

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 3:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022,
AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE
AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.**

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustee Joyce Harant, Trustee Laurie Covington (v),
Trustee Alex Sierra (v)
(v) = attended virtually via Zoom

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson,
Mike Friberg, Mary Harden (v), Jocelyn McDowell,
Alicia Woodworth
(v) = attended virtually via Zoom

OTHERS: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Harant called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

3. MINUTES

3.A. Approval of September 7, 2021 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

Executive Director Emily Cahill moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, held September 7, 2021. Motion seconded by Trustee Alex Sierra and carried on unanimous voice vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.A. Memorial Bench – GVD

Matt Freeman stated that staff received a request from Brandon Hagenbuch, son of Patricia (Pat) Hagenbuch, who passed away last August. Pat was an esteemed member of the community, and served on more than 18 boards throughout her life. To honor her passion of serving others, the family is requesting a memorial bench be placed in the island near the 4700-block of Grandview Drive. The family wishes to request this specific location because there currently is not a bench in that location, due to the abrupt drop-off along the bluff. Putting a bench on the island near the tulip garden will provide a place of rest and reflection for the runners and walkers who use the Drive daily for their health and wellness.

Staff recommends approval of this request and will ensure the bench matches those recently installed by the Park District in other locations. All expenses will be incurred by the Hagenbuch family.

Jocelyn McDowell has worked closely with Patricia Hagenbuch's son Brandon on this request. When they first spoke, Jocelyn explained there weren't any more spaces for a bench on Grandview. Brandon said that they had a specific location in mind that is on an island in the 4700 block because there aren't benches in that stretch of Grandview. As such, Jocelyn reached out to the Parks and Planning Departments inquiring if this location was possible. After review, staff agreed that this location was a viable spot for a bench. Jocelyn shared with the Planning Committee that the family isn't requesting the bench just to honor Patricia, but rather to carry on her legacy of supporting the community of Peoria, a town she loved and served through her volunteer work.

Trustee Alex Sierra moved to approve the Hagenbuch memorial bench on Grand View Drive. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

4.B. Logan Gardens – Convert to Natural Planting Area or Green Space

Becky Fredrickson stated that in 2009 a group called Gifts in the Moment requested the use of the space southeast of the Logan Recreation Center in Logan Park to create gardens and work with Garfield School children to encourage outdoor habitat learning. Their program lasted until 2019 when Intangible Mindz Agriculture Development entered into an agreement with the Park District to continue the use of the gardens as part of an urban agricultural program. Unfortunately, the gardens have not been maintained for a couple of years now and the head of Intangible Mindz Agriculture Development has not responded to Park District inquiries. The Park District asked another group if they would like to take on the gardens, but they declined. The Park District would like to remove the fences and garden boxes and either return the area to green space for kids or convert the space to natural landscaping/pollinator type areas.

Staff recommends converting the existing gardens into either open green space or natural planting areas.

Becky Fredrickson stated that Logan Park was renovated in 1999 or 2000 and the elements currently in the park are what are needed other than possibly adding swings and future upgrades to the playground. Work is currently being performed to upgrade the splashpad. In addition, in the building, the lights have been replaced and painting has taken place. The floor is on the list to be completed in 2022.

Trustee Sierra stated there seems to be increased interest in soccer lately and inquired if the park is complementary to soccer recreation. Emily Cahill stated that there currently is a group that plays soccer at Logan Park without a formal agreement in order to support its use.

Trustee Alex Sierra moved to approve converting the existing gardens into either open green space or natural planting areas with the condition the District attempt to donate the boxes to a local organization that may be interested in receiving them. For example, in a past meeting, Mr. Dave Pittman had stated a group was interested in starting a garden at the Franciscan Recreation Center. The individuals associated with the Moffat Cemetery may also be interested. Motion seconded by Trustee Laurie Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

4.C. Trewyn Park Improvements

Becky Fredrickson stated that the Peoria City Council approved the allocation of Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 funds for the rehabilitation of Trewyn Park in the amount of \$600,000. It is required that the money be spent by the end of 2022 which presents a short timeframe to get everything surveyed, design work, etc. Full fencing will not be added to basketball courts however, partial fencing will in order to keep balls out of traffic. The existing playground will be replaced and possibly slightly repositioned.

Trustee Sierra had expressed in the past his desire to have preserved natural green space in the Southern District. He stated that the most evident potential space would be in area #11 on the plan at Trewyn Park. Becky Fredrickson stated that area is being evaluated for pollinator and natural planting areas. This cannot be designated as a nature preserve because that requires preserving existing nature, which this area is not. However, area #11 could possibly be a pollinator or prairie planting area similar to what is offered at Tawny Oaks and Becker Park.

