

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 16, 2022 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streater, Attorney Kevin Day, Becky Fredrickson, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Chief Todd Green, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Jeff Heiden (v), Willie Howe, Jacob Kuban (v), Scott Loftus, Matt Majors (v), Jess Main, Jonelle McCloud, Brittany Moldenhauer (v), Shalessie Pie, Karrie Ross, Doug Silberer (v), Nicole Staley (v), Yvonne Strode, Jenny Swanson, Greg Walker (v), Sue Wheeler, and Alicia Woodworth.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

OTHERS PRESENT: From the Peoria Astronomical Society – Eric Clifton, from the Peoria Municipal Band – David Liddle, from the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club – Joyce Blumenshine, from Hanson Professional Services – Cindy Loos, from Haynes Staffing and Consulting – Ivory Hayes, from the PAV in the Park group: Sara Connor-James, Nina Bush, Nick Maloof.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. MINUTES

No minutes presented at this time.

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.A. Executive Director

Emily Cahill congratulated full time employee Alex Vargas as Riverfront Manager.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

Trustee Bertschy reported the Finance Committee has examined the bills and approved unanimously 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 Bright and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

7. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

7.A. Easement Approval – Glen Oak Park

7.B. Bid – Peoria Zoo Boardwalk Repairs and Resurfacing

7.C. Bid – Purchase of Hay and Straw for the Peoria Zoo

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 7.A. through 7.C.

Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote:

Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

8. PENDING BUSINESS

8.A. Approval of the 2023 Operating Budget

Per discussions at last week's Board meeting, Emily Cahill stated that staff present two options tonight – 1. To discontinue the RiverPlex camp and offer the Discovery camp at Noble Center as proposed in the 2023 operating budget. Have staff within that budget explore new ways to collaborate with other day camps in the area around and near the RiverPlex that would result in no material net change to the 2023 proposed budget or 2. Continue offering the RiverPlex camp similar to the current 2022 offering and remove the Noble Center proposed camp for 2023.

The impact to the 2023 proposed budget would be an increased tax subsidy of the RiverPlex of \$28,245. Another area where more information was requested was about Gwynn Family Aquatic Center where staff is proposing to keep the current subsidy level given the challenges we've had in recent years with the number of lifeguards. The current bank of hours budgeted can be shifted around to meet the demands of the user group.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2023 Operating Budget on condition the budget be modified to reflect the RiverPlex camp not be moved. Motion seconded by President Johnson and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy - Aye, Bright - Aye, Covington - Nay, Harant - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Vice President Petty – Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Nay).

8.B. Approval of 2023 Bond Issue Budget

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the 2023 Bond Issue Budget. Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

8.C. 2023 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Received and filed.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Travel Expense Approval for President Robert Johnson to attend IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee Meeting in Chicago, IL on December 1, 2022

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Travel Expense Approval for President Robert Johnson to attend IAPD/IPRA Joint Conference Committee Meeting in Chicago, IL on December 1, 2022. Motion seconded by Trustee Bright and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

At 5:24 pm, due to the PAV in the Park group not in attendance and therefore unable to present, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO RECESS until 6:00 pm. Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO AMEND MOTION TO RECESS to recess until the arrival of the PAV in the Park group, not past 6:00 pm. Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy - Aye, Bright - Aye, Covington - Aye, Harant - Nay, Sierra - Aye, Vice President Petty – Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Nay).

At 5:55 pm, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO RECONVENE the Regular Board meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

9.B. PAV in the Park Presentation

Sara Connor-James stated that the Pav in the Park group is here tonight at the unanimous invitation of the Board of Trustees as per the minutes of last month’s meeting. She stated they are glad to have this opportunity to present tonight, however, their presentation is far from finished. They are still meeting with groups in the community and gathering input and info. *To view a full video recording of this presentation, please go to minute 44:00 of the full meeting at <https://fb.watch/hfmUTAnMOe/>.* Connor-James went on to list the names of community members that the group has already met with, gaining their support. She stated that this project is privately-funded, with a 1,500-seat pavilion built on the southeast corner of Donovan Park.

Connor-James clarified 1. That the Pavilion is a 501c3 non-profit organization and nobody on the PAV board is a developer or seeks to gain in any way personal or financial gain. 2. The Peoria Park District will receive over \$100,000 per year in donations with no financial outlay needed. 3. The City of Peoria, Peoria businesses and homeowners, schools, the arts, the tri-county area and all of downstate Illinois will benefit.

A diverse group of construction companies, including minority construction companies, will benefit from more than over 250 union jobs. Untold number of area businesses, hotels, restaurants and retail shops will benefit. The medical community will better attract and retain talent. Families and people from every walk of life will enjoy the magnificent world class gathering place for decades. The PAV in the Park group has no debt and has no investors. They will create an endowment for sustainability. They will interview two top venue management

and talent booking companies to ensure its success. The pavilion project will not cost the taxpayers a single penny. It will increase tax revenues for the area and the Park District will benefit significantly.

They will be investing in Donovan Park by installing over 250 varieties of natural vegetation and habitat. The group reached out to the Horticultural Department at Illinois Central College (ICC) for collaboration on a landscape and natural habitat design. As such, student Andrew Hechter of ICC was introduced to present more information on the ICC Horticulture Concept Plan.

