

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT 6:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA IL.**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill, Steve Montez, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Laurie Covington, and President Robert Johnson.

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Attorney Bill Streeeter, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Chief Todd Green, Scott Loftus, Christina Mitchell, Brittany Moldenhauer, Karrie Ross, Doug Silberer (v), Nyk Sutter-Downs (v), Sue Wheeler (v), and Alicia Woodworth.

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tracey McDaneld from Wolf Carbon Solutions, Greg Webb from Archer Daniels Midland, Daurice Coaster of the Southside Community United for Change, Lan Richard of the Eco-Justice Collaborative, Joyce Blumenshine of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, and several community members in support of the resolution to a moratorium on the CO2 pipeline.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY**

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

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

**5. MINUTES**

**5.A. Approval of Minutes of May 24, 2023 Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the May 24, 2023 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

**6.A. Executive Director**

Emily Cahill started her report by sharing a short video of Park-a-Palooza held last weekend. She thanked the Board for their support of the event and she thanked staff for all their hard work making this event successful. Park-a-Palooza was an amazing effort on everyone's part with many staff members volunteering to work the event with many working well into the night. She has received much feedback from community members who expressed how much they enjoyed the event. Trustees expressed their gratitude to staff for coordinating and executing such an incredible event, with Trustee Sierra stating that the event was transformational and showed how impactful the Peoria Park District really is to the community. Emily Cahill stated that Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth believes in and

invests in the Park District, and Emily believes Representative Gordon-Booth is very proud of the event.

**6.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction**

Becky Fredrickson presented the May 2023 Project Report and stated that currently, there are no projects behind schedule. *Please see Attachment A.* There are no projects currently behind schedule.

**6.C. Chief of Police**

Chief Todd Green presented the May 2023 Police Activity Report. *Please see Attachment B.* Vice President Covington stated that she was told there were 6 car break-ins recently at the Rock Island Trail parking lot in Alta. Chief Green stated he did not have information on that but will look into it and will inform the Board if it is anything significant. Trustee Bertschy stated that he noticed there was a report for cannabis possession/consumption. What are the rules for cannabis on park property? Chief Green stated that it is prohibited in all park properties. Even though in the State of Illinois it is legal to purchase, cannabis is not allowed on park property.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**7.A. Planning Committee – Minutes of May 9, 2023 Meeting**

Trustee and Chair of the Planning Committee Harant presented to the Board for their review the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Planning Committee meeting.

**7.B. Planning Committee Action Item: Donovan Master Plan**

Trustee Harant stated that at its last meeting, the Planning Committee reviewed the Donovan Park Master Plan. That final document is presented tonight for Board approval.

Trustee Bertschy stated that for several reasons, he believes at some point, the Board should consider changing the name of Donovan Park. He then asked why Donovan Park has to have a very specific, detailed plan? There are not similar plans for other large parks like Donovan. Why not be proactive and talk about specific plans the District should have for other parks? Trustee Harant stated that when it transitioned from a golf course to a park, as a park, Donovan Park was in its infancy. Post COVID, it became clearer what the public wanted in that park. Donovan Park falls in the category and guidelines of “special use” as outlined in the Implementation and Guiding Principles. As such, Donovan Park needed more specificity and “special use” is more defined in this Master Plan. Other parks may not fall into the “special use” category and would not need a Master Plan to better define it. Trustee Bertschy stated that the Board would not be having this discussion if it weren’t for a proposal for use at Donovan Park last year. Why not be proactive rather than reactive when things like that may come to the Board in the future? If there is a need for Donovan Park to have a Master Plan, there may be a need for a Master Plan at other parks as well. The Board should review what other parks should have a special Master Plan. Trustee Montez stated he agreed, and there is already an Implementation and Guiding Principles to apply to the other parks that provides the guiderails.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Donovan Master Plan. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant,

Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.A. Policy Revision – 11.00 Peoria Park District Committees**

Emily Cahill stated that as part of the strategic planning process undertaken by the Board of Trustees in Winter/Spring 2022, Trustees developed committee charters that established the goals and focus of all standing committees in the District. At the time, it was agreed that no policy change would be implemented until the committee structure had been in operation for one year. After reaching this milestone, staff has worked to incorporate the language in the charters into our existing policy manual in the relevant sections focused on committee work. Staff has also updated the sections that address Open Meetings Act and Electronic Attendance to reflect changes in state law. This policy revision was presented at the May 24, 2023 Regular Board meeting for review and is presented tonight for approval.

