

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Vice President Jacqueline Petty, and President Robert Johnson.

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustees Kyle Bright and Alexander Sierra

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Rebecca Fredrickson, Amy Berger, Nick Conrad, Kyle Deeter, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, David Gray, Chief Todd Green, Mary Harden, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Kadar Heffner, Katie Hogan Van Cleve, Willie Howe, Melinda Huett, Jacob Kuban, Courtney Langhorn, Scott Loftus, Jess Main, Angela Martiens, Jonelle McCloud, Mike Miller, Jacob Mol, Jake Rockhold, Karrie Ross, Kristi Shoemaker, Doug Silberer, Melissa Sierra, Nicole Staley (v), Jenny Swanson, Yvonne Strode, Greg Walker, Sue Wheeler, and Alicia Woodworth.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: Peoria resident Pamela Marshall

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. MINUTES

None at this time.

5. STAFF REPORTS

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.A. Peoria Grown Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement

7.B. 2022 Tax Levy Estimate for 2023 Budget

Karrie Ross stated that in compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act, the Board of Trustees is required to determine (estimate) the amount of its proposed aggregate levy not less than 20 days before the adoption of the levy ordinance. This is required in order to decide if the proposed aggregate levy is more than a 5% increase over the amount of the previous year's extension. If the increase is more than 5%, a notice is required to be

published and a public hearing must be conducted prior to the adoption of the proposed levy.

Staff recommends Park Board approval of the 2022 aggregate tax levy estimate that follows this memorandum. This is an estimated aggregate levy decrease of .01836; therefore, the notice and public hearing requirements do not apply. The tax levy will be presented to the Board for approval after the Board's approval of the 2023 Operating Budget.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2022 Tax Levy Estimate for the 2023 Budget. Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays).

7.C. 2023 Budget Presentation

Executive Director Emily Cahill provided an overview of the Peoria Park District and provided context to the evaluation of the budget and information that would be provided by staff. She reminded everyone that the Peoria Park District is a stand-alone municipality with authority given by the Illinois Park Code, rather than a for-profit business or a not-for-profit social service agency. The value of the District as a driver for sales tax generation as well as hotel and retail taxes that are earned with visitors come to our community is noteworthy.

Cahill cited that, in 2022, staff and trustees have focused on the creation of a committee system that helps to provide ongoing collaboration around strategy that will guide our District moving forward. These committees focus on the physical parts of our District in the Planning Committee, our financial position and internal policies within the Finance Committee, how we interact and support our community with the support of our Programming Committee, the ways in which we ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility influence every part of our work from programming to spaces and places to contractor connections to workforce development and what our own workforce looks like with our DEIA Committee.

Staff compliments the work of the Board's committees with working groups and teams of our own that work in parallel with the board.

Cahill next highlighted the power that parks and recreation can have in a community, as presented at September's Power of Parks event.

First, our park district harnesses the POWER OF POSSIBILITY. Every day our District provides the opportunity to engage in experiences that change perspectives and inspire us to consider new ideas.

Next, we rely on the POWER OF PARTNERSHIP to make our reach go even farther. Our history has shown that when we combine efforts, we are able to have exponential

impact. We are thankful to our many partners who enhance the great work we do within the District and for their commitment to community that shines through.

Next, the District energizes the local POWER OF PLAY. Play is everywhere in the Peoria Park District... it is a part of every single thing that we do. We can't imagine a better job than to help people maximize their recreation time.

Last, but certainly not least, the Peoria Park District is all the things we've highlighted here because of the POWER OF DEDICATION. The Peoria Park District is blessed with dedicated staff, trustees, and volunteers who use their professionalism and expertise to make our community better... who are committed to keeping us all safe across our district.

Finally, it was recognized that each power is fueled by people.

Karrie Ross, Superintendent of Finance and Admin Services, provided the financial overview and outlook stating the District is able to be a powerful resource for our community because of our thoughtful and responsible stewardship of public resources entrusted to us by statute. Staff makes recommendations for Board approval to authorize the District's annual levy and appropriation of dollars annually by fund, which are categorized as operating or non-operating funds.

TOTAL REVENUES BY SOURCE					
	2019 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Revised	2023 Budget
Fees, Charges & Other	\$ 14,850,177	\$ 10,241,109	\$ 10,633,733	\$ 10,903,438	\$ 12,072,410
Operating Fund Taxes	\$ 11,542,237	12,474,717	9,817,978	\$ 13,667,769	11,540,966
Donations & Grants	973,915	3,563,311	2,390,737	\$ 3,184,603	5,848,563
Revenue Subtotal	\$ 27,366,329	\$ 26,279,137	\$ 22,842,448	\$ 27,755,810	\$ 29,461,939
Non Operating Fund Taxes	8,926,430	8,248,029	8,066,405	\$ 7,670,232	7,594,919
Internal Reimbursements	8,918,007	8,119,295	6,869,052	\$ 6,728,347	7,021,078
Total Revenues	\$ 45,210,766	\$ 42,646,461	\$ 37,777,905	\$ 42,154,389	\$ 44,077,936

The District operating funds' non-internal service revenue is comprised of fees and charges revenue, tax revenue, and donation or grant revenue. In 2019, pre-COVID, the

District’s operating funds’ non-internal service revenue was comprised of 54% fees and charges, 42% operating fund taxes, and 4% donations or grants, much of which was capital improvement related. In 2023, the District is anticipating a return to near “normal” levels of revenue generation, with operating fund non-internal service revenue comprised of 41% fees and charges, 39% operating fund taxes, and 20% donations or grants. In 2023, the most significant budgeted grant revenue is associated with the following efforts: the \$4 million DCEO capital grant for improvements at the Golf Learning Center, the second six months of the \$900,000 ICJIA grant to fund enhanced programming geared towards youth violence prevention, and the \$500,000 DCEO tourism grant for the addition of a regional attraction event.

Note that the internal reimbursement revenue is generated through the District’s cost allocation system, which allocates Districtwide support costs to each facility or program. This allows the District to match the internal service revenues and expenses needed to accurately track the costs associated with service provision across our system. Since this function operates similarly to an internal service fund, the revenues (internal reimbursements) and expenses (internal services) are equal.

The District’s tax revenues come from both local property tax and State of Illinois replacement tax. Replacement tax revenues have a history of volatility, and often create the most significant swings in budgeted versus actual tax revenues. In 2021 and 2022, the increased operating fund tax revenue is due to unexpected increases in replacement taxes.

PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION BY LEVY 2023 Proposed Budget				
Levy	Taxing at Maximum Rate	Fund Allocation	Percent of Levy Allocated	Budgeted Property Tax Allocation
General - Corporate	Yes	General Fund	100%	\$2,139,910
General - Operations/Building	Yes	General Fund	100%	\$1,337,444
Recreation - Municipal	Yes	Recreation Fund	63%	\$1,204,515
		Golf Fund	30%	\$585,182
		RiverFront Fund	7%	\$136,222
		Total Recreation - Municipal Levy Allocation	100%	\$1,025,910
Recreation Centers & Programs	Yes	Recreation Fund	51%	\$815,677
		RiverPlex Fund	49%	\$789,055
		Total Recreation Centers & Programs Levy Allocation	100%	\$1,604,932
Museum	Yes	Museum Fund	100%	\$1,497,937
Police	No	Police Fund	100%	\$530,731
Paving & Lighting	No	Paving & Lighting Fund	100%	\$91,200
Audit	No	Audit Fund	100%	\$44,000
IMRF	no max rate	IMRF Fund	100%	\$423,000
Liability	no max rate	Liability Fund	100%	\$468,188
Social Security	no max rate	FICA Fund	100%	\$963,900
Special Recreation Association	No	Heart of IL SHRA Fund	100%	\$427,000
Workers' Compensation	no max rate	Workers' Comp Fund	100%	\$279,880
Bond & Interest	no max rate	Bond & Interest Fund	100%	\$5,294,750
Estimated Property Tax Received at 99.2% Collection Rate (Assumes no change in the equalized assessed valuation.)				\$17,058,792

Please note that, unfortunately, the District continues to tax at the maximum levy rate in five of its primary operating funds, and is therefore only able to receive higher tax revenues in those levies if the EAV increases. In 2023, the District is budgeting for a 4.50% increase in the EAV. As you can see on this slide, the chart presented shows each of the District's fourteen levies, whether the District is taxing at the maximum rate, which fund(s) are receiving the property taxes collected from each levy, the percentage, and corresponding dollar amount of the tax levy allocated to the fund in the 2023 proposed budget.

TOTAL EXPENSES BY SOURCE

	2019 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2022 Revised	2023 Budget
Wages	\$ 12,111,339	\$ 11,061,187	\$ 12,944,817	\$ 13,237,439	\$ 13,668,003
Employee Benefits	5,266,898	4,584,608	5,047,883	\$ 4,992,753	5,001,241
Utilities	1,553,911	1,388,970	1,496,916	\$ 1,454,394	1,918,530
Contractual Services	3,406,963	2,321,727	2,721,536	\$ 2,685,943	2,785,945
Supplies & Equipment	3,603,440	2,356,096	3,093,121	\$ 3,558,199	4,103,657
Other	625,812	312,030	408,555	\$ 281,233	484,670
Expense Subtotal	\$ 26,768,363	\$ 22,024,608	\$ 25,712,828	\$ 26,209,961	\$ 27,962,045
Capital Projects	180,042	1,443,424	121,062	\$ 839,066	3,800,063
Debt Service	5,801,853	5,061,188	5,071,750	\$ 5,065,967	5,294,750
Internal Services	8,918,007	8,119,295	6,868,052	\$ 6,728,347	7,021,078
Total Expenses	\$ 41,668,065	\$ 36,648,515	\$ 37,774,712	\$ 38,843,341	\$ 44,077,936

While the District will benefit in 2023 from significant grant revenue and a projected increase in EAV, these are both variable in nature and while they help the District manage the impacts of sustained high inflation and a tight labor market in the short-term, they should not be relied upon as a stable foundation for District operations. As you can see on this chart, in 2022, the revised budget for supplies and equipment and wages are anticipated to be higher than originally budgeted and it is likely that higher inflation and increased labor market costs will significantly impact the District in 2023.

Supplies and equipment are budgeted to increase another 15% from the 2022 revised budget, and contractual services is budgeted to increase 4%. Utilities are budgeted to increase 32%, due to multi-year utility contracts expiring, and the unfavorable utility market. One bright spot are the District's employee benefit costs are budgeted flat, due to a decrease in the District's expected IMRF pension costs, and health plan costs holding flat.

Trustee Harant inquired if the District is currently under any long-term electric service contracts as she is very interested in pursuing solar/green energy alternatives if possible. Karrie Ross stated there are various contracts terminating at various times however, moving forward, the contracts currently in place will not financially limit the District in pursuing solar or cleaner energy options.



Further, with the continuing rise in minimum wage requirements and a very tight labor market, some increase in wages from 2022 revised budget to 2023's proposed budget should be expected. It must also be recognized that this is not new; the District has experienced significant increases in labor costs from 2019 to current. In that timeframe, the District's wage expenses have increased 13% (\$1.56 million). However, as this slide shows, that increased expense has not come because of an increase in staffing, as reflected in the below charts. In 2019, the District employed 323 full-time equivalents and the hourly rate average was \$18.03, whereas in 2023, the District is projecting to employ 289 full-time equivalents (an 11% decrease) with an hourly rate average of \$22.77.

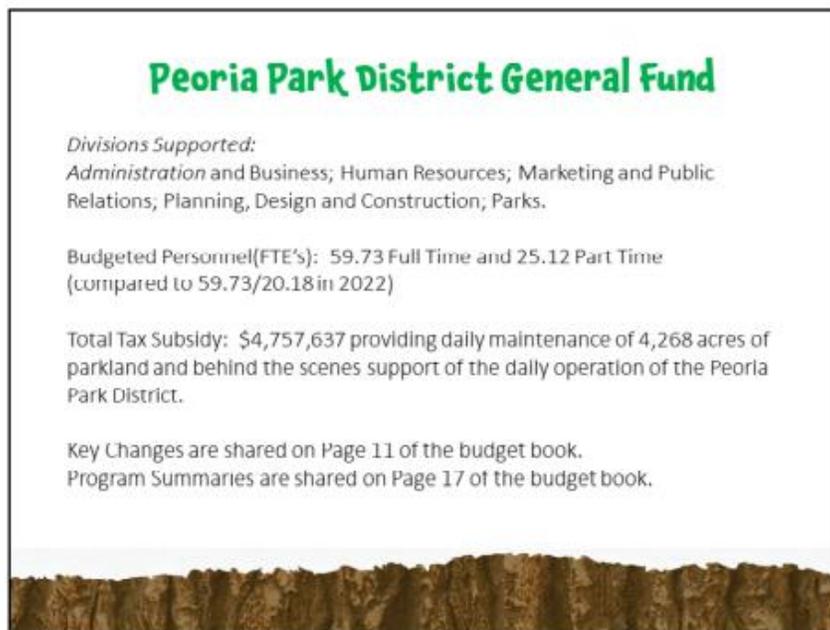
The labor supply vs. demand from 2019 to current has changed drastically, and, because wages comprise approximately 50% of the District's operating expenses, it is one of the most important issues facing the District.