Connor-James then introduced Nina Bush DeBello to present information on the issues with light, sound, heat and traffic. Bush DeBello stated that the group is working with ICC to develop light and sound barriers. The noise will be kept within the amphitheater and outside audible levels will be less than it is now. Neighbors will not experience increased noise levels. Working with light issues will promote community partnerships. In reference to the observatory, we are already at maximum light pollution at its current location in Donovan Park. Therefore, the pavilion will not impact the observatory. Reputable consultants and companies were consulted on this issue to ensure there will be no adverse effects from the pavilion in Donovan Park.

Connor-James introduced Joshua Gunn, CEO of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of the PAV group, to share his perspective. Gunn stated he is new fairly new to Peoria (3 years) and there's a consistent theme he's hearing about the challenges in the Peoria area. He stated Peoria is having a large problem in attracting and retaining talent. There's a lack of investment in vibrancy and excitement not only downtown, but also throughout the entire Peoria area. The arts can transform a community and help attract new talent. With this project increasing performance and music venues, it can transform the entire area.

Connor-James finished the presentation and stated that new and exciting details have been presented for the Pavilion in the Park as well as some clarification given. More research needs to occur. Peoria has a vested interest in this project and the Park District can be the catalyst to make this happen. The Pavilion in the Park at Donovan Park will give 90 years of community and beyond. Such a far-reaching project as this deserves careful consideration and informed community input.

Connor-James stated the PAV in the Park group is asking that the Park District form a select subcommittee to designate two Trustees, along with select members of the community groups, pavilion representatives and a member of the Park District staff, to work together and stay informed as to what the PAV in the Park group is doing to move forward and study deeply what is involved in the matrix of this project. This cannot be rushed and all need to take the time to ensure that it gets done right. Speaking directly to Trustee Sierra, she suggested that he chair the subcommittee, given his interest. Trustee Sierra responded stating the answer to that is no and that her suggestion was not appropriate. Connor-James stated that regardless, the PAV in the Park group asks that the District form a subcommittee because it requires much more conversation and discussion.

President Johnson stated that at this Board meeting, it is not the time to discuss things directly with Trustees and that creating committees is a Park District function. He wants everyone to have the opportunity to speak for or against the project but please be conscious of how long you speak and avoid unnecessary conversations. Addressing Sara Connor-James, Trustee Sierra stated that respectfully, her request that he chair a subcommittee was not appropriate. To further explain his interest in this project, he stated that just like any other project that is brought to the Park District Board, is to make sure that as public servant leader, he listen to all parties and make a moral, ethical, and just decision. That is his only interest here.

10. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Several people addressed the Board both in favor and against the PAV in the Park at Donovan Park. *For a full video recording of those addressing the Board with their comments, please go to minute 1:22:41 of the full meeting at <https://fb.watch/hfmUTAnMOe/>.* In addition, emails that have been received from members of the community on this topic, have been shared with the Board. *Please see Attachment A.*

11. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

13. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None at this time.

14. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:46 pm Vice President Petty MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Bright, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Petty and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

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

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

From: Mary Spengler <mespeng@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2022 1:56 PM
To: PPD <ppd@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Pavilion in the Park- why I oppose it

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Peoria Park District Board,

I am writing you this letter to express my strong opposition to the Pavilion in the Park project proposal, which I understand is being once again presented to the board in November. My family and I live two miles from Donovan Park, and use this multiple times a week. As a lifelong Peoria resident who loves our city, its rich history, our parks and our entertainment, there are three reasons why I strongly oppose this project: 1) The environmental impact that will result from creating a large parking area and performance venue space, 2) The pre-existing oversaturation and underuse of performance venues already available to Peorians, and lastly, 3) The lack of originality of this proposal, and the profiting off of what should be a free and open space to all children and families who wish to enjoy the natural beauty of Donovan Park.

Donovan Park is a beautiful, and unmatched green space in this part of Peoria. Unlike forested parks and trails the city has to offer, which are amazing, Donovan has a mostly flat and open prairie setting, offering a number of natural prairie plants and native trees, while providing an especially safe and open atmosphere for parents with young children, who want to walk and explore nature, without the isolation or accessibility issues that other parks can have. For example, when my daughter was undergoing chemo treatment at 4 years old and immunocompromised with lower levels of energy, the quiet peacefulness of Donovan Park was priceless and made this park a wonderful place to get her outside for some fresh air away from crowds. Even now, we often visit this park to enjoy the herd of deer, and the owls, and the geese and the trees, and the truck sandpit for kids and we walk all over every bit of it! The space by the ponds is one of the most scenic spaces in the park, beautiful for taking photos especially when the sun is rising over the water. No amount of money the park district could make from this project would be worth the priceless green space this performance venue would be taking away from middle-class families in this city and neighbors of this park. Not to mention, with added car exhaust and loud music, what do we expect will happen to the ecosystem that thrives in this park?

Peoria has an oversaturation of performance venues, and many spaces that already exist are underused. We already have the Glen Oak Amphitheatre, the Peoria Civic Center, Expo Gardens, the Betty Jayne, the Scottish Rite Theater. We are soon to have the Madison Theater again. Peoria Public Library has large meeting spaces that are successfully used for live performances as well. Why strip away business from other local businesses and organizations, for yet another performance venue that may or may not be successful, but will regardless be taking away a free treasure from the public?

