

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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 Streeter, Attorney Kevin Day, Rebecca Fredrickson, Nick Conrad, Kyle Deeter, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, David Gray, Chief Todd Green, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Mary Harden, Willie Howe, Sammy Issa, Scott Loftus, Jonelle McCloud, Mike Miller (v), Karrie Ross (v), Doug Silberer (v), Nicole Staley (v), Yvonne Strode, Jenny Swanson, Greg Walker, Sue Wheeler (v), and Alicia Woodworth.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Robert Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. MINUTES**

**4.A. Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2022 Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Bertschy stated that at the 9.28.22 Strategy Ad hoc Committee meeting, he had made a comment at the 8.24.22 Strategy Ad Hoc meeting, that he did not want the fact that he voted to inquire further about an item to appear that just because he may vote to inquire further, it does not mean he is in support of it. Trustee Bertschy stated that when he made that comment, Vice President Petty had commented that she agreed with him. The 8.24.22 minutes did not reflect Vice President Petty's comment. Trustee Bertschy requested the 8.24.22 minutes be amended to include Vice President Petty's comments. Upon review of the recording and notes taken of the 8.24.22 meeting, Vice President Petty's comments were not found, as they must have been made possibly in a different meeting or space. Therefore, the minutes were not amended.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of September 28, 2022. Vice President Petty noted that the 9.28.22 minutes reflect Mike Friberg addressing the Board however, the minutes do not reflect that he was present. In addition, Trustee Bertschy requested paragraph 12. *Other Business* to be reworded in order to more clearly convey his statement.

Trustee Sierra amended his MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes of September 18, 2022 on condition the minutes be amended to reflect Vice President Petty's and Trustee Bertschy's requested changes. Motion seconded by Trustee Bright and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**5.A. Executive Director**

Emily Cahill reminded everyone that Howl-Zoo-Ween starts tomorrow at Peoria Zoo and encouraged everyone to attend. In addition, she hopes everyone will enjoy next week’s Lakeview Park After Dark drive thru event on October 21 and 22.

In order for the Board to get to know the Park District’s staff better, the District will introduce new full-time members to the Board. Today, Matt Sexton is introduced. He is the new RiverPlex Recreation and Special Events Coordinator.

**5.B. Superintendent of Recreation Services**

Scott Loftus presented highlights of this summer’s ICJIA grant programming and presented the final Summer of Fun totals for 2022. There was a total of 12,657 admissions this summer as compared to 3,030 last summer. The breakdown is as follows:

2021 vs. 2022 Comparisons:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Gwynn Family Aquatic Center	0	5690
Owens Center	45	404
Peoria PlayHouse	724	2798
Golf Learning Center	39	236
<u>Peoria Zoo</u>	<u>2222</u>	<u>3529</u>
Total Admissions:	3030	12,657

The Summer of Fun passes offered free admission to Owens Center, Golf Learning Center, Gwynn Family Aquatic Center, Peoria Zoo and Peoria PlayHouse, providing free, safe and positive programming. Over 15,000 passes were distributed to schools and other agencies located in the targeted zip codes of 61603 and 61605. Also, was Dream squared, an after-school program at Proctor Center that engages kids in drama, recreation, education, arts, music and mindfulness. There were 175 total registrations, far surpassing the goal of 80 participants. Community events like Frosty’s Giveaways, Cut-a-Thon, Easter Egg Hunt, and Sunset Skates strengthened the District’s impact by bringing multiple departments together for collaboration such as Streets Belong to Me. In addition, there were a total of 21 internships working in several departments throughout the District in areas of marketing, Proctor Center, Owens Center, Luthy, Athletics, Information Technology, and Human Resources.

Key staff that will be working on the next grant cycle are: David Gray, Recruitment and Professional Development Manager, Jonelle McCloud, Proctor Center General Manager, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Supervisor of Community Connections, and Kyle Deeter, Grant Manager.

President Johnson also congratulated Jonelle McCloud for her induction into the University of Illinois’ Sports Hall of Fame.