Trustee Sierra stated that before approving this, he would like the line “Ultimately, this committee will no longer be needed” removed from the proposed policy revision.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Policy Revision to 11.00 Peoria Park District Committees with the understanding that the sentence “Ultimately, this committee will no longer be needed” will be struck from the policy. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.B. Policy Revision – Order of Business**

Emily Cahill Stated that during his tenure, President Johnson has added a moment of silence to the beginning of all regular board meetings. He has asked that this be added to the Order of Business section of the Policy Manual under Section II. Rules of the Board. While that change is offered, staff also has updated the language in point .11 to include the Action Steps items that has become a standing item as well. This policy revision was presented at the May 24, 2023 Regular Board meeting for review and is presented tonight for approval.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Policy Revision to Order of Business. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.C. Resolution Authorizing Purchase of Vehicles Via Spot Market**

Karrie Ross stated that the COVID 19 pandemic and subsequent supply chain disruption have caused a low supply of available vehicles. The Park District is no longer able to obtain vehicles through group government and/or state contracts, for at least for the following reasons: (1) many of the government contracts for fleet vehicle purchasing have now expired or have no availability; (2) given customer market demand, dealers are not interested in government contracts, because they can easily move vehicle inventory in the consumer market at higher price points; and (3) manufacturers are not interested in prioritizing the manufacturing of commercial fleet make/model/trim vehicles, because they

are prioritizing catching up supply chain to match consumer demand. Despite these difficulties, Park District staff have attempted to obtain vehicles through these channels, but have experienced order cancellations and extreme lead times (approaching one year). Park District staff have approached dealers directly about bidding, but the dealers have stated that they are not interested in selling inventory via the bid process. Park District staff recently solicited bids for seven vehicles, consisting of four different models of vehicles, in accordance with the Park District Code. Despite requesting bids via advertisement and direct contact with 16 dealers, only one bid for only of the vehicles was received, and that bid offered a vehicle that did not meet the bid specifications for the vehicle. Agencies of the State of Illinois have experienced similar difficulties procuring vehicles, and have resorted to implementing the emergency procurement procedures of the Illinois Procurement Code. Section 8-1(c) of the Park District Code provides an exception to the competitive bidding requirement if the subject contract, by its nature, is not adapted to award by competitive bidding. Illinois caselaw has stated that it is within the District's discretion to determine when seeking bids would not be appropriate. Section 8-1(c) of the Park District Code provides a further exception to the competitive bidding requirements for emergency expenditures when the emergency expenditure is approved by three quarters of the members of the Board.

The Park District is now in urgent need of vehicles, and further delay will severely impact its ability to maintain its operations. Staff is requesting approval of this resolution for the following: The Board of Trustees finds the foregoing recitals as facts and incorporates them herein, the Park District staff is authorized to purchase the vehicles listed on Exhibit A via the spot market, using good business judgment to take advantage of the availability and price, not to exceed the amounts listed on Exhibit A, and that the Park District staff is authorized and directed to take such further action as may be necessary and prudent to effectuate this Resolution.

Trustee Bertschy asked how long this would last, and would staff be open to stating that this resolution would be in effect for four years and then it would be reviewed at that time? Attorney Streeter stated that so long as the conditions still exist, that give rise to these extraordinary difficulties in trying to bid these vehicles, is how long it would last. There is also a limit on the number of vehicles which would limit how long it would last, in the proposed resolution. When a purchase request would come to the Board, he would request that Karrie Ross reiterate the difficulties that staff is having that justifies not using the bid process each time.

