

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. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant (v), Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jacqueline Petty, and President Robert Johnson.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Kyle Bright

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Rebecca Fredrickson, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Chief Todd Green, Mary Harden, Willie Howe, Scott Loftus, Jonelle McCloud (v), Mike Miller (v), Brittany Moldenhauer, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Melissa Sierra, Doug Silberer, Nicole Staley (v), Greg Walker, and Alicia Woodworth.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of August 24, 2022. Motion seconded by Trustee Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Executive Director

Emily Cahill introduced Melissa Sierra, the new Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum Director. Melissa joined the District last month and is happy to have her join the team. Melissa explained she is thrilled to be back in her hometown of Peoria and working at the Peoria Park District.

Trustee Bertschy thanked Emily for emailing Trustees with information concerning the high-tech driving range championed by Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth. He stated that in the past, Trustees had requested Emily to alert them of issues ahead of time that may concern the public so that Trustees could address them. In her email, Emily had described issues that may come up about the new driving range and how best to address them with the public and it put Trustees in a great position to be able to answer questions the public may have.

On Thursday, September 8th 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm the Park District will present “Power of Parks” at Lakeview Park. The District has worked to repurpose a Parks on Tap event to Lakeview Park and will take the opportunity to talk about the positive powerful impact that parks have on the community.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

Trustee Bertschy 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 shown in the agenda and MOVED TO APPROVE the current listing of accounts payable.

Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Trustee Bertschy stated that at the last Board meeting, Trustees approved the purchase of a pre-owned 16-foot box truck. At that time, staff had not identified the vendor or unit to be purchased due to the current market conditions. Staff was able to purchase a 2015 Chevrolet Express G3500 box truck from Terry’s Ford Lincoln Mercury of Peotone, Inc. of Peotone, IL at a total purchase price of \$45,910.24. The unit has 52,045 miles, automatic transmission, new tires and an aluminum power lift gate. A copy of the purchase agreement, Company Ownership Certification and EEO form was provided for review.

6.B. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee – June 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Vice President and Chair of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Jackie Petty presented the approved June 21, 2022 meeting minutes of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.A. Proposed Financial Policy Revision - Section II 12.00 Admission Fees and Charges

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Finance Committee has undertaken a review of financial policies across the District with the goal of updating them and bringing consistency and clarity to them. The first policy reviewed by the committee was the District’s Fees and Charges Policy.

In review of Sections 12.02 and 12.03 of the current policy, the Finance Committee requested that staff compile information regarding resident and non-resident/non-taxpayer differential pricing and found that currently, a single fee is charged for all admission-based facilities (for both tickets and memberships), drop-in programs, rentals, events and leagues. The only category where a differential is applied is in pre-registered programming and this is not consistent.

Considerations that impact the District’s ability to implement a non-resident pricing differential are multi-faceted: First, because of the administrative challenges and complexity of verifying District residency, no admission-based or walk-in programs charge a differential and staff does not recommend trying to make that switch due to the time, additional resources, and negative customer service experience it would create.

Second, the District draws from a significantly larger radius than just the District boundaries and the revenue generated from non-residents allows the District to generate revenue at levels that reduces the overall subsidy required for many programs across the District. By removing the differential, the incentive to participate in PPD programming for non-residents increases.

Third, staff and the committee also recognized that residents pay property taxes and their contribution to the District's overall sustainability is essential. The Finance Committee recommends that staff identify ways to provide benefits to residents outside of the fee differential, to include, but not limited to, early registration periods for programs (ex. camps, swim lessons, etc.). The committee also discussed the access to neighborhood parks and no/low cost local programming and assets that residents enjoy that should not be taken for granted in this discussion.

The current scholarship program will remain the same and only apply to residents of the Peoria Park District.

Ultimately, the Finance Committee determined it most appropriate to fully revise the policy language, and create consistency in visitor/user experience by removing the non-resident/non-taxpayer fee differential from Park District policy, while upholding the District's commitment to offer fair access to programs and facilities for all patrons. The Finance Committee recommends Board approval of the revised Section 12 Admission Fees and Charges as follows:

Section 12. ADMISSION FEES AND CHARGES

.01. The Board shall determine when to charge fees for programs or services. In doing so, the Board shall consider such factors as it deems appropriate, including but not limited to the following:

1. Whether the location requires specific maintenance or expertise to support the activity;
2. Whether staff or supply resources are necessary to facilitate the activity;
3. Whether an activity temporarily renders the location inaccessible to the general public;
4. Whether costs are incurred by the District as a direct result of the activity; and
5. Whether extraordinary costs are incurred by the District to support the activity

.02. Fees shall be set at a rate approved by the Board during its annual budgeting process or at such other times as the Board deems appropriate. In setting the rate, the Board may consider any factor it deems relevant, including the following:

1. Cost of the service/activity;
2. Competitive factors in the local market; and
3. The District's mission-driven commitment as expressed in the District's Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness statement, as well as its Welcoming Resolution and overall organizational mission, to access to programming and places for all District residents

.03. The Board may authorize specific registration or other benefits to District residents. However, as a general policy, no differential fee rate shall be charged for participation based on residency/non-residency.

This recommendation is presented tonight to the Board for review and will be voted upon at the next Board meeting on September 14.

Trustee Harant wanted to verify that with this policy change, senior discounts are possible if the Board ever chooses to do so. Trustee Bertschy stated yes, section .02 of the proposed new language makes that possible.

7.B. Approval of Proposed Revision to Conduct Ordinance – Part III Section 1 21.00 Statuary, Artwork, Memorials

Emily Cahill stated this proposed revision was presented for review at the last meeting and originally came through the Planning Committee.

Vice President petty MOVED TO APPROVE the Proposed Revision to Conduct Ordinance – Part III Section 1 21.00 Statuary, Artwork, Memorials. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

7.C. Appointment of Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Members

Vice President Petty MOVED TO APPROVE the Appointment of Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee Members Sherry Carter-Allen, Ron Givens, Pastor Marvin Hightower, Larry Ivory, and Gabe Jaja. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

8. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

8.A. Ratification of Phone Poll of August 19, 2022: Request for Use - Joyful Noise - John H. Gwynn Jr. Park

8.B. Request for Use – Sound Off Yoga – Donovan Park

8.C. Request for Use – Woofstock – Sommer Farm

8.D. Request for Use – Easter Seals – Peoria Stadium

8.E. Request for Use – HEAL – Forest Park Nature Center

8.F. Request for Use Carvana Viva Mexica – Morton Square Park

8.G. Request for Use Paws – Rock Island Greenway

8.H. Bid – Bradley Park Curb and Gutter Improvements

8.I. Change Order #1 – Noble Center Front Door Replacement

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

Concerning item 8.H., Vice President Petty clarified the contractor noted that the subcontractor form was enclosed even though the contractor doesn't have any subcontractors. Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Item 8.H. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

9. PENDING BUSINESS

None

10. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.A. Municipal Band

The District received a lovely letter from a patron that attended a Peoria Municipal Band concert at Glen Oak Park, appreciating how much they enjoy having the band in the community.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

None

13. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 p.m. Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/fm-O2x2SYg/>

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