Trustee Sierra asked if routine updates on the internship program could be provided to the Programming Committee, of which he is Chair. Emily Cahill stated yes, and currently, those updates are given to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Trustee Sierra also requested the PowerPoint slides of tonight’s ICJIA grant Summer of Fun report. Trustee Sierra asked what is the ICJIA funds allocation toward Northern Valley residents and youth. Scott Loftus stated the programs

at the PlayHouse and Peoria Zoo, Glen Oak Park's Happy Feet Soccer program and the District intentionally partners with organizations that can provide programming at Glen Oak and Morton Square Parks. Emily Cahill stated that this summer, Jonelle McCloud lead the effort to provide transportation for youths to the summer programming at Proctor's summer camp. This has proven to be an incredible resource for students attending camp.

Scott Loftus stated that the ICJIA grant cycle runs July 1 to June 30. The District just completed the first quarter of the second year of the grant where those statistics will be presented next week to the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee.

#### **5.C. Superintendent of Planning, Design and Construction**

Becky Fredrickson presented the September 2022 Project Report. *Please see Attachment A.* Of note is the RiverPlex therapy pool. Due to unforeseen conditions causing peeling paint, the pool has been drained for repairs. The contractor was very apologetic and will repair the problem. The pool was drained this past Monday so that repairs may begin the next day and once completed, the District will work with the contractor concerning any liquidated damages caused.

#### **5.D. Chief of Police**

Chief Todd Green presented the September 2022 Police Activity Report. *Please see Attachment B.* Trustee Bertschy requested another column be added to the monthly report that would give more detailed information concerning the violations/crime reports/ordinance violations. Chief Green introduced new Peoria Park District Police Officer Sammy Issa. Trustee Sierra had a question in relation to the October 3rd Peoria Police-involved shooting at MLK Park, asking if there were other opportunities in making parks safer. He was thinking of the recent piloted relationship between Peoria Public School officers and the City of Peoria Police Department. Trustee Sierra asked Chief Green if in his opinion, is it worth exploring some sort of relationship like Peoria Public Schools has with the Peoria Police Department in relation to truancy? Chief Green stated he believes that is a worthy venture and not a new concept. Emily Cahill stated that collaboration already exists between Park District Police and Peoria Police School Resource Officers (SRO) in a way that is part of District programming. The Gwynn Family Aquatic Center for example, this summer, using SROs who are out of school to help with those security experiences had a major impact. The District saw a marked improvement in behavior issues there at Gwynn because of the SROs. Students knew them already from school and that level of familiarity helped immensely in keeping those behavior issues to a minimum. Trustee Sierra stated he is aware of the impact SROs have but he's interested in how can we make the parks safer, even safer than the positive outcomes that we've been seeing this summer. Trustee Sierra asked if Chief Green thinks there is potential opportunity, with a consideration of collaborating with its overnight portion from the city and Peoria Public Schools, is there a potential outcome to increase patrol around our parks and green spaces on third shift? Chief Green stated its already being patrolled by the city when PPD police go off duty. For many years, there has been an agreement and partnership with the city and county to patrol our parks.

President Johnson stated he shares Trustee Sierra's concerns and asked if Chief Green was open to new ideas or being creative as he understood Chief Green as saying that's how its always been done and that's how it'll continue to be done. Chief Green stated yes, of course he is open to new ideas and being creative. He is an innovator and brought innovation with him when arriving at PPD and continues to have that spirit. He is open to anything that would help reduce crime. Emily Cahill noted that what Chief Green was referencing was the mutual aid agreement between city, county and Park District police that has existed for decades, and not the structure of Chief Green's patrols.