Unlike in previous years that have required difficult cuts in service levels, the District is able to propose a balanced budget that maintains current service levels.

Next, staff presented detailed information by fund. This information was provided to trustees as part of their budget book and is also posted on our website for the public to review and consider at peoriaparks.org.

General Fund

The General Fund is charged with (both literally and figuratively) the maintenance and management of these spaces, along with the cost of running and overseeing the operations and administration of our District.



As you can see here, the divisions supported by the General Fund are listed on this slide and they truly are the backbone of our District. With a total commitment of \$4,757,637 in tax subsidy to support these teams that are powered by almost 85 full-time equivalents, this fund provides daily maintenance of 4,268 acres of parkland and provides administrative and maintenance support of the operations of the District. This fund has a lot of superheroes who work behind the scenes.

Trustee Bertschy stated that with a total general fund tax subsidy of \$4,757,637 that the Board decides, what does that really tell us? Karrie Ross stated that the number itself does not give much context. As provided in the budget book, she uses each levy's tax allocation and the fund the levies feed, as a tool to look for context for each fund. Then she looks at each fund and their tax subsidy requirement from prior year actual to the current revised to next year, which helps get an idea of what the tax subsidy is needed over time, almost like a trend line. Trustee Bertschy stated that helps but he also thinks that having the percentage of overall subsidy to the expense of the fund might give an idea of how much the District is subsidizing for each particular activity. Karrie Ross

pointed out that in the budget book, some of this information is given i.e., what the per acre per park tax subsidy is in the funds.

Karrie Ross thanked members of her finance accounting team, Kadar Heffner, Amy Berger, for their massive amount of work in preparing the budget.

Matt Freeman, Superintendent of Parks highlighted the work of the Maintenance and Repair team.

Jenny Swanson, Senior Marketing Manager, shared the changes made to the District's marketing structure in 2022 and highlighted how dedicated staff will work with Central States Media to ensure consistent branding and data collection related to marketing efforts of the District.

Vice President Petty asked that last year, Central States Media was part of the budget presentation so why not this year? Emily Cahill stated that the new internal marketing staff is responsible for the District's marketing needs and as such, is responsible for the marketing direction and allocation of funds. The Board will continue to see quarterly reports from CSM so they can see the impact of those dollars spent. However, the internal marketing staff will now be the primary contact about how marketing is used and relied upon across the District.

Becky Fredrickson, Superintendent of Planning Design and Construction, stated that in 2023, the General Fund and its locations will see the much-anticipated replacement of the 30-year-old Tri-Centennial Playground in Glen Oak Park with a new all-inclusive playground for kids of all ages and abilities to enjoy. The vast majority of our bond issue this year, as in most years, is focused by necessity on replacement and repair of existing amenities and resources. Bond Issue dollars, will help us to repave another section of the bike trail, seal coat roads, re-coat roofs, replace worn-out air conditioners, and add pond aerators to help with the health of our aquatic habitat.

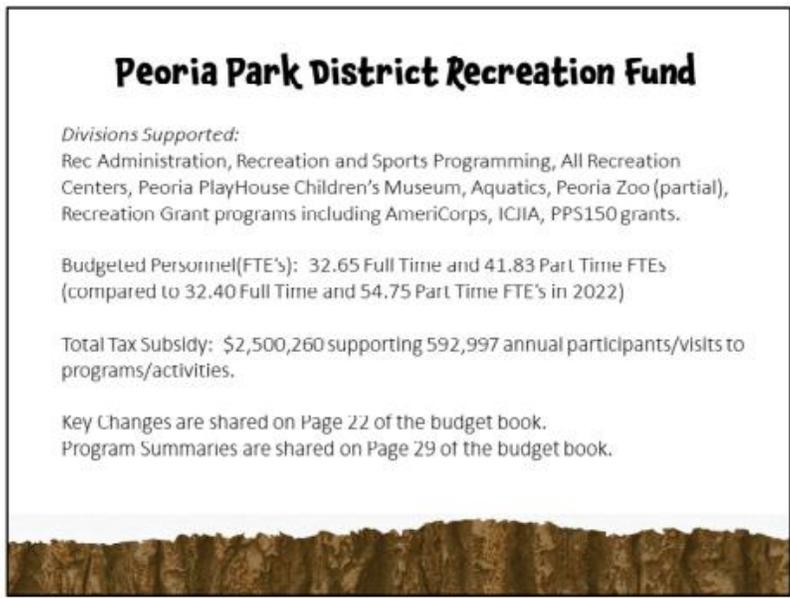
Trustee Bertschy asked if the expenditures from the bond issuance are primarily used towards maintenance and/or creation of capital facilities and not programming? Becky Fredrickson stated that is correct, and they are also used for purchasing equipment.

Recreation Fund

Scott Loftus, Superintendent of Recreation Services, stated that because of the increased interconnectedness of the funding and staff that supports their focused impact, presentation of the Recreation and RiverFront funds will be combined so that we can spend some time with you talking about how we have worked to support vibrant quality experiences across our District through programming. First, the Recreation Fund is filled with a wide variety of programming and places and its impact reaches well beyond the physical boundaries of our District with programs that range from art and

dance to pickleball and soccer. Our programs reach people at almost any age and they help to encourage healthy, active lifestyles AND imagination and creativity.

This Fund has a long history of ongoing impact. Youth baseball and soccer, summer camps and tennis lessons, facilities like Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum and Peoria Zoo, and recreation centers including Owens, Proctor and Lakeview have a positive impact every day on the health and vibrancy of our service area. The energy of our staff to spend every day and often evenings and weekends serving our patrons is inspirational.



Peoria Park District Recreation Fund

Divisions Supported:
Rec Administration, Recreation and Sports Programming, All Recreation Centers, Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum, Aquatics, Peoria Zoo (partial), Recreation Grant programs including AmeriCorps, ICJIA, PPS150 grants.

Budgeted Personnel(FTE’s): 32.65 Full Time and 41.83 Part Time FTEs (compared to 32.40 Full Time and 54.75 Part Time FTE’s in 2022)

Total Tax Subsidy: \$2,500,260 supporting 592,997 annual participants/visits to programs/activities.

Key Changes are shared on Page 22 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 29 of the budget book.