The Pavilion in the Park is not a unique or remarkably creative idea, and it doesn't give Peoria anything we don't already have in some capacity. If anything it would hurt other nearby properties such as the Expo Gardens and be stripping local residents of a green space that is unique and unmatched in its natural beauty and accessibility for young families. I am not in favor of allowing people who don't understand the needs or wants of central Peoria coming in and trying to make a profit or feed egos on projects without appreciation for what those of us who actually live here need or want to see. I know one thing: we do not

need or want yet another performance venue. The draw of Donovan Park is in the native plants and animals and trees, the access it gives city children to nature, and its value to our city will not come from loud music and ticket sales, but from finding ways to compliment the beauty this park already has to offer. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mary Spengler
Peoria resident

From: Peoria Park District <noreply@peoriaparks.org>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2022 3:38 PM
To: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: PPD: Contact Form



Name

Karen Platte

Email

kjplatte@gmail.com

Phone

(970) 412-2924

Subject

Donovan Park

Message

Please do not build a music venue in Donovan Park. This area already has a wonderful music culture.

From: sheila hansen <sheilahansen@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 10:34:45 AM
To: rjohnson@peoriaparks.org <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Protecting Donovan Park

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Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for your support of keeping Donovan Park a green space in the city. Just this morning my dog and I enjoyed our

daily walk at Donovan Park.

I understand the pavilion proposal is coming up again. I encourage you to vote against it for some of these reasons:

Traffic considerations Proximity to residential neighborhoods Damage to the park itself and wildlife Light and noise pollution Dislocation of the Northmoor Observatory The close proximity of a hospital and a nursing home The park's recent accreditation as a Level 1 Arboretum The popularity of this park as a destination during the pandemic Destruction of walking/running paths Destruction of cross country skiing paths Stormwater drainage issues Negative impacts for existing music venues (including the publicly supported Peoria Civic Center).

Sincerely,

Sheila Hansen
217 E Hanover Pl
Peoria, IL 61614

From: Leslea Pettett <lpbw0613@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, November 04, 2022 6:07 PM

To: PPD <ppd@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Donovan Park

Importance: Low

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Hello. I want to add to conversation. Donovan Park is beautiful. We love Donovan Park. We were born and raised here. We know, the community has had many generations of families enjoying Donovan Park. If Peorians had wanted a pavilion, they would have built one. It didn't happen. Why, tell us please, why do we really need to spend money on a pavillion. We are telling you that the Park is a special place. We want to keep it special. A pavilion would be devastating to the green space. The eco system will be destroyed. Then our beloved Donovan Park would slowly die. Our descendants will not know the Park as we have. It will be a dead space. Maybe we should just take pictures.

A Peoria Native,
Leslea L. Pettett

From: Eric Hutchison <erichutchison1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2022 2:29 PM
To: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: FYI - Donovan Park Pavilion project - please vote 'NO' (Nov_16 PPD board meeting).
Importance: Low

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Hello Executive Director Cahill - FYI. Today, I sent the following email to all PPD Board of Trustee members in prep for the Nov_16 board meeting.
Thanks you,
Eric Hutchison.

It's my understanding that the Donovan Park Pavilion development group will be presenting the proposed project at the Nov 16 Peoria Park District Board of Trustees meeting.

I urge you to vote a definite 'NO' on this project.

The pavilion project is contrary to the planned natural uses of the park. It also seems opposed to the majority of public feedback which I witnessed at last year's public meetings about the project.

Thank you,
Eric Hutchison
4110 N Hawthorne Pl
Peoria, IL 61614
email: ERICHUTCHISON1@HOTMAIL.COM
phone: 309-688-7038 (accepts voice & voice-mail only, no text).

From: Nancy McGinn <nancymcginn1@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 11:44:58 AM

To: Robert Johnson <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>; asierra@peoriaparks.org <asierra@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Donovan Park

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please remember all the postcards and other notifications you received last year objecting to the Pavilion in Donovan Park.

Here are a few reasons why the Pavilion should not be in Donovan Park:

Traffic considerations

Proximity to residential neighborhoods

Damage to the park itself and wildlife

Light and noise pollution

Dislocation of the Northmoor Observatory

The close proximity of a hospital and a nursing home

The park's recent accreditation as a Level 1 Arboretum

The popularity of this park as a destination during the pandemic

Destruction of walking/running paths

Destruction of cross country skiing paths

Storm water drainage issues

Negative impacts for existing music venues (including the publicly supported Peoria Civic Center)

But most of all we need to keep all the green we can in the city. Once it's paved over, it's gone.

Thank you for your time in considering why we should keep Donovan green.

Sincerely,

Nancy McGinn

From: Parker McRae <rpmcrae@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 10:33:34 AM

To: rjohnson@peoriaparks.org <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>; jpetty@peoriaparks.org <jpetty@peoriaparks.org>; tberty@peoriaparks.org <tberty@peoriaparks.org>; kbright@peoriaparks.org <kbright@peoriaparks.org>; lcovington@peoriaparks.org <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>; jharant@peoriaparks.org <jharant@peoriaparks.org>; asierra@peoriaparks.org <asierra@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Proposed Pavilion in Donovan Park

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Dear Mr Johnson and other Peoria Park District Trustees:

As a resident of North Peora we would like to express our strong opposition to the construction of an entertainment pavilion on the Donovan Park grounds.

