

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 3:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice President and Chair Laurie Covington, Trustee and Vice Chair Reagan Leslie Hill (in at 3:31 pm), and Executive Director Emily Cahill

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill (in at 3:31 pm), Steve Montez, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Laurie Covington, and President Robert Johnson (in at 3:15 pm)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Becky Fredrickson (left at 4:12 pm), Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Mary Harden, Jacob Kuban, Kristi Shoemaker, and Alicia Woodworth

**OTHERS PRESENT:** C. J. Summers of 1202 N. Institute Place, Peoria

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Covington called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. MOTION TO PERMIT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY**

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

**4. MINUTES**

**4.A. Approval of June 6, 2023 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

Executive Director Cahill moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2023. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.A. OSLAD Grant Application - Markwoodlands Improvements**

Becky Fredrickson stated that staff is preparing an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for the re-development of recreational amenities in Markwoodlands Park. As a requirement of the grant process, a Resolution of Authorization must be signed by the applicant's chief elected official. The grant application proposes improvements to the existing football field and baseball fields, installation of a new playground and shelter, and the installation of accessible paths to the new and existing elements. Staff recommends approving the attached Resolution of Authorization (Form OS/DOC-3) for the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program in order to apply for a grant for the re-development of Markwoodlands Park.

Executive Director Cahill moved to recommend to the full Board, approval of this OSLAD grant application for Markwoodlands Improvements. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.B. Land Request – Village of Norwood**

Becky Fredrickson stated that The Peoria Park District acquired 3 parcels in Norwood in 1965 with the assistance of Forest Park Foundation. In 1990 the Peoria Park District entered into a 50-year agreement with the Village of Norwood concerning the management of one of the parcels that is used as a park for the Village. It is approximately 6.5 acres in size. In 2020 an extension on the agreement was approved by the Park Board and the Village of Norwood for an additional 20 years. This agreement will expire in 2060. However, recently the Village has inquired about the possibility of taking ownership of the parcel. This will allow them to apply for grants for improvements.

Executive Director Cahill moved to recommend to the full Board, approval of this land request from the Village of Norwood. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.C. Bradley Park Artwork Request**

Executive Director Cahill stated that a request was received by the Uplands Residential Association for placement of a statue in Upper Bradley Park. Per policy, this request is being presented to the Planning Committee for review and recommendation for action by the full Board of Trustees.

Trustee Hill recognized that the Uplands Residential Association's proposal stipulates that the Park District would pay for a new statue, as it is a replacement of one that was there, and precedes the District's current policy that states the District would not pay for a statue. Emily Cahill stated that the policy does allow for an exception, with appropriate justification that the Board feels comfortable with.

Mike Friberg commented that the original deed, a copy of which was provided to the committee, signed by Lydia Bradley in 1895, reiterates that the park was to be named Laura Bradley Park, but there was no requirement of artwork or a statue be placed in the park.

Trustee Montez stated that instead of paying for artwork in that space, maybe something that could be done is restore the area where flowers, benches and paths could be added where people would gather. It wouldn't necessarily be a replacement of a statue, but would be something that the District does in other spaces. The space could be restored similarly to how it was before the statue was originally placed there.

A discussion took place concerning possible acceptable alternatives to a statue being placed in the space. Emily Cahill stated that if the Committee and ultimately, the Board, is interested in exploring an alternative option for the space, the process would be to

apply the current request to the policy then voting accordingly. The options in that voting process could be “yes, but ...” or “no, but...” and include the recommended considerations in that vote.

Trustee Hill made a motion to recommend to the full Board denial of this request as submitted by the Uplands Residential Association but would recommend further consideration to explore alternative solutions to encourage place making in the designated spot formerly occupied by the statue. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.D. Theodore Roosevelt Statue Proposal**

Emily Cahill stated that a request was submitted by a representative of the KDB Group to donate a 3D bronze statue of Theodore Roosevelt on horseback with the American flag, that is 18feet in total height and was created by Lonnie Eugene Stewart. They would like the statue be located at Grandview Drive and Glen Avenue and the group would pay for its placement on a marble mound. A compilation of the pros and cons of Theodore Roosevelt’s history was provided by staff.

Trustee Hill stated that the policy states: “generally, the District will not accept proposals for addition of artwork/statues that represent or seek to honor specific individuals, past or present.” As such, Trustee Hill made a motion to recommend to the full Board denial of this proposal. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.E. Memorial Bench Request**

Matt Freeman stated that staff received a request from Natalia Schradle to place a memorial bench at Forest Park Nature Center in memory of her father, Nelson E. Teichmann. Staff worked with the Teichmann family to identify several bench opportunities throughout the District but due to the sentimental relationship the family has with Forest Park Nature Center, they wish to do a bench at that location. The bench will also include a standardized plaque, with language agreed upon by the District and family. As such, staff recommends approval of this request. Staff will ensure the bench and plaque matches the Memorial and Tribute guidelines. All expenses will be incurred by the Teichmann family.

Executive Director Cahill made a motion to recommend to the full Board approval of this memorial bench request at Forest Park Nature Center. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.F. Donovan Park Naming Discussion**

Executive Director Cahill made a motion to defer this item to the next Planning Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Vice President Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**6. PENDING BUSINESS**

None noted at this time.

**6.A. Springdale Savanna Update**

Executive Director Cahill stated that she is pleased to state that after a very long time coming, the savanna operating agreement has been approved by the Park District Board and is now on the agenda of the Springdale Cemetery Authority Board meeting for their approval. This is the last step remaining piece for the official transfer to the Park District.

**6.B. African American Hall of Fame Museum Update**

Executive Director Cahill stated that a term sheet has been submitted to the African American Hall of Fame Museum to move from Proctor Recreational Center to the Noble Center. There will be no dollars exchanged for a lease agreement and the goal is to bring that lease agreement to the Board for approval at the first meeting in October.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

President Johnson stated that he needs the Park District's help in developing anti-violence initiatives in Peoria. Any suggestions and comments are welcome.

**8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

1. Take the following items to the full Board for vote: OSLAD Grant Application – Markwoodlands Improvements, Land Request – Village of Norwood, Bradley Park Artwork Request, and Theodore Roosevelt Statue Proposal.
2. Per Trustee Harant's request, add the Environmental Sustainability strategic planning to the next agenda for discussion.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

At 4:42 pm, Trustee Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

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