With nearly 75 full time equivalents funded here, the District will commit more than \$2.5 million in funding to support nearly 600,000 participant visits to our locations and programs in 2022. District resources in this fund are supplemented by a State of Illinois ICJIA grant, which supplements and enhances programming that targets at risk members of our community. Key focus areas of this grant include healthy alternatives to violence and workforce development initiatives. ICJIA funds are awarded on a July to June cycle and so our 2023 budget reflects six months of funding that is already underway. With only six months of guaranteed funding allocated in the budget, reductions in FTE’s reflect responsible budgeting that may be revised if the grant is renewed for 2023-24.

RiverFront Fund

2022 was the first year that this group was asked to manage both their traditional schedule of festivals and concerts on the RiverFront AND the new programming in local parks that we initiated during COVID. This small but mighty team met and exceeded our expectations. Partially funded by both the Recreation and RiverFront Funds, the

DISTRICT Events Team is comfortable back stage at a concert, serving drinks from the Parks on Tap mobile taphouse, or facilitating a meeting of community volunteers.

Peoria Park District RiverFront Fund

Activities Supported:
Fine Arts Fair, Fireworks (Red, White and Boom), Gateway Building, Irish Fest, Oktoberfest, RiverFront Administration, SoulFest, and The Landing

Budgeted Personnel(FTE's): 2.60 Full Time and 1.37 Part Time

Total Tax Subsidy: \$136,222 supporting 274,500 annual participants/visits to programs/activities.

Key Changes are shared on Page 35 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 38 of the budget book.



This division covers a lot of hi-visibility programming. With just under 4 full time equivalent staff budgeted and a 2023 tax subsidy of about \$136,000, this fund is able to support community events and programming that will reach nearly 275,000 people in 2023.

Jess Main, Out of School Programs and Camp Coordinator, shared updates related to Out of School Camps, including the impact of the shift in Peoria Public Schools' schedule to a balanced calendar.

She shared two changes are coming to summer camps in 2023. First, due to changes in facility space usage at the RiverPlex, camp there will be discontinued in 2023 and a new discovery camp focused on career exposure will be added to the Noble Center. This new camp will be an extension of the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum Be Anything! Program and will help us expand the reach of our workforce development initiatives which we'll cover in a few minutes. Next, she announced that our District camp programs will be seeking accreditation from the American Camp Association in 2023.

Jonelle McCloud, General Manager of the Proctor Recreation Center, shared the power of DREAM squared programming at Proctor, which supported 175 total student registrations in 2021-22, surpassing the goal of 80 participants and provided 546 total hours of exposure. Our work to keep kids busy and excited to learn is definitely a

superpower with the challenges of today. Data for both of these programs is shared in the District's programming committee and as we proceed through the calendar, camps will be a featured topic in a spring meeting. ICJIA accomplishments are also shared with the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee.

Trustee Harant asked what is the average age of the campers. Jonelle McCloud stated that although it is offered to 5-14-year-olds, many are 5th – 6th graders.

Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Supervisor of Community Connections, shared the four pillars of the District's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility.

She congratulated Vice President Jackie Petty who chairs the group and who was honored on Saturday night by the NAACP for her passionate advocacy for equity and voting rights. Trustee Petty has truly been a local gamechanger in the field.

David Gray, Recruitment and Professional Development Manager, shared program updates for the District's workforce development program that has hosted 21 total interns in positions across DISTRICT.

Following the completion of their District internships, many students have gone on to full-time work outside of DISTRICT or moved into part-time positions within the DISTRICT. All told, the workforce development program has allowed participating youth to earn over \$55,000 in meaningful and growth-oriented part-time work at District.

Chanel Hargrave-Murry also shared information about a school lunch program that targeted students and engaged them in the hiring process for summer jobs. Called Power Lunches, these sessions will develop healthy relationships between our youth and community leaders/workers in the Peoria area. Every week, our staff, along with community leaders, go to local schools for lunch. We are able to engage students in a place where they feel comfortable and share our programming and support.

David Gray stated that the District's efforts around the topics of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility are tracked through the DEI committee. Relevant programming statistics including scholarship data is provided quarterly to the Programming Committee and relevant capital projects are documented through the Planning Committee.

Nick Conrad, Supervisor of PPD Events, provided information about the impact of Lakeview Park After Dark, a drive-through Halloween event here in this park. This year, we added an adults-only evening on Thursday, October 20 after feedback from participants in previous years. On October 21 and 22, more than 1000 cars drove through Lakeview Park. In total, the event grossed more than \$30,000, which is remarkable in and of itself, but maybe more importantly, it drew a really diverse audience who experienced the Park District in a new way.

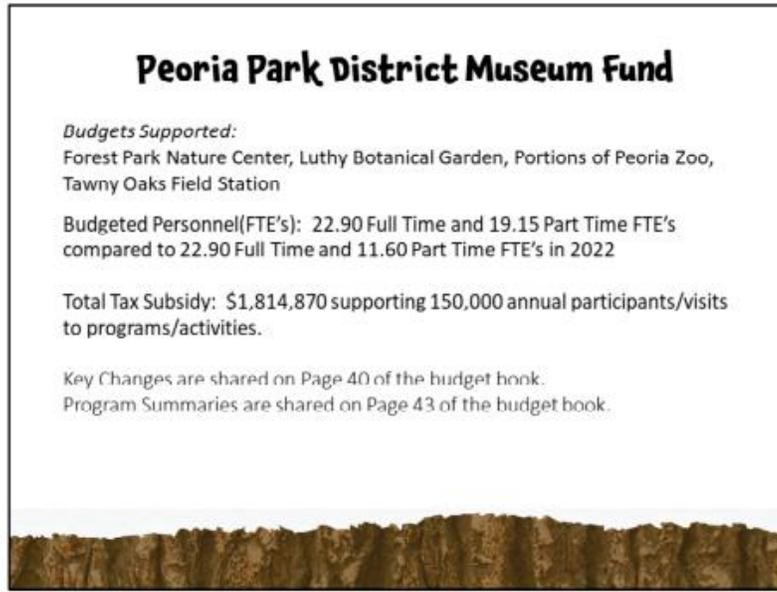
This year, we also added a “spirit” week leading up to the event to engage and encourage the entire District after a long summer season. We provided lunch to staff in the park and encouraged dress-up days to thank our team. All parks staff who helped build sets were given passes to bring their families through to see how their work adds vibrancy to the community.

As the recipient of a 2022-23 DCEO Tourism operating grant, our team also looks forward to building out ParkaPalooza, tentatively set for the second weekend in June at Detweiller Park.

Data from events like Lakeview Park After Dark and ParkaPalooza will be shared in Programming Committee reports. The impact of team building efforts like Spirit Week will be shared in the Talent Management and Engagement Committee.