Trustee Bertschy stated that the proposed resolution states "Section 8-1(c) of the Park District Code provides a further exception to the competitive to the competitive bidding requirement if the subject contract, by its nature, is not adapted to award by competitive bidding; and "Illinois caselaw has stated that it is within the District's discretion to determine when seeking bids would not be appropriate" and "Section 8-1(c) of the Park District Code provides a further exception to the competitive bidding requirements for emergency expenditures when the emergency expenditure is approved by three quarters of the members of the Board". All three of those paragraphs speak about a particular condition that exists today. It may not exist three or four years from now. Why wouldn't the resolution have a time limit of 3-4 years? Karrie Ross stated that the resolution does

have a limit of vehicles and with the backlog of needed vehicles, their acquisition could go on through next year. Attorney Streeter stated that including in the resolution a timeframe of 3-4 years, does not create a problem. Trustee Bertschy stated that he would prefer to have a three-year limit included in the resolution.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Vehicles Via Spot Market with a not to exceed three-year time period. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.D. Approval of the Purchase of the Real Property at 8003 Galena Road – Ratification of Phone Poll Dated 6.1.23**

Emily Cahill stated that on June 1, 2023, the Peoria Park District Secretary to the Board conducted a phone poll vote of the Board of Trustees related to the purchase of property located at 8003 Galena Road as part of a grant award received from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The board was asked to approve the purchase price for the property as part of negotiations with the seller. The Board’s vote was as follows: 5 – Aye 1 - Abstain 1 – No Response. The board is asked to ratify this vote so that it may become a part of the public record.

Vice President Covington MOVED TO APPROVE the Approval of the Purchase of the Real Property at 8003 Galena Road – Ratification of Phone Poll Dated 6.1.23. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy - Abstain, Harant - Aye, Hill - Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Vice President Covington - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 1 Abstain; 6 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.E. Change Order – RiverPlex Locker Room**

Becky Fredrickson stated that during demolition of the men’s locker room renovation project at the RiverPlex, metal studs in the shower area were found to be significantly rusted and many completely rusted away at the bottom. This work will provide additional metal studs for the new tile walls in the shower areas. The contractor will do the work on a time and material basis with a not to exceed amount. Staff recommends approving Change Order #3 with AFE Construction with a Not to Exceed amount of \$12,000.00 for the metal stud replacement in the men’s locker room shower area.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Change Order – RiverPlex Locker Room. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**8.F. High-Pressure Carbon Dioxide Pipelines**

Representing the Southside Community United for Change, Daurice Coaster presented to the Board information in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Greg Webb of Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), presented information concerning ADM's collaboration with Wolf Carbon Solutions in constructing a high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Tracey McDanel of Wolf Carbon Solutions, presented information concerning their collaboration with ADM in constructing a high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline. *Please see Attachment C.*

Representing the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, Joyce Blumenshine presented the Board information in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline. *Please see Attachment D.*

Representing the Eco-Justice Collaborative, Lan Richard presented the Board information in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline. *Please see Attachment E.*

Warith Muhammed of the Don't Start Initiative expressed to the Board his opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Peoria resident Carrie Ulms expressed to the Board her opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Tracy Fox, Peoria resident and of the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance expressed to the Board her opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Anthony Walraven, Peoria resident and President of AFSCME Local 3464, expressed to the Board his opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Peoria resident Kathy McNeil, expressed to the Board her opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Peoria resident Nick Firmand, expressed to the Board his opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Bob Jorgenson of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, expressed to the Board his opinion in support of the resolution for a moratorium on the high-pressure carbon dioxide pipeline.

Trustee Bertschy asked Tracey McDanel where the pipe will run. She clarified that the route Wolf is proposing is a half mile corridor on either side of a center line on the map. Currently, what is shown publicly, is a lateral coming off of the trunk line. Wolf is not filing for that lateral with this particular application. That is to come possibly at a later time. The line that is going through Peoria does not touch any Park District locations.

