. Kristie Shoemaker won this award with Becky Fredrickson having nominated her.

A traveling trophy award was also implemented this year. The PPD Events Team was honored for their willingness to jump in and support the District on so many events this year. They will then pass along the trophy to an individual or group within the District.

Trustee Alex Sierra inquired as to whether the benefits described are extended to former Trustees. Emily Cahill stated no, only to current-seated Trustees. However, there have been times in the past where a past, long-serving Trustee, upon retirement, has been extended certain benefits to reflect gratitude for their service.

5.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction

Becky Fredrickson presented the December 2021 Monthly Project Report. She also reminded everyone that on Thursday, January 20 at 10:30 am there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the two new bridges at Bradley Park, the Japanese bridge and the large bridge that runs to the Equipment Service Center. More details will follow closer to the date.

Trustee Alex Sierra thanked Emily Cahill and Becky Fredrickson for attending the Peoria City Council meeting last night, where the \$600,000 allocation of Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 funds for the rehabilitation of Trewyn Park was approved and unanimously voted upon. Emily Cahill thanked Becky Fredrickson and her team for doing an outstanding job putting together the concept plan. She also thanked City of Peoria Community Development Director Joe Dulin and City Manager Patrick Urich and the entire Peoria City Council for showing their support and being collaborative in this approach to improve Trewyn Park on a quick timeline.

Trustee Kyle Bright also congratulated everyone on a job well done and inquired in relation to COVID surges, does the District envision a lack of progression with upcoming projects under construction. Becky Fredrickson stated that the District had experienced some issues early on due to contracting companies shutting down but overall, the District has been very fortunate to not experience major shutdowns or delays and does not anticipate any going forward.

5.C. Director of Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum

Rebecca Shulman, Director of Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum presented the strategic plan for the PlayHouse. Emily Cahill thanked Rebecca for attending tonight’s Board meeting and explained that as part of the Staff Report meeting agenda item, the District wanted Rebecca to share with the Board some of the work that has been performed over the last several months at the Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum and with the Advisory Committee which established some strategic direction for the PlayHouse. The PlayHouse has seen long-term impacts of COVID because of the way children play and the work necessary to keep them safe. Rebecca and her team have done an outstanding job of being flexible and innovative and continuing to serve our community and as they look to revitalize and consider the long-term future of the PlayHouse in our new COVID reality, they have done some outstanding work.

Rebecca Shulman stated the Strategic Plan was created with the help of Peter Kobak and Erin Gallagher, both Park District staff, who did a phenomenal job of helping determine the strengths and weaknesses of the PlayHouse and how to move forward. As a result, it was determined the PlayHouse needs to move from a “hidden gem” to “gem” which is the title of the Strategic Plan. It is the plan over the next two years that all community families know the PlayHouse and have access to it. There are three priorities that have been identified to be implemented. They are:

- Priority #1 – Identify and implement strategies for helping children become explorers and creators beyond the PlayHouse building.

The goals of priority #1 are:

1. Expand the PlayHouse paid experience into Glen Oak Park so that 5% of nice weather visits include an outdoor component.
2. That PlayHouse offer technical assistance and education at least 10 times per year with at least 3 organizations.
3. That PlayHouse experiences take place outside of Glen Oak Park at least 15 times per year.

- Priority #2 – Actively engage new audiences through marketing, partnerships, and programming.
The goals of priority #2 are:
 1. Develop and publish an annual communications strategy including branding guidelines, communications timeline, marketing goals, public relations plan, and fundraising plan.
 2. Create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan that identifies and addresses barriers to participation.
 3. 25% of PlayHouse marketing is dedicated to increasing attendance among underrepresented visitor groups and monitor impact.
 4. Work with OSF to prescribe 100 prescriptions for play per month, with 10 families taking advantage of it per month.
 5. Plan, prototype, evaluate offerings that engage 8 to 10-year-olds at the PlayHouse.

- Priority #3 – Clarify and leverage the role of the PlayHouse within the Park District.
The goals of priority #3 are:
 1. Map PlayHouse customer journey and collaboratively address opportunities for improvement.
 2. Establish the PlayHouse within the Park District as an educational research resource by prototyping at least 2 new programs or approaches for kids up to age 10 and their families.
 3. PlayHouse staff are represented on all Park District Working Groups and 1 Park District Board Member is on the PlayHouse Advisory Board.
 4. Create a collaborative plan with Park District Executive Leadership for moving forward with the PlayHouse capital campaign.