Becky Fredrickson stated that in 2023, we’ll be focused on a few key improvements in the Recreation Fund. We will take the first step toward the redevelopment and renovation of Owens Ice Center by hiring an engineer to help establish the scope and scale of our project, which will take multiple years to implement and complete. With the impending need to upgrade our ice plant, we look forward to taking a first step in the journey next year. In addition, Franciscan Rec Center will get the roof re-coated to protect the building and some sidewalks upgraded by the baseball fields to improve user experience.

Trustee Harant asked if community outreach reentry shown in the budget was due to the ELITE Program leaving the District? Emily Cahill stated yes, that program was tax subsidized while it was part of the Park District. Those dollars have now rolled into the District’s larger budget. Trustee Harant asked what was the result of the food service offered at the Peoria Zoo. Brent Wheeler stated that it did enhance the experience and there was increased revenue however, there were such big challenges with the labor market, that staff was spending time preparing the food and working the register as opposed to some of the marketing efforts that we think will accompany them in the future. This is something the District is hoping to gain further traction on in the coming year.



Museum Fund

Matt Freeman stated that the locations supported by the Museum Fund are listed on this slide. Each provides distinctly different vantage points for those who live, work and play in the District to experience and learn from the natural world. Please note that by statute, facilities supported by the Museum Fund are required to provide free days and field trip access to their programming, which is something that our District is proud to support. Staff budgeted in this Fund total more than 40 full-time equivalents. Please note that the part-time staff budgeted here for 2023 shows an increase of more than 8 fulltime equivalents. This represents the shift of all Peoria Zoo part-timers into the Museum Fund, which is a change from prior years and is simply an accounting mechanism to make our funding work per the 44-structure shared by Karrie at the outset.

As budgeted, the District has committed \$1,531,622 in tax subsidy to support Museum activities across the District that welcome 147,000 visitors annually.

Mike Miller, Supervisor of Environmental and Interpretive Services, stated that Museum Fund staff wear many hats in our District. They are not only crucial for the completion of “on-the-ground” stewardship projects, but they also help shape the public’s appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of our natural world. Through focused programming, exhibits, and guided tours, we immerse our patrons in our natural areas. We also give them opportunities to be a part of the process of restoring our natural areas by being involved in stewardship workdays and numerous citizen science projects. Our efforts also enhance a park visitor’s “sense of place” because when one makes a connection to the natural world in which they live, it deepens their passion for the community as a whole.

Jacob Kuban, Supervisor of Parks, highlighted the evolution of Donovan Park and its designation as a Level 1 Arboretum in 2022.

Mike Miller stated that the power of possibility shined brightly when District staff worked closely with the Board of Trustees to update and re-affirm our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability. This document provides a roadmap for the District's work around stewardship that will continue to be built out as we proceed into 2023. Jer reviewed focus areas and priorities of that document and shared that staff will develop action steps for meeting these goals as part of our strategic planning process.

Jacob Kuban stated that in 2022, the District's board and staff also worked collaboratively to advocate for urban forestry initiatives in 61605. As this work continues in 2023, it is the hope of all parties that collaboration across local governments will increase and strategies formed will help with climate change and access to open greenspace across our community.

Tracking of our progress with our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability, our restoration efforts, and other work impacting our physical spaces is provided primarily at Planning Committee meetings, with some information also being presented to the full Board.

Trustee Bertschy asked if there is a particular Park District property where we have seen an impact of climate change that is demonstrable to the untrained eye? Mike Miller stated there are many different avenues where that is the case. He cited non-native plants and birds that are now living in the Midwest, as well as the negative impact of erosion.

Trustee Bertschy stated that as we talk about climate change, it might be valuable for the District to produce something that describes for our community what impact climate change is having here and now upon this community. Mike Miller stated that he agrees and there are aspects of that in some of the programming but not a program that is singularly focused on the impacts of climate change. This would be a good thing to explore. Board members agreed.

Yvonne Strode, Peoria Zoo Director, provided an overview of the AZA accreditation process, which the Zoo will undergo in 2023. She stated that only 238 of more than 2800 zoos in the nation have this designation and Peoria Zoo has been a member since 1981.

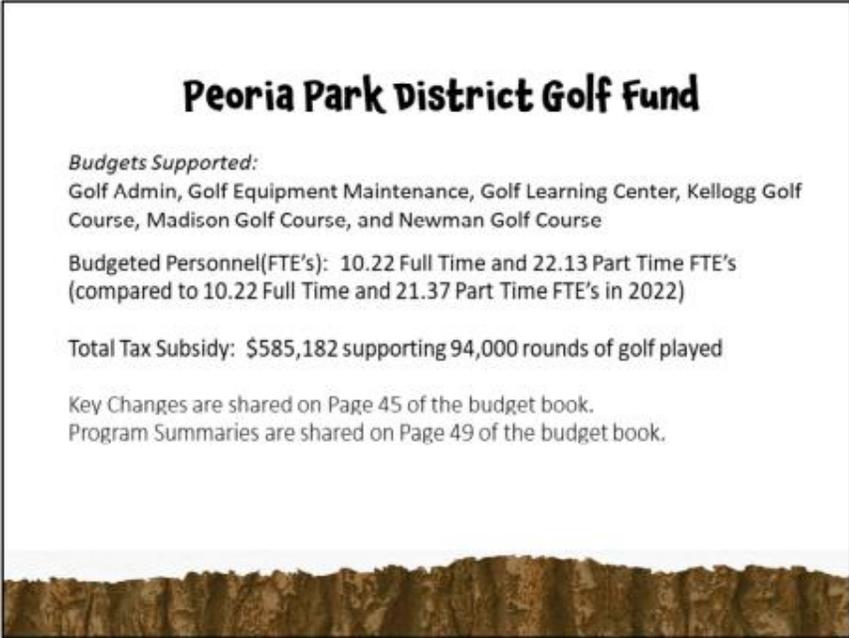
There are five other zoos in Illinois that are AZA accredited. Trustee Bertschy asked what the value of the AZA accreditation is. Yvonne Strode stated that not only is it bragging rights but when people see that accreditation symbol, they know that it's a quality zoo where the standard of care for the animals and facility is very high. It also provides the Peoria Zoo with many conservation and education resources. The annual

fee is based on operating income, so the Peoria Zoo pays approximately \$10,000 to be an AZA member. The accreditation filing fee is \$35,000 and the zoo also pays the traveling costs for the visiting AZA team.

Becky Fredrickson stated that in the last couple of years, Forest Park Nature Center has had significant upgrades with new exhibits, flooring, exterior paint, and new garages. In the coming year, we'll continue the improvements with the replacement of the east door and windows to allow for a fully accessible museum entrance.