Trustee Bertschy stated that many of the people that spoke tonight stated that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), is in the process of adopting

regulations that would apply to this pipeline. Tracey McDaneld stated that PHMSA is in the process of enhancing and strengthening some existing rules that are currently in place. Wolf (the pipeline) will not be grandfathered into any PHMSA rules. PHMSA is the regulatory body that Wolf has to comply with. Trustee Bertschy asked why not wait until PHMSA gets these regulations in place so that everybody knows the facts and can make objections or not based upon the facts in place, as opposed to what may someday may be in place? Tracey McDaneld stated that as she had mentioned earlier, Wolf is in communication with PHMSA and Wolf believes they understand what they're going to enhance. The pipeline will be spec'd to those enhancements.

Trustee Bertschy asked how is he, as a public official, supposed to evaluate all this? He is without a doubt, in favor of the moratorium. How is he to understand what he's voting on and understand what the playing field is for the protection of the public and the environment without knowing exactly PHMSA may or may not do and whether it is going to protect people? Tracey McDaneld stated there are things that she would offer. The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will open a docket when Wolf files the application. Anyone can have access to and view the docket. People will be able to submit comments, objections, letters of support, etc. That docket provides for a hearing at the end of a specific period of time. The ICC will review that submitted information and have conversations with Wolf about it. All of that information will also be part of that docket so anyone can access and view it at any time. Any individual can view and submit information to the docket, including being a party to the docket or filing to intervene, without an attorney, and can all be done online. In addition, PHMSA has an open docket on the rulemaking, where public comments can be filed, and file to be a part of that notification as they work through that rulemaking.

Trustee Bertschy thanked Joyce Blumenshine of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club for mentioning the Joint Commission on Racial Justice and Equity Report (JCRJE) report earlier. He feels the findings were very important, especially in respect to this matter. He stated that many people believe this CO2 pipeline is wonderful because it gets carbon out of the air and not have it continually be pumped into the air. Some people say that the answer to that is to stop using fossil fuels, however, that is not happening for the near future. As such, how does he respond to the argument that this pipeline is an alternative and will help pull carbon from the air? What are the alternatives other than a pipeline of this nature? Joyce Blumenshine stated that there are alternatives. The view of the Sierra Club is that carbon capture will be needed for some things. Those some things are industries like steel and cement that require extremely high heat, and currently, we're not at the point yet where there are alternative energies to supply them. But in the case of ethanol, to capture carbon, they should not be continuing using coal, gas, natural gas, methane, etc. because they cause climate problems. The Sierra Club sees the pipeline project as greenwashing. The pollution, carbon-based, petroleum, and other fuel industries want to continue using and this is a way they can do it. It is heartbreaking at best that not only the ethanol industries have fallen into this, but because there is now a lot of federal money, companies are hurrying to take advantage of those funds. What we need now in this country and for all of us, is to embrace clear solutions that will not delay our transition to a clean energy future. Nationally, Illinois is a leader in its state regulations for the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act. Benchmarks exist, and if this continues with CO2 capture, plants will continue

burning gas or coal. The carbon that is captured is not enough to really help us get to the future we need and the pipeline is a wrong direction to take.

Lan Richards of the Eco-Justice Collaborative stated that we are in a predicament with climate change. One thing that is concerning is that carbon capture and sequestration is being implemented primarily by the oil and gas industry. The parent company of Wolf Carbon Solutions is a midstream oil company. The vast majority, 70-80% of the CO2 that's captured today is used for enhanced oil recovery, which takes more carbon out and burning more oil. Also, a comment was made that ethanol is a significant contributor to our carbon emissions. It is a miniscule contributor as compared to other industries. We should be putting our emphasis in renewable energy, conservation, regenerative agriculture, and bio sequestration. Carbon sequestration gives companies the idea to continue burning fossil fuels and just put it into the ground.

Emily Cahill stated that all email comments that were received as part of the Park Possible website page, have been sent to the Board.