Donovan Park is a great asset for Peoria specifically for its rural appearance and quiet environment. It would be counter to these qualities to construct an entertainment facility within its boundaries.

Noise and light pollution in this location would be particularly harmful for the Northmoor Observatory, the recent Level 1 accreditation of the Arboretum, and the nearby Unity Point Proctor Hospital. Certainly there must be a more appropriate site for an entertainment venue, such as a rehabilitated Glen Oak Park.

We are not alone in our opposition to this venture. Please don't allow this to happen

Sincerely, and with the community in mind,

Parker and Ellen McRae
4513 N Miller Ave, Peoria Heights, Il 61616

From: Peoria Park District <noreply@peoriaparks.org>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 11:12 AM
To: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: PPD: Contact Form



Name

Karen Ransone

Subject

Donovan Park Concert Venue

Message

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Pavilion project at Donovan Park. We live just south of there and would be impacted by the noise and increased traffic. Please reject this proposal!

From: SUSAN CANTY <scanty5@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:13 PM

To: Laurie Covington <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>; Joyce Harant <jharant@peoriaparks.org>; Robert Johnson <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>; Jackie Petty <jpetty@peoriaparks.org>; Tim Bertschy <tbertschy@peoriaparks.org>; Kyle Bright <kbright@peoriaparks.org>; Alexander Sierra <asierra@peoriaparks.org>; Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Proposed Pavilion at Donovan Park

Importance: Low

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I am writing to voice my opinion about Donovan Park and the proposed development of a pavilion. Please, please vote to preserve the park as it is. The proposed pavilion will take up so much sorely needed green space in the center of the city. The space is wonderful the way it is and attracts all kinds of people to the area to participate in many outdoor activities. I myself have enjoyed running, walking and cross country skiing in this space. I have attended yoga classes and participated in an orienteering course.

In addition, I am concerned about the surrounding neighborhood and the light, noise pollution and increase in traffic that a project like this will bring to those areas. There will be damage to the park itself, interruptions of the paths used for walking, running and skiing. The light pollution will interfere with the telescope and observatory.

I am also concerned that this is a duplication of venues found elsewhere in the city: The Peoria Civic Center, Corn Stock Theater and Peoria Players. Peoria has a vibrant live music scene and these local places and artists should be supported.

In addition, according to the developers' paperwork, the concert promoters will be making a substantial amount of money, for their own financial benefit.

There are many other options to place a pavilion in the city. Locating this project in an underserved or vacant area is a much better use of our space.

Thank you,

Susan Canty
scanty5@sbcglobal.net

From: Mary Spengler <mespeng@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: No to Pavilion!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Resending this to this email since I'm not sure whether I sent it to the correct park district email last time. WMBD article directed to this email, so here is my input:

Dear Peoria Park District Board,

I am writing you this letter to express my strong opposition to the Pavilion in the Park project proposal, which I understand is being once again presented to the board in November. My family and I live two miles from Donovan Park, and use this multiple times a week. As a lifelong Peoria resident who loves our city, its rich history, our parks and our entertainment, there are three reasons why I strongly oppose this project: 1) The environmental impact that will result from creating a large parking area and performance venue space, 2) The pre-existing oversaturation and underuse of performance venues already available to Peorians, and lastly, 3) The lack of originality of this proposal, and the profiting off of what should be a free and open space to all children and families who wish to enjoy the natural beauty of Donovan Park.

Donovan Park is a beautiful, and unmatched green space in this part of Peoria. Unlike forested parks and trails the city has to offer, which are amazing, Donovan has a mostly flat and open prairie setting, offering a number of natural prairie plants and native trees, while providing an especially safe and open atmosphere for parents with young children, who want to walk and explore nature, without the isolation or accessibility issues that other parks can have. For example, when my daughter was undergoing chemo treatment at 4 years old and immunocompromised with lower levels of energy, the quiet peacefulness of Donovan Park was priceless and made this park a wonderful place to get her outside for some fresh air away from crowds. Even now, we often visit this park to enjoy the herd of deer, and the owls, and the geese and the trees, and the truck sandpit for kids and we walk all over every bit of it! The space by the ponds is one of the most scenic spaces in the park, beautiful for taking photos especially when the sun is rising over the water. No amount of money the park district could make from this project would be worth the priceless green space this performance venue would be taking away from middle-class families in this city and neighbors of this park. Not to mention, with added car exhaust and loud music, what do we expect will happen to the ecosystem that thrives in this park?

Peoria has an oversaturation of performance venues, and many spaces that already exist are underused. We already have the Glen Oak Amphitheatre, the Peoria Civic Center, Expo Gardens, the Betty Jayne, the Scottish Rite Theater. We are soon to have the Madison Theater again. Peoria Public Library has large meeting spaces that are successfully used for live performances as well. Why strip away business from other local businesses and organizations, for yet another performance venue that may or may not be successful, but will regardless be taking away a free treasure from the public?