Golf Fund

Matt Freeman stated that golf has seen an incredible resurgence as a result of its ability to meet the needs of people seeking activity and competition during COVID. It's ability to be relevant during the pandemic has resulted in an increase in rounds and we anticipate an increase in 2022 as well despite a difficult wet spring.



Peoria Park District Golf Fund

Budgets Supported:
Golf Admin, Golf Equipment Maintenance, Golf Learning Center, Kellogg Golf Course, Madison Golf Course, and Newman Golf Course

Budgeted Personnel(FTE's): 10.22 Full Time and 22.13 Part Time FTE's
(compared to 10.22 Full Time and 21.37 Part Time FTE's in 2022)

Total Tax Subsidy: \$585,182 supporting 94,000 rounds of golf played

Key Changes are shared on Page 45 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 49 of the budget book.

The graphic features a decorative border at the bottom with a textured, brownish-gold pattern.

As we look to 2023, our focus is twofold. First, we continue to work to keep our current golfers committed to the district and on reaching new markets and new golfers with opportunities that are appealing to golfers at any level of play. Second, the impact of increases in supplies and utilities are especially impactful on golf, with the reliance on irrigation to keep our courses in good condition and ready for play. The leadership in this fund has worked to strike a balance that allows us to maintain affordability and accessibility, while also trying to manage a tax subsidy that makes sense for the fund. The 2023 tax subsidy for Golf is \$585,182 which supports a projected 94,000 rounds of golf played.

Greg Walker, Director of Golf Operations, shared information about youth golf initiatives and the lifelong health and wellness impacts that golf has, making it more mission driven than we often talk about. Participating in the sport regularly is likely to prevent or reduce cognitive decline and has been shown to increase life expectancy for those who play regularly.

Tracking of memberships, rounds, and other golf metrics are shared in the District's Golf Ad Hoc Committee.

Becky Fredrickson stated that in 2023, we are looking forward to the Golf Learning Center improvements funded through State of Illinois grant dollars. These improvements will provide a bridge experience from the "die hard" golfer to the "I want to hang out with friends and relax and have some fun hitting a few balls" golfer. This hopefully will bring more people to the sport. In addition to the Golf Learning Center improvements, we will continue to add forward tees to support women and senior golfers and replace cart paths for everyone to enjoy.

Trustee Harant asked with the increased water and utility costs, is the District trying to assess whether it can get its own water supply at Madison and Kellogg Golf Courses? Becky Fredrickson stated the District has studies from when it was previously reviewed at Kellogg. It wasn't a feasible solution at the time, but it can be reevaluated again as it has been quite some time since. Matt Freeman pointed out that staff now has the opportunity and ability to remotely (from home) turn on or off the irrigation system. This helps mitigate water costs.

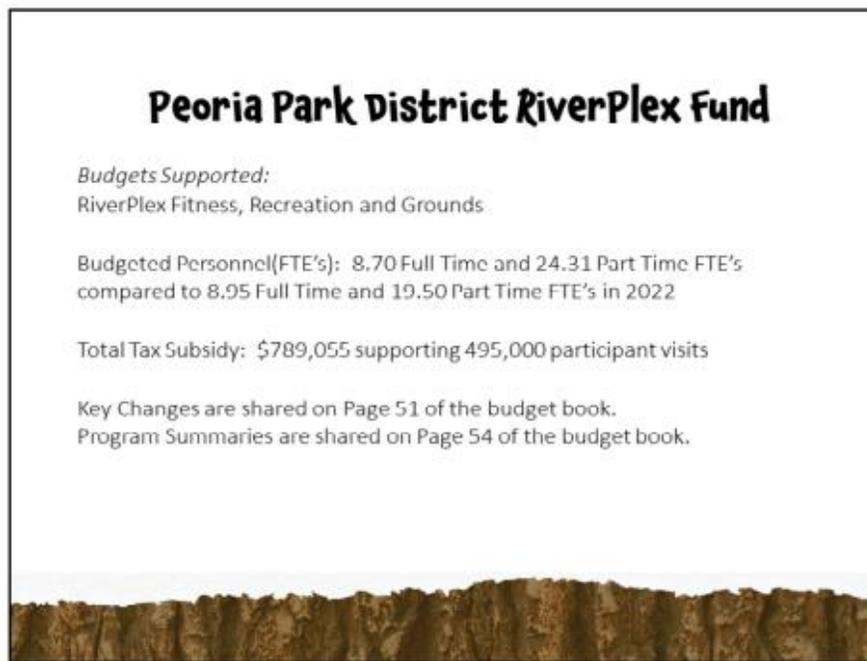
Trustee Bertschy stated that there has been a real resurgence with golf. Do people feel that we've reached the apogee of that? What is the long-term outlook? Greg Walker stated that what we're seeing as a whole in the industry across the country is we may have seen the height of this. However, it is not anticipated we will experience such a sharp decline as has been experienced in the past pre-Covid. Our price structure as compared to our competitors is where we have seen a big resurgence. Many people came back to us because we are competitive in the market place.

Trustee Bertschy stated the Park District has 63 holes of golf. How does that compare to other districts in the state? Greg Walker stated that we are above the average than other Illinois park districts. For example, Pekin has 36 holes, Bloomington has 54 holes, and Rockford has 72 holes.

Trustee Bertschy stated that we hear a lot from golfers who are not premier golfers in terms of their scores, especially aging golfers, that they would like to see more tees up in front where we have tees today. The Golf Division has been creating new tees to meet the need (three per year). Trustee Bertschy stated it would be good if we could accelerate that schedule to better meet needs and keep golfers. The approximate cost per new tee is \$8,000 - \$9,000 for three tees. Matt Freeman stated that the District can work to accelerate the current tee schedule.

RiverPlex Fund

Brent Wheeler, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation, stated that over the more than 20 years that the RiverPlex Recreation and Wellness Center has been in operation, the way that fitness centers operate has changed significantly and in 2022, the RiverPlex reinvented itself after a 20-year ground-breaking partnership came to the end of its contract term but lives on with OSF as a new partner to the facility as a tenant and Mission Grant supporter. As of January 1, 2022, the RiverPlex began a new partnership that we believe has produced some powerful results. In collaboration with the Greater Peoria YMCA, this collaboration allows members to access both facilities for one affordable price. Regularly regarded as the community's best place to work out, the RiverPlex is one of the highest profile facilities in our District inventory.