4.D. Peoria Park District Redistricting Overview

Mike Friberg gave a brief overview of the Park District's redistricting efforts, with a more detailed presentation to be given on February 9. Please see **Exhibit A**.

Trustee Harant inquired if there is a way to separate out the Hispanic population from the minority count. Mike Friberg stated that the problem in doing so is that the census tracks race by up to 6 separate races combined resulting in 80 columns of minority classification. He can pull those that label themselves as only black but it is becoming less and less accurate as people are identifying themselves as more than one race. Trustee Harant would like to know what the changes in Hispanic population are that would maybe influence services and programming offered. Mr. Friberg said he would provide Trustee Harant a map that can help provide the information she is requesting.

Trustee Sierra expressed his concern about the fact that in the proposed redistricting, the Southern District isn't shown to have a population increase, considering the fact that the proposed maps and redistricting would stay in place for the next 10 years. Mr. Friberg explained that redistricting can only take place every 10 years because it relies on 100% count which census only conducts every 10 years. Historically, the population has dropped significantly in this area every 10 years, unless a significant redistricting would occur.

Trustee Sierra would like to see a comparison of the previous redistricting figures compared to the new proposed redistricting figures. Mr. Friberg stated he would solidify those figures for the next Board meeting presentation.

Mike Friberg will create maps showing the different minority groups, where they are located and where the population is moving. If anyone would like any other factors please let him know. Trustee Sierra stated he would like to see at least 3 iterations of what the Southern District could look like and possibly have one of those to include the East Bluff in some way.

4.E. Mt. Hawley Parcel

Becky Fredrickson stated that just as a heads up at this time, the Greater Peoria Airport Authority has contacted the Peoria Park District stating they are interested in a land acquisition or conversion on part of the District's Mt. Hawley parcel. They are planning some improvements to their airport and inquired if the District would be interested in possibly working with them on some land swaps or options. More information will follow at a later date.

5. PENDING BUSINESS

None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Harant asked what is the status of the funding for the Glen Oak and Proctor projects. Emily Cahill stated currently it is unknown, but it is her understanding that this allocation from the state is being funded from casino sales tax and is not yet fully funded. The District is waiting for the casino sales tax to be fully funded. Emily has also heard that because the credit rating of the state has improved, the state may bond for those dollars and then pay themselves back with the casino sales tax. The District is trying to get clarification.

Trustee Harant stated she had read about property tax abatement where the state would pay the governmental units. However, sometimes park districts aren't included and wanted to be sure PPD is. Emily will confer with the IAPD attorney and seek clarification on what the property tax freeze implications might be and to ensure that park districts are included in the local government language.

Emily Cahill stated that the District is awaiting the next version of the Springdale IGA and is working on the details of the proposed agreement. Thanks to Trustee Harant and Attorney Streeter who met with staff last Friday to draft the current version. The District submitted the request for that initial layout previously agreed upon by Board consensus. The hope is when the District receives this next version, it can be sent out to everyone for review. It may be possible to be on next week's agenda. As agreement review meetings are held, Trustee Harant realized there was a county representative and a city representative at the Springdale Authority attending the meetings. Emily Cahill attended a meeting held today and requested the Authority to OMA notice their meetings since 3 Authority members would be in attendance. This was refused by the Springdale Authority President Pam Johnson. Trustee Harant feels strongly that the District needs to have a public process for input on this agreement as it appears transparency is lacking. Emily pointed out that a PPD Trustee who is not a member of the Authority can attend meetings without it being an OMA issue and as an option, possibly the District could send a Trustee to be the District advocate at these meetings.

7. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 1, 2022 3:00 pm

8. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Joyce Harant adjourned the meeting at 4:27 pm.

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

EXHIBIT A



REDISTRICTING

- Background
 - Federal – US Constitution Apportionment Clause Article I Section 2
 - Federal – Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - State – Illinois State Constitution Article IV, Section 3
 - Park District Code – No further guidance
 - National Conference on State Legislatures – summary of state practices

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REDISTRICTING

- Background
 - Requirement: Representative Districts should be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population
 - Suggested: preservation of political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest, and preservation of cores of prior districts.