In 2022 the PlayHouse goal is operationalizing the established Strategic Plan and make sure the Strategic Plan is considered and carried out going forward. Trustee Alex Sierra asked who was consulted and solicited in the feedback process when the Strategic Plan was being developed. Rebecca Shulman stated that a survey was conducted with all staff, the PlayHouse Advisory Board, and member engagement group, a parent ambassador group, and our OSF partners. Trustee Sierra asked if the PlayHouse reached out to the schools which Rebecca replied no, while the PlayHouse does reach out to schools frequently, as pertaining to the Strategic Plan, the PlayHouse did not reach out to schools because the focus was to speak directly to people who knew the challenges and opportunities of the PlayHouse. Trustee Sierra asked during 2020 and 2021, how many technical assistance and educational programs were offered? Rebecca did not know the exact number for 2021 but relayed many that were offered. She will follow up with Trustees with the exact number. For 2020, due to COVID, she was not sure any were offered as the PlayHouse was shut down most of the year. How many organizations were partnered with in 2021 to offer the technical assistance programs? Rebecca stated Peoria Public Schools and the Peoria Park District were the primary organizations and will follow up with the exact organizations. Trustee Sierra stated the reason he is asking is because he wanted to know how the goal of the PlayHouse offer technical assistance and education at least 10 times per year with at least 3

organizations was created. Rebecca replied that in the past, the PlayHouse did not necessarily set specific goals and is now doing so in order to track and record progress and will build off of them. Trustee Sierra asked what the PlayHouse has done to address diversity. Rebecca stated that reaching a diverse constituency and promoting diversity is very important to PlayHouse staff. The Explorer program which offers \$15 memberships to families that receive LINK or WICC and the Celebrate Peoria program which celebrates the cultural diversity of Peoria which is now called Cultural Connections. In addition, staff wants diversity to be woven into the PlayHouse every day and founded the diversity committee to address it.

Vice President Jackie Petty asked if children are encouraged to come together, realizing COVID is an issue. Rebecca stated that is one of the things the PlayHouse is currently working on and has a team called Friends of the Peoria PlayHouse that works on empathy pop ups and works with community leaders in this area. Much research has been done on play and what children learn in these types of museums and how to best to employ diversity.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy asked if the District completely owns the PlayHouse program or is it a collaborative program? Emily Cahill replied that this is a facility of the Peoria Park District and entirely funded through the Recreation Fund. Trustee Bertschy asked if the PlayHouse Mission, Vision and Values should exactly match the District's and was the District's current mission statement referred to when developing the PlayHouse statement? Rebecca stated the mission statement for the PlayHouse was created by herself, Emily Cahill and Brent Wheeler during a series of meetings in 2015, before the PlayHouse was opened and the District's was kept in mind. All the separate facilities have their separate mission statement where the District's current broad-reaching statement encompasses them all. Trustee Bertschy stated that it is important that all District facilities and programs reflect the Mission, Vision and Values of the Peoria Park District.

Trustee Sierra asked how is the customer journey tracked? Rebecca stated that as she only learned of the concept 3-4 years ago, it has not been tracked in the past and this is a new endeavor.

5.D. Chief of Police

Todd Green, Chief of Police, presented the December 2021 Police Activity Summary.

6) COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

7) NEW BUSINESS:

7.A. Disclaimer by a Beneficiary – Geiss Trust

Becky Fredrickson stated in light of the Park District declining to accept the real property donation along Abington Road across from Glen Oak Park, the attorney representing the Dale Geiss Trust, requested a disclaimer be executed by the Park Board. Staff did an assessment of the potential property, and in October recommended that the Park Board not accept the 3.7 acres due to its limited overall recreational value to the District

compared to the potential liability. Through consensus of the Park Board, it was agreed to decline the potential donation. Staff recommended approving the Disclaimer by a Beneficiary of the Dale M. Geiss Trust.