Peoria Park District RiverPlex Fund

Budgets Supported:
RiverPlex Fitness, Recreation and Grounds

Budgeted Personnel(FTE's): 8.70 Full Time and 24.31 Part Time FTE's compared to 8.95 Full Time and 19.50 Part Time FTE's in 2022

Total Tax Subsidy: \$789,055 supporting 495,000 participant visits

Key Changes are shared on Page 51 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 54 of the budget book.

The RiverPlex Fund breaks its budgeting down by function, with separate budgets for fitness, recreation and RiverPlex grounds. Please note that the fitness budget also includes operations of the AquaPlex.

The anticipated tax subsidy for the facility is \$789,055 which will support 495,000 participant visits over the course of the year. 2023 personnel numbers show increases in part-time payroll that support a return to pre-COVID hours for the AquaPlex to include costs of a full year of operations after last year's repairs and forced closure for the summer. In addition, despite the addition of solar panels, the anticipated increase in utility costs across the board translates to a budgetary hit of \$113,539, which again is connected to a full year of operations of AquaPlex.

Together, personnel and utility costs drive the spike in subsidy for the coming year. Staff at both facilities agree that an increase in membership rates is not recommended given the competitive local market and the challenges that have come in building back the member base to pre-COVID levels. Staff have partnered with Bradley University to complete a capstone project that will research and make recommendations about rates that may inform a change in this direction in the future. Until then, the focus is on recruiting and retaining members to the unique, quality spaces that are the RiverPlex and YMCA.

Sue Wheeler, Supervisor of RiverPlex and Aquatics, stated that the RiverPlex is a great example of how partnership can make more really mean more as our tagline says. She provided an overview of the partnership and how it positively affects members.

She also shared details about the internal collaboration between the RiverPlex and the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum that facilitates the PlayHouse at the Plex programming in the former Kidz Korner.

Trustee Bertschy stated that there were some unfortunate maintenance and repair incidents at the RiverPlex in terms of the facility itself. As such, is this expected maintenance that would be anticipated due to the facility's age, or is it something bigger? Becky Fredrickson stated that this year's events were unique situations. Huge projects were needed all at the same time - the natatorium repair, walls painted, duct work, dehumidification work, etc. The building is over 20 years old now and this type of maintenance and repair would be expected for this type facility with indoor pools. The goal was to get the pool opened as soon as possible for patrons to use and enjoy. All pools are currently functioning. The pool facility now sparkles and should be good for a few years. Staff understands the impact and necessity of the facility to patrons and work very hard at minimizing any closings or inconvenience to the community.

President Johnson expressed his concern about the lack of programming for children at the RiverPlex by moving a day camp from the RiverPlex to the Noble Center. Brent Wheeler stated that the RiverPlex arena is utilized for many kids and family programs. The aquaplex is also very much geared to children. The decision to move the camp wasn't easy but there is an exciting aspect to it. As staff looked at the diversity of portfolio and offerings to the community, one thing that would continuously happen is when we start to build something, then summertime camp season would come, and at the RiverPlex, the arena would be filled with summer camp kids five days a week. This greatly limited other programming possibilities for the arena. The District has the ability to run camps in other spaces which will be done to make up for the camp moved from the RiverPlex. The District will then have the ability to offer the arena when approached for space for a basketball camps, indoor pickleball, and senior programming options which couldn't be done in the summer at the RiverPlex arena. This helps broaden the District's portfolio of offerings and meet the needs of the community.

Trustee Bertschy asked if the District would be losing kids from the RiverPlex neighborhood when camp is moved? Brent Wheeler stated the RiverPlex had many patrons from out of town. Pre-Covid, many people worked downtown and used the facility before or after work but they did not live near RiverPlex. Post-Covid, the downtown workforce is significantly decreased. Financially, the move will be better for the District. Brent went on to stress the fact that the only RiverPlex programming that will be affected is summer camp. It will not be eliminated but will be moved to Noble Center. All other summer camp and RiverPlex programming will remain the same.

Emily Cahill stated that in 2023, the men’s locker room at the RiverPlex will get a face lift and the roof will get re-coated to help protect the building.

Police Fund

Brent Wheeler stated that the Peoria Park District is responsible for the protection of the general public, prevention of crime and the protection of natural resources and facilities of the District. The consistent presence and expertise provided by our Park Police led by Chief Todd Green gives peace of mind to our patrons and employees. I also want to note here that our security team, headed by Ernest Starks, is funded through the Recreation Fund and is separate from this levy. This is another great example of the interconnectedness of funding and resources to meet the needs of our District. The Peoria Park District maintains mutual aid agreements with local law enforcement at the City, County and other smaller jurisdictions in our service area. Regardless of the badge that they wear, our local law enforcement collaborates to uphold the commitment that they make when they serve our community in this essential service.

Peoria Park District Police Fund

Budgets Supported:
Police Admin and Police Explorer Program

Budgeted Personnel(FTE's): 4.00 Full Time and 1.43 Part Time FTE's compared to 4.00 Full Time and 1.44 Part Time FTE's in 2022.

Total Tax Subsidy: \$530,731 to support District wide efforts.

Key Changes are shared on Page 56 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 59 of the budget book.

As you can see here, the Police Fund is broken down into two budgets. The Police Fund is a specific levy to support this operation and we have tried to keep the tax support of

this function to the amount of the police levy specifically. In 2023, this subsidy amounts to \$530,731 to support the police function across the District. Please note that in 2022, the Police Explorer program was suspended to allow for re- assessment of the program given participation rates and return on investment.

Police Chief Todd Green stated that in June 2022, the Peoria Park District opened the Gwynn Family Aquatic Center for the first time since 2019 and he shared anecdotal information about the District’s cross-departmental collaboration that was activated to support the large crowds of kids and families who came to the facility at opening. After two rough days at the facility, Deputy Director Brent Wheeler brought our police and security team together with our aquatics staff and we looked at different ways to make the pool safe for those who visited as well as for our DISTRICT teams. The collaborative approach was outstanding and we were able to develop a strategy to allow parents and small children to use the pool at a different time than teens and older children.

As part of our plan, our team called on our partners at Peoria Public Schools and added additional School Resource Officers to our summer payroll. SRO’s regularly serve on our payroll in the summer or on off-hours, but their value was multiplied at Gwynn where they could call kids by name and see changes in behavior happen quickly and safely.

Becky Fredrickson stated that in 2023, additional improvements to the gun range will be a focus. Previous berm, roof, and storage building repairs will be augmented with roadway improvements and overlaying of the asphalt surfacing for the police officers to shoot from.

Non-Operating Funds

Karrie Ross stated that the Illinois Park District Code also provides taxing authority to support the non-operating functions of the District.