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REDISTRICTING

- Background

- 1987 Lawsuit

- *“The parties agree that after the 1991 elections and using census data for the census conducted in 1990, these electoral districts within the Park District shall be reapportioned. However, the placement of the electoral districts within the Park District shall not be varied – that is, the single-member district shall be the southern most district and the two-member district shall be the northern most district.”*
 - Intent: concentrate minority vote in southern district and provide more trustees in areas of minority growth or movement (central district).

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REDISTRICTING

- Assumptions

- Voting age population is used.
 - Minority = all non-white persons of voting age, and all individuals claiming Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.
 - The southern voting district shall have one trustee, and be configured as much as possible as a minority majority district.
 - District proportionality should be maintained within 5% of the ideal distribution.
 - Split blocks will use the proportion of geographic area for the assignment of population.

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REDISTRICTING

- Proportionality
 - One person = one vote

total population of Peoria Park District	121,492
total voting age population of PPD	93,142
2 northern, 3 central, 1 southern trustees	6
number of voters per trustee goal	15,524
southern district population goal	15,524
central district population goal	46,571
northern district population goal	31,047

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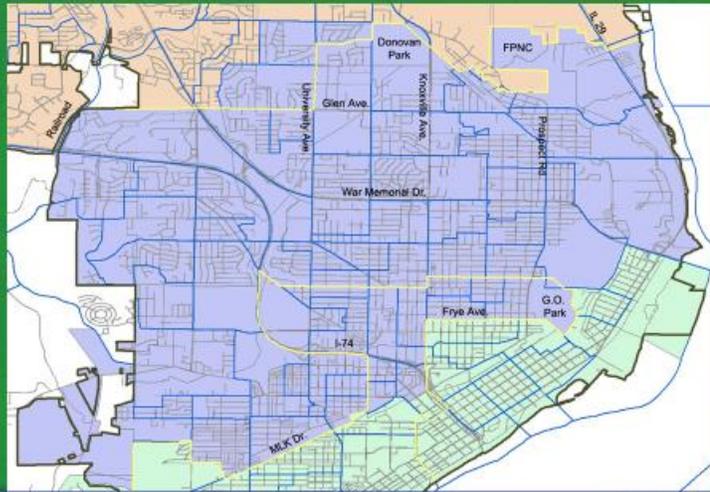
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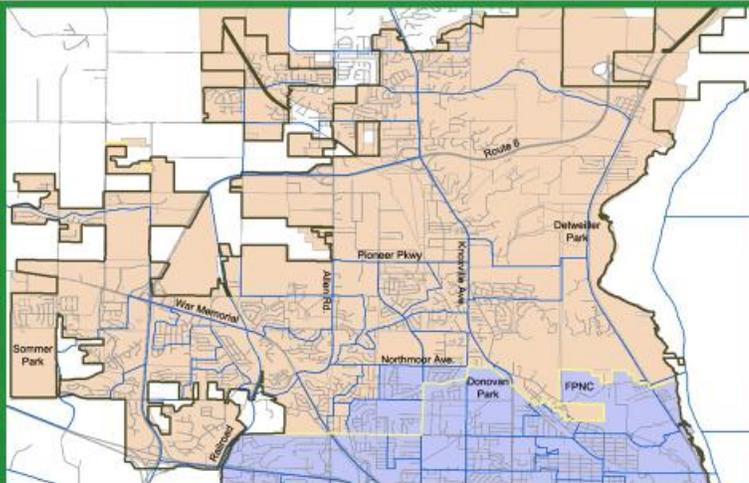
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REDISTRICTING

Southern District

Total pop.	goal pop.	"S3"	difference
93,142	15,524	15,485	(39) -0.04%

Central District

Total pop.	goal pop.	"C3"	difference
93,142	46,571	46,911	340 0.37%

Northern District

Total pop.	goal pop.	"N3"	difference
93,142	31,047	30,746	(301) -0.32%

RAW POP	32,128
SUBTRACT SPLIT BLOCKS!	1,382
	30,746

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REDISTRICTING

Voting District	total pop	white only P4_005N -Not Hispanic or	minority count	minority percentage
Southern District "S3"	15,485	5,168	10,317	66.6%
Central District "C3"	46,911	29,674	17,237	36.7%
Northern District "N3"	30,746	23,016	7,730	25.1%

Note: Northern District minority numbers reflect "full census block" numbers and not the split blocks. Thus, these are overcounts, but are included for order of magnitude comparison.

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REDISTRICTING

- Still to do:
 - Compare and adjust when possible to share other municipality precinct boundaries
 - City of Peoria still in progress
 - Board presentation of adjusted map and vote
 - Submit to Peoria County Election Commission

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