The Pavilion in the Park is not a unique or remarkably creative idea, and it doesn't give Peoria anything we don't already have in some capacity. If anything it would hurt other nearby properties such as the Expo Gardens and be stripping local residents of a green space that is unique and unmatched in its natural

beauty and accessibility for young families. I am not in favor of allowing people who don't understand the needs or wants of central Peoria coming in and trying to make a profit or feed egos on projects without appreciation for what those of us who actually live here need or want to see. I know one thing: we do not need or want yet another performance venue. The draw of Donovan Park is in the native plants and animals and trees, the access it gives city children to nature, and its value to our city will not come from loud music and ticket sales, but from finding ways to compliment the beauty this park already has to offer. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mary Spengler
Peoria resident

From: John & Jill Wahlfeld <wmcb68@comcast.net>

Date: November 14, 2022 at 5:21:35 PM CST

To: Robert Johnson <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>, Jackie Petty <jpetty@peoriaparks.org>, Tim Bertschy <tbertschy@peoriaparks.org>, Laurie Covington <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>, Joyce Harant <jharant@peoriaparks.org>, Alexander Sierra <asierra@peoriaparks.org>, Kyle Bright <kbright@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: OPPOSED TO DONOVAN PARK PAVILION PROPOSAL

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PEORIA PARK DISTRICT BOARD:

My wife Jill and I will repeat our continuing total opposition to any further building or parking lot development at. Preserve green space through out the city! There are enough other locations where a pavilion can be built and contribute to our community.

We do not want the noise and traffic created by events held at the pavilion.

Jill's father, John R. Canterbury, MD., always touted the fact that Peoria had many green spaces throughout the city which he felt was so important to community health. Dr. Canterbury was a former Peoria Park District Trustee and later Board President.

We are 4th generation Peorians.

Thank you,
Jill and John Wahlfeld

Sent from my iPad

From: Melanie Andrews <melanieandrews520@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 7:25 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Opposition to the Pavilion Proposal
Importance: Low

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To whom it may concern,

As a Peoria resident, living and working a few blocks from Donovan Park, I wanted to voice my opposition to the pavilion in the park proposal. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the public meeting on Nov 16th.

My family and I frequently visit the park to play, wander through the grass & trees, enjoy the open green space, visit the observatory, and eat at Cyd's. We've enjoyed getting outside to watch the native restoration progress and hunt for the sculptures there. I would really hate to see such a special place diminished by one group's special interest. Please leave the park a park.

There are plenty of commercial spaces around Peoria needing some love & a face lift that could benefit from this group's funding. We have a limited amount of green space that is open for everyone to enjoy. I do not want the noise or light pollution from an event space like this in the neighborhood. I encourage the park district board to keep this pavilion out of our city's parks.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melanie Andrews

From: Jessica McKean <jessica.lynn.bailey@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 8:27 PM

To: Tim Bertschy <tbertschy@peoriaparks.org>; Robert Johnson <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>; Laurie Covington <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>; Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Donovan Pavilion plan

Importance: Low

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Hello Park District Board Members,

My name is Jessica McKean, I live at 6024 North Knoxville Ave. My husband and I are in full support of the Donovan Pavilion project. I live directly across from Keller Station and a short walk to Donovan Park. That park is plenty big for an entertainment center. We need new and fun things in this town to attract young people. There is still plenty of park space there, plus many many other park spaces throughout Peoria.

I am unable to attend the board meeting Wednesday and no one has asked us our opinions on using the space that is so close to our home. We are 100% on board with this project and hope that it moves forward.

Thanks,
JESSICA MCKEAN

From: James Mattingly <jamattin7514@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 2:42 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Proposed Pavilion
Importance: Low

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I live in the Hawthorne Hills subdivision, and am opposed to the proposed Pavilion at Donovan. The noise waiving up the natural valley of the park will make enjoying my yard during the warm months intolerable and will necessitate closing my windows and patio door in order to obtain a semblance of quiet.

It's being touted that the noise won't be at unacceptable levels. I live a mile from the old Monarch Entertainment facility. Even in the cold months with the windows closed, the noise of the percussion instruments travelled through the walls of my house.

The noise from Exposition Gardens travels throughout this area and during certain events it can be near impossible to hold a civil conversation outside without raising your voice.

I'm having a difficult time understanding how my tax dollars are going to be spent on something the area doesn't want or need. Could this money not be better spent refurbishing the band shell at Glen Oak Park, where the facility already exist?

A better question would be why hasn't the pavilion been proposed at the now closed Detweiller Golf Course or at the bottom of Detweiller Park?

I'm of the opinion the closing of Donovan Golf Course years ago, was planned to lead and encourage the public to embrace the construction of this pavilion. People living in this area do not want the pavilion located at Donovan Park.

Sincerely,

James Mattingly

From: Pamela Marshall <jpemarshall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 3:05 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Vote NO for the PAV in the Park project
Importance: Low

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Hello. My name is Pamela Marshall. I live in the Northmoor Hills neighborhood, at 5621 N Sherwood Avenue here in Peoria, along with my husband and our three children. We moved to Peoria from Decatur in 2014. I am writing to once again ask the Board of Trustees to vote NO on the Pavilion in the Park project at Donovan Park.