**Peoria Park District
Non-Operating Funds**

Budgets Supported:
Audit, Bond and Interest, FICA, IMRF, Liability, Paving and Lighting,
and Workers Compensation/Unemployment

Budgeted Personnel(FTE’s): 2.2 Full Time and .46 Part Time
(Liability fund)

Key Changes are shared on Page 56 of the budget book.
Program Summaries are shared on Page 59 of the budget book.

These include:

- *Audit Fund, which covers the costs associated with the annual external audit of the District's financial statements.
- *Bond and Interest Fund that levies the taxes needed to make the District's principal and interest payments on its general obligation park bond issues.
- *FICA Fund, which pays the District's portion of Social Security and Medicare for all employees.
- *IMRF Fund pays for the District's required contribution to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.
- *Liability Fund that pays for the District's risk management program and the District's property and liability membership contributions to PDRMA, the District's risk pool.
- *Paving and Lighting Fund pays for street and parking lot lighting within parks and some roadway and parking improvements.
- *Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Fund pays for the District's workers' compensation coverage and unemployment compensation costs

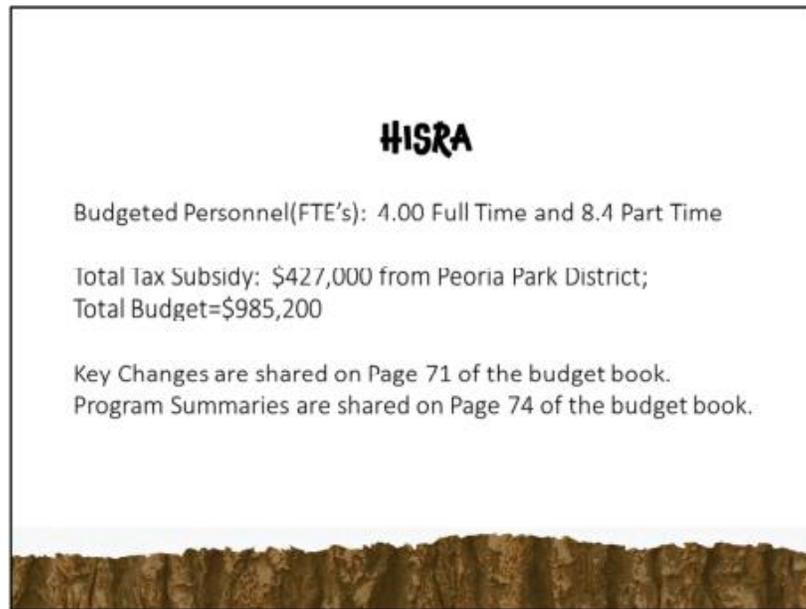
Shalesse Pie, Superintendent of Human Resources, stated that many of the non-operating funds tie to employee benefits and supports and she shared the power of quality employee benefits like the pension benefit covered through the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and employee access to park amenities.

Trustee Bertschy asked what is the value of the benefits packages for employees? Some businesses show an employee what their salary is and what the value of their benefits package is. Do you have an idea of what the value of benefits is according to the benefits sheet shown? Karrie Ross stated that at this point, this benefits sheet as you see it, was released earlier this year and this is the first time the District has had this full scope of benefits. The District has not yet run the exact numbers as to what the actual utilization of the benefits is. Trustee Bertschy stated that the full cost of the benefit, i.e. cost of pass, admission, etc. can be used to determine this. If using this method, Emily Cahill stated that the benefit is approximately \$1,500. Karrie Ross stated that at the beginning of each year, employees are provided a letter with their total compensation value that includes their salary.

HISRA

Emily Cahill stated that the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association (HISRA) is a special revenue fund and is a cooperative programming effort provided by the Peoria Park District, Morton Park District, Chillicothe Park District, and Washington Park District. Each District provides property tax support at a tax rate of 2 cents annually. Since HISRA is a special revenue fund cooperative, it utilizes its operating budget net revenues to fund capital expenditures, which includes building improvements and vehicles. Data regarding HISRA outputs and outcomes are provided to the HISRA board

which is comprised of two representatives of each member district. President Johnson and I serve in this role for the Peoria Park District.



Katie Hogan Van Cleve, Director of HISRA, stated that possibility, partnership, play and dedication are all words heard here tonight. HISRA and its staff harness all these powers in unique and exciting ways. All programming in the 2023 HISRA budget is projected to return to 2019 service levels.

The Peoria Park District contribution represents 62% of HISRA's member district contributions, while registrations from Peoria Park District residents represent 60% of all of our registrations. The budget in your book was approved by the HISRA Board on 10.19.22.

Trustee Bertschy stated that this is one of the most important things the District does and he would love to see this expanded. All that is done for the registrations should make everyone very proud and if there is any way this can be expanded, please do so.

Capital Projects

Becky Fredrickson stated that the proposed 2023 Bond Issue and five-year capital improvement plan is included in your budget books beginning on page 75. The criteria used for prioritizing and selecting the items include:

- Safety
- Maintenance or Repair of existing infrastructure
- Equipment Replacement
- Program Support or Expansion
- Land Acquisition

In order to fund the expenses associated with maintaining these capital assets, the District utilizes its authority under state statute to issue general obligation park bonds. The District typically issues general obligation park bonds annually. In 2023, staff is proposing to issue \$5,000,000 of general obligation park bonds for various capital projects. The principal and interest costs associated with this proposed bond issue are budgeted and outlined in the Non-Operating Funds under Bond and Interest.

Emily Cahill thanked Becky for her hard work.

Cahill then closed the budget presentation, thanking our dedicated publicly elected Board of Trustees and staff who are committed to serving the residents in our District and surrounding areas. Staff will be prepared to answer any remaining questions that you may have in preparation for a board vote on the budget as a whole on Wednesday, November 9.

Trustee Bertschy stated that next week, he would like to hear from staff, within the realm of possibility, what is out there that might cause a huge dent in this budget that the Board needs to be alerted about such as renewed higher inflation projections. Trustee Harant asked for both good and bad things to look out for next year.

8. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

9. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Peoria resident Pamela Marshall, parent of a child that has disabilities who uses a walker and a wheelchair addressed the Board. She thanked the Peoria Park District Board and leadership for recognizing that it is past time for the community to have a truly inclusive playground. All new facilities, regardless of their size or location, follows universal design. ADA compliant is not enough if we truly all can play in Peoria. Trustee Bertschy stated that recently the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee added Accessibility to the Committee name. He encouraged and welcomes Ms. Marshall to attend upcoming DEIA Committee meetings held on the third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am at the Noble Center.

10. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 p.m. Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 5 Ayes; 0 Nays)

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/gAZm6o9wch/>

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