All police officers support each other in the spaces where they have jurisdiction. Chief Green has been making changes in his role and doing an outstanding job.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**6.A. Programming Committee - Minutes of 8.8.22 Meeting**

Trustee and Programming Committee Chair Alexander Sierra presented the approved minutes of the August 8, 2022 Programming Committee. The Programming Committee is a restructure of the former Recreational Advisory Committee. One of the goals of this committee is to eventually have community members part of the committee. Emily Cahill stated that the target for the moment is to get the structure of the committee finalized and formalized and as different topics are reviewed, different community members would be included.

**6.B. Finance Committee - Minutes of 8.24.22 and 9.14.22 Meetings**

Trustee and Finance Committee Chair Timothy Bertschy presented the approved minutes of the August 24, 2022 and September 14, 2022 Finance Committee meeting minutes. He stated the committee was presented with a letter from the city asking for the District's acquiescence to extending a TIF program for the downtown baseball stadium. The question was posed about how much money it would cost the District and it was determined it would cost approximately \$30,000 per year. Trustee Bertschy asked if a refusal by public organizations to allow for the extension would end professional minor league baseball in Peoria. Emily Cahill stated that there is a Joint Review Board meeting scheduled where they will ask each of the public bodies to vote yes or no on the extension of the TIF. As such, staff does need some guidance and consensus so staff is directed to participate in those Joint Review Board meetings. Trustee Bertschy stated that this topic is germane to this meeting because it was stated in the minutes presented tonight.

Trustee Bertschy MADE A MOTION to direct staff to participate in the Joint Review Board meeting and indicate the District's willingness to extend the TIF time period. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Trustee Bertschy stated that the minutes presented tonight reflect a long discussion concerning the necessary increases in fees and charges for next year. He would be happy to discuss this with anyone on the Board offline if they so choose.

**6.C. Planning Committee - Minutes of 9.6.22 Meeting**

Trustee and Planning Committee Chair Joyce Harant presented the approved minutes of the September 6, 2022 Planning Committee meeting minutes. Trustee Bertschy congratulated Trustee Harant for the outstanding work on the Springdale Cemetery savanna and stated when the new arrangement was approved, the Park District was to get a deed to the savanna parcel. Has that deed been prepared and does the District now have it? Emily Cahill stated that at this point, the survey has been completed with the documents and survey sitting with legal at the City of Peoria. Once it has passed their review, it will come to the District to work through the next step. Since this has been a rather slow process, the District is working in parallel and begin the conversation about a management and maintenance agreement with the cemetery at the same time. Trustee Bertschy asked what was the status of the Owens Center collaboration inquiry. Emily Cahill stated that a letter has been sent to them and the District is awaiting their response.

**6.D. Golf Advisory Committee - Minutes of 9.12.22 Meeting**

Vice President and Golf Advisory Committee Chair Jackie Petty presented the approved minutes of the September 12, 2022 Golf Advisory Committee meeting.

President Johnson asked Vice President Petty what is being done to attract young golfers and bringing golf back to the inner-city youth as he recalls in the past, the District offered the Hook a Kid on Golf program. Greg Walker stated that currently, Hook a Kid on Golf is not offered nationally. There is First Tee of Chicago and the MOPGA, but the actual national program Hook a Kid on Golf has not been currently offered nationally for about 4 years now. In January, February and the first part of March, the District goes into all of the local middle and high schools and teach golf in P.E. classes and after school.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**8. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**8.A. Request for Use - ShaZam DC Championships - Newman Golf Course**

**8.B. Request for Use - Screaming Pumpkin Marathon - Glen Oak Park**

**8.C. Proposal – CDL Driver Training Program Services**

**8.D. Quote – Equipment Trailer for Small Parks**

President Johnson and Vice President Petty requested item 8.C. be pulled for discussion. President Johnson asked for more information on what the CDL driver training program is. Matt Freeman stated that on February 7, 2022 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration established new minimum training standards for people applying for a Class A or Class B CDL. The new standard is called “Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT)”. According to the new standards, each CDL applicant must pass a driver training classroom course and specific behind the wheel driving skills training. The proposal from J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc. allows for a designated Park staff member to be trained on the new requirements and effectively be able to train new or existing staff in order for them to obtain a Class A or B CDL. Training materials, evaluation forms, and continuous support by J.J. Keller is included in the program. The program has a cost of \$600 per month for the initial 24 months and \$300 per month thereafter if a renewal is opted. Travel costs are additional at the actual costs but capped at \$3,000.00. Staff recommends the acceptance of the proposal for the driver training program agreement with J.J. Keller & Associates, Inc. of Nennah, WI for an initial twenty-four-month contract at a cost of \$14,400.00 plus travel expenses.