Yes, Donovan Park is the closest Peoria Park District Park to our house, and therefore I admit to having a very vested interest in what happens there, but it is more than just that. I simply don't believe that it is a wise decision for our park district and our community as a whole.

Is there truly the demand for another performing arts venue in the Greater Peoria area? There are already a plethora of indoor and outdoor venues of all sizes all across the city and the outlying communities as well as several restoration projects downtown that are ongoing with historical buildings where people already go to listen to live music, theater, or other performing arts. Just a few examples: Expo Gardens (just down the road from Donovan Park) and the Peoria Players Theatre (isn't all that far from Donovan Park either); Betty Jayne Brimmer Center for the Performing Arts and Tower Park (Peoria Heights); Peoria Civic Center, the Scottish Rite, the Riverfront Stage (Downtown Peoria); Three Sisters Park (Chillicothe); Five Points (Washington); Louisville Slugger Complex (Dunlap), etc. Additionally, there are churches all across the area that host their own concerts, speakers, and events (indoors and outdoors) as well as smaller venues like restaurants and bars/pubs including Cyd's in the Park which hosts live bands and Kellar Station which holds Drive in Movie Night that are right there at Donovan Park already!

In addition, let's not forget that the Peoria Park District has already committed to revitalizing the Bandshell and Amphitheater at Glen Oak Park as part of the revitalization and reimagination of Glen Oak Park project and the upcoming multi million dollar renovation of the historic Peoria Stadium that is a collaboration of the Peoria Park District and the Peoria Public Schools. I personally believe both of these EXISTING venues would provide excellent alternatives to the proposed location at Donovan Park to explore the potential public private partnership possibilities with the Pavilion in the Park project or others, to improve the facilities for the overall benefit of the community. Another existing venue that could also be explored as a possible partnership opportunity is the area of Laura Bradley Park that is used for Cornstalk Theater. Each of these EXISTING locations within the Peoria Park District could be improved and utilized more fully without destroying nearly 20 acres of green space and creating a new venue that would compete with performing arts venues all across the area, many of which are already struggling to sell enough tickets to remain financially sound.

I hope you will understand that I do not see this as simply a NIMBY issue. Yes, from our house we can already hear the loud activities at the Expo Gardens and Richwoods High School. I know others in our neighborhood can also hear Peoria Notre Dame's activities but that isn't the point, because I personally

want to see more activities and opportunities in Donovan Park. It is our neighborhood park as well as a unique park within the city that is enjoyed by many for various reasons due to its focus on nature; easy access and proximity from the bike path/Rock Island Trail, the Unity Point and OSF medical facilities; Kellar Station, and Junction City; it is home of the observatory; provides opportunities for cross-country skiing in the winter; is a nice place to walk and run or throw around a frisbee, football, play catch, or fly a kite; you can stop by and grab something to eat at Cyd's; etc. It has also been used for cross-country and other organized running events that frequently bring in people from outside of the community, which is always a wonderful thing.

If you look at the Peoria Park District map you will notice that there are far fewer parks with playgrounds and amenities for children in this part of town -- Donovan does NOT have a playground; the "playground" next to the Lakeview Recreation Center is not a traditional playground and is not fun for small children; the playground at Bike Safety Town is great only for very young children, etc. After the closing of the Lakeview Pool there has been no access to park district aquatics of any kind, etc. Our family would absolutely love to see a master development plan for Donovan Park include an inclusive playground, restrooms, and pavilion as well as a splash pad, perhaps even an outdoor ice skating rink in the winter. I'm definitely not opposed to large organized group activities, including live performances, being held at Donovan Park.

HOWEVER, allowing the Pavilion in the Park group to permanently destroy nearly 20 acres of green space in Donovan Park is not the answer to bringing more opportunities to our community and I do not believe it is a wise investment for the park district. If the PAV in the Park group truly wants to invest in Peoria there are other EXISTING Peoria Park District facilities in which they could surely seek to become an active partner in improving so that it can be more fully and efficiently utilized.

Please VOTE NO to the PAV in the Park at Donovan Park. Thank you for your time and for your service and dedication to the Park District and our community.

Pamela Marshall
Peoria, IL
217-433-6585

From: Therese Brink <therese.brink@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Pavilion

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Dear Park Trustees:

A music venue is a bad idea at Donovan for so many reasons.

Here are a few:

1. The park is small, and any green space removed by this project will be missed by the people who use the park.
2. Having parking on the grass pavers is not a great idea. Underground animals would be displaced and leaking cars would pollute the ground.
3. More lights would not be a great idea for the observatory.
4. What happens if this venue fails? PPD is stuck with an empty pavilion. Peoria already has other music venues.
5. The pavilion would create noise in the area. I am not sure the neighborhoods surrounding the area would appreciate the additional noise. They already have to deal with Expo.
6. Who is this project really benefiting? Most of the people using the pavilion would almost come from upper middle/class to upper class. This project would benefit a minority of people and destroy the green space that users of Donovan currently enjoy. Once that green space is gone, well it is gone.
7. Most importantly, let's keep Donovan as green as possible for the flora and fauna that need all the green space they can get.