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Disclaimer by a Beneficiary – Geiss Trust. Trustee Bertschy inquired if Attorney William Streeter reviewed and was comfortable with the disclaimer. Mr. Streeter stated he had reviewed and is comfortable with it. Motion seconded by Trustee Timothy Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

7.B. Appointment of 2022 Officers and Advisors

Emily Cahill stated according to the Park District Policy, the Board appoints the Officers and Advisors of the Board of Trustees for their organization for each fiscal year. Staff recommends approval of the following appointments for 2022: Secretary – Alicia Woodworth, Treasurer/Assistant Secretary – Emily Cahill, Assistant Treasurer – Karrie Ross, Kadar Heffner 2nd, Nicole Lipe 3rd, Assistant Secretary – David Gray 2nd, Executive Director of Parks & Recreation – Emily Cahill, Attorney – William Streeter of Hasselberg, Grebe, Snodgrass, Urban and Wentworth.

Trustee Jackie Petty MOVED TO APPROVE the Appointment of the 2022 Officers and Advisors as recommended by staff. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

7.C. Appointment of 2022 Vice President

Emily Cahill stated in accordance with Policies, Rules and Regulations, the Board shall at once at its organizational meeting proceed to the appointment of a Vice President. As such, President Robert Johnson should nominate a Trustee to serve as the 2022 Park Board Vice President at its first Board meeting of year, which is this meeting. In accordance with policy, President Johnson nominated Trustee Jackie Petty to serve as the 2022 Park Board Vice President.

Trustee Timothy Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the appointment of Jackie Petty as the 2022 Park Board Vice President. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

8) CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS:

Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 8.A., 8.B., 8.D., 8.E., 8.F., and 8.G. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

- 8.A. Request for Use – Haunted Hustle – Bradley Park**
- 8.B. Request for Use – Springdale 5K Walk Run – Lower Glen Oak Park**
- 8.C. Request for Use – JV Summer Basketball League – RiverPlex**

Vice President Joyce Harant inquired if item 8.C. was an application from an individual or were they representing an organization? Brent Wheeler stated this is an individual proposing this event and insurance is available to this type of event and this person is prepared to take care of that. High school coaches and parents will be at the event as well.

Vice President Joyce Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Item 8.C. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

- 8.D. Request for Use – Winter Market – RiverPlex**
- 8.E. Request for Use – Hot Shots Youth Basketball – RiverPlex**
- 8.F. Ratification of Phone Poll of December 20, 2021: Quote- Garage Door Replacement – Owens Center**
- 8.G. Ratification of Phone Poll of December 20, 2021: Quote- Lobby Furniture and Conference Room Chairs – RiverPlex**

9) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None

10) **CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** None

11) **COMMUNICATIONS:**

11.A. Amazon Smile Donation

Third quarter 2021 AmazonSmile donations totaled \$107.78.

11.B. Peoria Players Donation Thank You

Peoria Players thanked the District for their donation of \$1,432.00 in exchange for their contribution to Lakeview Park After Dark.

12) **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Trustee Timothy Bertschy stated he had asked for an opinion in regards to his voting on payables presented by the Finance Committee, and asked if an opinion has been given and where do we stand. Attorney William Streeter stated he has yet to receive a response from the State's Attorney and he will follow up.

Trustee Bertschy stated that if/when the PAV in the Park group comes back to the Peoria Park District with a proposal, he wants to make sure that if that happens, we give the community sufficient advance notice so they can attend that Board meeting. Emily Cahill stated that the process would be that a formal request from the group would have to be made. Prior to every Board meeting agenda publication, President Johnson has to approve the items on the agenda and he would have to approve that request for

presentation. Once on the agenda, it is published on the District website on the Friday before the Wednesday meeting. In this particular case, the District would reach out to the special interest group that has raised concerns in the past and make sure they know it's on the agenda. Trustee Bertschy stated the District may want to give more advance notice than 5 days. Vice President Joyce Harant suggested that due to the great public interest in the PAV in the Park, she would like at least 2 weeks' notice to the public.

At 7:35 p.m. President Robert Johnson requested a motion to convene into closed session discussion pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act Exception 2(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District.

Trustee Jackie Petty MOVED to convene into closed session pursuant to Illinois Open Meetings Act Exception 2(c)(1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District or legal counsel for the District. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

At 7:46 p.m. Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO RECONVENE the meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Jackie Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

13) ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:47 p.m. Trustee Alex Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Kyle Bright and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Jackie Petty, Alex Sierra, Vice President Joyce Harant and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

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

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