Trustee Bertschy stated that the last sentence of the agreement’s indemnification clause states *“With regard to these specific tasks or functions, and any others not contemplated under this Agreement, Client agrees to hold J. J. Keller harmless against any and all losses, claims, damages, and liabilities under any statute or at common law or otherwise.”* Why is the Park District agreeing to indemnify J. J. Keller for anything that occurs to them or otherwise? Attorney Streeter stated he was not asked to review this and it does seem rather broad to him.

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

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO DEFER Calendar of Consent Item 8.C. until the October 26, 2022 Regular Board meeting in order to give counsel an opportunity to review the indemnification clause. Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**9. PENDING BUSINESS**

President Johnson asked what is the status of the land issue and where are we at on this situation, asking Attorney Kevin Day to please explain it. Attorney Day stated that a complaint has been filed however, this is pending litigation and therefore, cannot be discussed in an open meeting at this time.

**10. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None at this time.

**11. COMMUNICATIONS**

The 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter AmazonSmile donation to the Peoria Park District Foundation totaled \$105.48.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Harant stated that she drafted an IMPLEMENTATION GUIDING POLICY:

For the Commitment to Environmental Sustainability Policy, Category #1- Protection of the Biosphere. She believes it is important to determine as an organization, a park district, how to best protect its natural assets and be intentional in how it is classified. She would like input from staff and Trustees according to the ratings in the document. She would like to have discussions about this and get a revised draft to be discussed at the October 26 meeting. Emily Cahill stated that staff received this document this afternoon and would like to evaluate it before further discussion.

Trustee Sierra stated that he requested Emily Cahill to try to work very intentionally with the Peoria Grown organization to obtain documents and have on the Board's desk by the next Board meeting.

Trustee Bertschy stated the Board received an email from Emily Cahill today in which he did not understand one aspect of it concerning the executive staff working retreat. There was a sentence stating "We will be off-site to allow us to focus our conversation and efforts, but there will be no travel/food/lodging costs assigned to the District for the time." Trustee Bertschy stated that if you're doing our business and you have food or coffee, why do you have to pay for that? Emily Cahill stated there were some concerns raised about that and it is something she will cover the cost of so staff is able to focus on the strategies and the goal setting that she wants to facilitate. She wanted to be clear that District resources were not being used inappropriately in that meeting. Trustee Bertschy stated that speaking for himself, if she's conducting clearly legitimate business of meeting with staff for purposes of an executive team meeting, reasonable expenses should be borne by the District and not Emily. The Board concurred this expense should not be Emily's.

Trustee Harant asked if scooters could be considered to be available for use by patrons of the Peoria Zoo. In addition, if consideration could be made to install benches throughout the walking path at the Peoria Zoo.

**13. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

1. Trustee Sierra requests the ICJIA PowerPoint presentation given tonight be emailed to him.
2. Item 8.C. Proposal – CDL Driver Training Program Services – The indemnification clause in the vendor’s agreement *“With regard to these specific tasks or functions, and any others not contemplated under this Agreement, Client agrees to hold J. J. Keller harmless against any and all losses, claims, damages, and liabilities under any statute or at common law or otherwise.”* Ask vendor to strike *“and any others not contemplated under this Agreement”*. Staff will ask vendor for different language or rationale for the current. This item will then be placed on the October 26, 2022 Regular Board meeting agenda.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:36 p.m. Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Petty and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Kyle Bright, Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Jackie Petty and President Robert Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

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

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