Sincerely,

Therese Brink

From: S K <sallykennedy55@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 11:50 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: proposed venue in Donovan Park

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Please do not allow this park to be torn up and commercialized. There are many venues in town already to have events, weddings, etc. that are not used to full capacity. This is a beautiful, natural park and is very special. I walk my dog there and train service dogs and take them there for walks and training. I see so many people there enjoying the park for its beauty. There are children and families there, we meet other dogs and dog owners. There are individual musicians who sit on a blanket and play a guitar. People are riding their bikes and getting exercise. You constantly hear how much they love the park.

People often find little positive to say about Peoria and stand behind things here, but people are standing behind this park in its natural state. People love this park. There is nature and wildlife that live in this park. People who live in the area don't want commercial development. People have been on Facebook stating they do not want it developed. There are so few beautiful, clean well maintained green spaces that people love in Peoria. There are music venues downtown, in the Heights, East Peoria, a new music use small development at the Friendly Valley. Three Sisters Park nearby has events and music. Glen Oak Ampitheater could be refurbished. I strongly feel this is not to serve the needs and the wants of the people, but to enrich the developers. People have spoken loudly that they do not want this. A Park District should be for Parks. Please do not let this beautiful area be paved with concrete, the loud buzz of building construction and the further reduction of land for animals and wildlife. Thank you for your time.

Sarah Kennedy
929 W Deerbrook Dr
Peoria, IL 61615
309-360-9941

From: Jennifer Donarski <micski22@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 11:11 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Keep the green space
Importance: Low

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This space should continue to be a green space. No more light pollution, concrete, or increased parking. This area should have wild places for all animals and insects to thrive. You are representing a park district....please continue to do so. Not everything is about money or business. I just found out about this tonight. I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow. Please, vote for what is right. Jen Donarski

From: David Commanday <dcommanday@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:29 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Cc: Sara Connor James <hercscj@me.com>
Subject: In Support of the Pavilion in the Park
Importance: Low

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To the Trustees of the Peoria Park District:

As a citizen of Peoria City and County, I am writing to express my support for the proposed Pavilion in Donovan Park. This support is based on the cultural, economic, and civic benefits that would flow from the facility.

Here are my reasons:

The Pavilion would create a resource for both cultural and civic events that would be unique within our region. Currently there is no venue within a radius of 200 miles that combines the feel of an open air event with protection from the elements. Such a venue would offer a space that would add to, rather than compete with, standard indoor performance spaces already in use. In addition, the architectural design is promising of an acoustic that could support natural as well as amplified sound - serving both the classical and popular arts.

The plans as presented are respectful of the city, the neighborhood, the park, and the environment. The site chosen is located in the least-used and least-attractive corner of Donovan Park, and the Pavilion would be oriented in a direction that minimizes event sounds' impact on homes and businesses. The plans include consideration of existing infrastructure, and are mindful of groundwater management.

Donovan Park is located near the center of an expanded Peoria that includes North Peoria, Dunlap, and Peoria Heights. It is ten minutes from downtown, and located on public transit lines.

We as Peorians can be proud of the vast green space resources managed by the Peoria Park District, that surpass most cities in acreage per resident. As a taxpayer I am aware that such resources carry a cost of maintenance - so the prospect of generating revenue towards paying those costs from the imaginative and respectful use of a small number of acres is attractive. We need the parks, we need to keep and protect them, and I am in favor of dedicating these acres, nestled near Knoxville and a hospital, to help pay for Park District maintenance otherwise paid for only by taxes.

The Pavilion in the Park would benefit both local and Greater Peoria, in ways demonstrated by the success of venues such as Ravinia, Tanglewood, Aspen, Brevard, Saratoga, Red Rocks, and Hollywood Bowl.

Please give this visionary proposal the consideration and support that it merits.

Thank you,

David Commanday

From: Doug and Theresa Skibba <dtaskibba@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:27 PM

To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Pavilion

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I support the pavilion in Donovan park!

From: Joyce Blumenshine <joblumen@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 10:23 PM

To: Robert Johnson <rjohnson@peoriaparks.org>; Jackie Petty <jpetty@peoriaparks.org>; Tim Bertschy <tbertschy@peoriaparks.org>; Kyle Bright <kbright@peoriaparks.org>; Laurie Covington <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>; Joyce Harant <jharant@peoriaparks.org>; Alexander Sierra <asierra@peoriaparks.org>

Cc: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Comment Letter from Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club Regarding Concerns for Donovan Park

Importance: Low

Dear President Johnson and Peoria Park Board Trustees,

Copied below and attached on the Heart of Illinois Group Letterhead, is a comment regarding the Wednesday, November 16th, meeting regarding any potential Pavilion in the Park proposal.

Thank you,
Bob Jorgensen, Chair
Joyce Blumenshine, Co-Conservation Chair

- - -

November 15, 2022

To President Robert Johnson and Peoria Park Board Trustees,

Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club urges the Park Board to continue your strong stand to protect and preserve public open space and the environmental values of Donovan Park.

Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club will pay close attention to what the Pavilion in the Park people present at your upcoming meeting. We are very skeptical that anything the Pavilion Group would suggest is in keeping with our group's interests in seeing Donovan Park as a notable area arboretum and passive open space as the best interests for the future of the park.

Public green space in our view is not for the purposes of development. It is for the special purpose of protecting and preserving natural settings so that people for generations to come will have areas to be with nature and away from the development that has taken over so much of the Peoria area.