Trustee Harant read the resolution as follows: That the Peoria Park District Board of Trustees hereby institutes a moratorium on any considerations, agreements, or requests for high-pressure liquified carbon dioxide pipelines within its properties or that place its properties in danger and to table any requests regarding road, construction, or other agreements or permits, infrastructure changes, or other measures for any high-pressure liquified carbon-dioxide pipelines, until updated regulations are effective by the U.S. Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regarding high-pressure CO2 pipelines. Further, the Board of Trustees encourages other local municipalities to institute such a moratorium and the Board of Trustees also seeks to confer and coordinate its evaluation in connection and in collaboration with other local municipalities and government leaders affected by or responsible for legislation that guides any proposed CO2 pipeline construction.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Resolution for a Moratorium for High-Pressure Carbon Dioxide Pipelines. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

**9. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS**

None at this time.

**10. PENDING BUSINESS**

None at this time.

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

Maureen Hallengren representing the Italian American Society of Peoria, addressed the Board in regards to the Park District selling the Christopher Columbus statue. The Italian American Society of Peoria is not in favor of selling the statue. She stated the Italian American Society, over the last 100 years, has donated money to renovate the statue and they feel that they have an investment in the statue. Also, it is a valuable piece of art. She stated the statue is owned by the City of Peoria

and questions whether the Park District has a legal right to sell it and Councilman Chuck Grayeb supports their position.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Bertschy stated that several meetings ago, the Talent Management and Engagement Committee approved a code of conduct to submit to the Board and he would like that to be put on the next Board meeting agenda for review by the Board. The rules for committees and how they operate says when a committee passes something it is to appear on the Board agenda. As such, he asks President Johnson that it be put on the next Board meeting agenda. President Johnson agreed and directed the Board Secretary to do so.

Trustee Bertschy stated that he would like the Board to talk about the names of some of the District's parks. He believes too many of the parks are named after white male former Board members of the Park District. He would like to start with Donovan Park's name. When he's visiting Donovan Park, it summons up memories of the indigenous population that used to inhabit this community. He thinks it would be wonderful to rename the park with a name that respects that character. He makes it clear that this is not a reflection on any former member of the Park District Board nor is it a reflection in any way, of disrespect for the people who put in so much time and effort on the Board. He thinks that our society today recognizes things such as the respect that goes with the name of a public institution. As such, he would like the Board to look into it and see what might be done in that regard. President Johnson requested staff to provide some background information on Leo Donovan and that discussion of this issue should start in the Planning Committee at its next meeting, then to the Board.

Trustee Sierra stated that with the passing of the Resolution for a Moratorium for High-Pressure Carbon Dioxide Pipelines, this Board has made a commitment to do its due diligence and work intentionally with other stakeholders and government entities to collect further information. He wants to make sure that that's understood. This resolution is not a stance in opposition or support of the pipeline. It is in support of a moratorium and collect more information when federal guidelines are passed.

Trustee Sierra stated that accessible programming at Park-a-Palooza was discussed in the last Programming Committee meeting. In response to a comment made on the Facebook Live streaming of this meeting, as was discussed in the Programming Committee, he and staff fully acknowledge how the District has continued to make tremendous strides, in comparison to any other government body, when it comes to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility. Staff worked extremely hard and intentionally to ensure that Park-a-Palooza was as accessible that could be offered and evaluation of opportunities continues for growth in the District's accessible programming. Staff had reported how intentional efforts with visitors and participants in Park-a-Palooza to help make the bouncy house accessible, and assisting a patron in a wheelchair into the bouncy house so they could enjoy it. There were intentional efforts made and acknowledge that there are areas for growth as well.

**14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

1. Place the Board Code of Conduct, as previously approved by the TME Committee, on the June 28, 2023 Board meeting agenda.
2. Compile a history of Leo Donovan and the rationale for naming Donovan Park after him and provide that information to the Planning Committee for review of naming that park as well as a review of the naming policy further naming.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:20 pm Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Harant, Hill, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Covington, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://fb.watch/lo6Dfmn0H2/>

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