There are many options for outdoor event venues in the Peoria area. Our concerns include if any section of Donovan Park is sacrificed for development, what public park area will be next? Cyd's in the park is a re-use and re-purposing of an existing building, which is far different than allocating public land to a private entity for development.

We urge the Park Board to stand firm on protecting open green space and the environment.

Sincerely,

Bob Jorgensen, Chairman and Joyce Blumenshine, Co-Conservation Chair

From: sean0775 <sj.cassidy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:50 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Say 'No' to Pavillion in the Park

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There are empty buildings all over this city that could be used for a music venue. The river has flooded in recent memory, and green space is vital so water has somewhere to drain. Don't let a generational millionaire destroy a park just because she can.

Sean Cassidy

From: Karen Stewart <boundbrooker@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 9:18 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Donovan Park Development
Importance: Low

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I am 100% against the proposed project at Donovan Park. It isn't needed and there are already several outdoor performance venues that would benefit from the money as upgrades.

Please do not approve this project.

Karen Stewart
11230 North Oakwood Drive, Peoria, IL 61615.

From: David Tomsovic <dmtomsovic@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 6:38 PM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: No PAV in the Park
Importance: Low

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I urge you to vote down this proposal.

There are several venues in the area that will be competing for acts- Scottish Rite, Riverfront Park, Glen Oak Amphitheater, Betty Jane Bremer, Louisville Slugger, Madison Theater undergoing renovations.

This area is home to many native plants & trees. Seems silly to take away so much green space in the near center of the city for more brick & mortar when there are empty buildings all over the city.

The single access point & parking would not be conducive to any offering other than a park (or golf course, but that ship has sailed). Not to mention the adjacent neighborhoods having to deal with the additional traffic along with noise & light pollution.

If it is such a wonderful idea, why the need to piggy back onto tax payer supported land? Or why not put it out in Cassidy Park?

Regards
David

From: ShaVaughn Halihan <shevyhalihan@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:32 AM

To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Donovan Park music venue

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Hello!

I am reaching out because many have heard about how the park is going to be replaced by a new music venue in Peoria. We completely disagree with this decision, and the community would be at a huge loss. Donovan Park is used daily for walks and adventure with our friends and pets, it is gorgeous there. Replacing the park with a boring venue is going to infuriate the public, and already has on social media. Please rethink this decision, we do not need to waste money on a space that is already well taken advantage of.

From: Rachel Emmett <2193945@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Donovan Park <donovanpark@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Music venue-No
Importance: Low

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Please consider the existing music venues that have been successful and those that have failed recently. Please also consider the liability of these places versus the much needed green space and places for nature to exist. Please say no to the music venue. This park is much more important than another unnecessary music venue.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Rachel Emmett <2193945@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:52 AM
To: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Donovan Development

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Vote no! We just spent taxpayer money to bail out the civic center. Why would we destroy a very utilized and loved green space to have another failing music venue that would directly compete with the one we just saved?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Scott Loftus <sloftus@peoriaparks.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:58 AM
To: Emily Cahill <ecahill@peoriaparks.org>; Alicia Woodworth <awoodworth@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: FW: Donovan Development

I don't know who this is or how they got my email but thought I would share since you are collecting comments.

-----Original Message-----

From: Rachel Emmett <2193945@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 10:53 AM
To: Scott Loftus <sloftus@peoriaparks.org>
Subject: Donovan Development

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Vote no! We just spent taxpayer money to bail out the civic center. Why would we destroy a very utilized and loved green space to have another failing music venue that would directly compete with the one we just saved?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Emily Arnold <emiarnold@dunlapstudents.net>

Date: November 16, 2022 at 12:55:55 PM CST

To: rjohnsoon@peoriaparks.org, Jackie Petty <jpetty@peoriaparks.org>, Tim Bertschy <tbertschy@peoriaparks.org>, Kyle Bright <kbright@peoriaparks.org>, Laurie Covington <lcovington@peoriaparks.org>, Joyce Harant <jharant@peoriaparks.org>, Alexander Sierra <asierra@peoriaparks.org>

Subject: Vote "no" on the Proposed Pavilion Concert and Parking Space

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Peoria Park District Board,

I am writing as a citizen of Peoria, a supporter of the Donovan Park's green space, a hiker and skier, and a cross-country runner. **I am writing to urge you to vote "no" on the proposed pavilion concert and parking space.**

In my opinion, this project will negatively impact a vibrant part of our city.

- + jeopardize the park's recent accreditation as a Level 1 Arboretum
- + destroy walking, cross-country running, and cross-country skiing trails
- + negatively affect area traffic
- + close proximity to residential neighborhoods, hospital, and elder care facilities
- + damage to the park and the wildlife
- + bring added light and noise pollution
- + remove the Northmoor Observatory
- + will have a negative impact on existing publicly supported music venues

On top of all of these reasons, the developers of Pavilion in the Park intend to pay the Peoria Park District a fraction of their projected financial benefits. There is no reason to allow self-focused developers to continue to run our city and dictate the type of community we hope to create for all citizens.

Please protect the greater good and reject this proposal. Protect our green spaces and continue to be an organization that contributes to our community in healthy and vibrant ways.

Sincerely,
Emily Maclver Arnold