

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill, Alexander Sierra, Ron Silver, Mark Slover, Vice President Steve Montez, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Willie Howe, Mike Friberg, Tammy Johnson, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Peoria Police Sergeant Stevie Hughes

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. CALL FOR MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No requests were received to attend electronically.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING 2026 COMBINED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Vice President Montez MOVED TO CONVENE a public hearing for the budget appropriations ordinance. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

President Johnson declared the public hearing in session at 6:47 p.m. and opened the floor for public comment regarding the proposed 2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. No public comment either written or oral was received.

Trustee Hill MOVED TO ADJOURN the public hearing and reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

6. MINUTES

6.A. Approval of Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried and unanimously on roll call vote.

7. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill provided updates on several District initiatives:

- Reported strong early attendance and positive community feedback at the Golf Learning Center and encouraged trustees to attend the upcoming ribbon cutting scheduled for April 9.
- Noted continued progress on strategic planning efforts, capital improvement planning, and future 2026 priorities, with additional updates to be presented at future meetings.
- Recognized staff members Matt Freeman and Becky Frederickson on their birthdays.

Executive Director Cahill also provided an update regarding the Hengst Foundation riverfront project:

- Staff have participated in recent meetings with the Peoria Civic Center Authority and project engineers to review plans and provide operational feedback.
- The District has been asked to begin considering an operational plan for the space; however, staff indicated that too many unknown variables currently exist.
- Key concerns include:
 - Lack of clarity on the scope of construction versus operational responsibilities
 - Unknown elements regarding infrastructure, equipment, and rental needs
 - Financial feasibility and long-term operational impacts
- Staff emphasized the need for a detailed project budget and scope clarification before meaningful operational planning can occur.
- Discussions are ongoing with City representatives, and staff anticipate additional in-person meetings to review plans in detail.
- It was noted that updates to the operational agreement for the riverfront may be necessary due to the evolving scope of the project.
- Staff will return to the Board with recommendations once sufficient information is available.

Trustees expressed concern regarding the planning timeline and emphasized the importance of ensuring the Park District's operational expertise is fully incorporated before project decisions are finalized.

Additional highlights from trustees included:

- Recognition of the successful Black History Month program at Proctor Center, noted as the largest turnout to date, with strong community partnerships.
- Appreciation for public engagement efforts at the Peoria Grown initiative.
- Discussion regarding future public engagement opportunities for potential improvements at MLK Park, with staff confirming public input will be incorporated into the planning process.

8.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction

Becky Fredrickson provided the monthly report. No additional questions or discussion occurred.

8.C. Chief of Police

Lieutenant Hughes presented the February Police Report:

- 7 criminal reports
- 4 non-criminal reports
- 1 crash
- 7 citations issued, including:
 - 2 related to Cannabis Control Act violations
 - 2 parking citations

Discussion highlights included:

- Clarification that summary reports include a stamp, while official reports are maintained digitally within a controlled system.
- Explanation of cannabis-related enforcement:
 - Cannabis must remain in its original packaging
 - Public consumption is prohibited in parks under state law
 - Odor alone is not sufficient for probable cause; additional indicators are required

No further questions were raised.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.A. Planning Committee – Permanent Easement in Robinson Park on Mossville Road

Trustee Harant, on behalf of the Planning Committee, reported that the committee was favorably inclined toward the easement request.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the permanent easement in Robinson Park on Mossville Road. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.B. Planning Committee – Approved Minutes of January 14, 2026 Meeting

Trustee Harant presented for receive and file. No discussion followed.

9.C. Diversity Equity Inclusion & Accessibility Committee – Approved Minutes of January 20, 2026 Meeting

Trustee Hill presented for receive and file. No discussion followed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. Presentation and Adoption of 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance

Attorney Day gave an overview of the purpose for the budget and appropriations ordinance. The District must take certain steps by state law before it can levy taxes. During the first quarter of each fiscal year the Park Board is required under the Illinois Park District Code to approve a combined budget and appropriation ordinance. By state law, this ordinance must be passed and filed with the county clerk. The combined annual budget and appropriation ordinance appropriates the monies that are necessary to cover projected expenses and liabilities the District may incur in its current budget year. This ordinance has been available for public inspection for 30 days and up until tonight's public hearing. Proper notice of the hearing has been published in the local newspaper. The budget included in the ordinance, which is nearly 50 pages in length, contains estimated maximum amounts that could conceivably be spent during the fiscal year, if sufficient funds were available, a statement of cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year, a statement of estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the year, and estimated revenues anticipated to be received by the District during the fiscal year from all sources. The ordinance sets upper limits on both revenues and expenditures that could occur in the fiscal year if sufficient funds were available. The estimated budget figures have been provided by Superintendent Ross and her staff. I have reviewed the document, and it has also been reviewed by Executive Director Cahill. Secretary Woodworth has prepared the final document for presentation. This document is similar to prior years.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO WAIVE the reading of the ordinance and adopt the 2026 Budget and Appropriation Ordinance as presented. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

TOTAL ESTIMATED FUND EXPENDITURES SUMMARY:

FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE AUDIT FUND OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$73,809.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING INTEREST AND RETIRING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,358,725.

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FOR FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY INSURANCE PROGRAM PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,657,000

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FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,260,882.

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FOR ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$801,378.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE DISTRICT'S SHARE OF EXPENSES PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF JOINT RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR THE HANDICAPPED UNDER THE JOINT PROGRAM AGREEMENT OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND ARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,512,095.

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FOR LIABILITY PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,037,043.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE PLANNING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING OF THE MUNICIPAL RECREATION PROGRAM WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,450,567.

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FOR MUSEUM PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,519,694.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING, MAINTAINING, PAVING AND LIGHTING STREETS AND ROADWAYS OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$658,604.

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FOR PARK POLICE FORCE PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,032,120.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND OPERATION OF RECREATION CENTERS AND PLANNING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS BY THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,645,605.

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FOR THE PURPOSE OF NEW PROJECTS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR TO BE PAID FROM THE TAX LEVIED BY AUTHORITY OF THE REFERENDA OF THE ELECTORS OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,614,251.

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FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PURPOSES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$621,208.

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TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES SUMMARY:

ESTIMATE OF CASH ON HAND AT BEGINNING OF FISCAL YEAR IS EXPECTED TO BE \$44,705,643.

ESTIMATE OF THE EXPECTED CASH TO BE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR FROM ALL SOURCES IS \$52,871,300

ESTIMATE OF EXPENDITURES CONTEMPLATED FOR THE YEAR IS \$96,242,981.

ESTIMATE OF CASH EXPECTED TO BE ON HAND AT THE END OF THE YEAR IS \$23,473,397.

ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF TAXES TO BE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR IS \$22,139,435.

Trustee Silver MOVED TO ADOPT the 2026 Budget and Appropriations Ordinance. Motion Seconded by Trustee Slover and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Hill, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Montez, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays)

10.B. Policy Changes Based on Union Contracts

Staff presented policy updates for Board approval:

- Funeral and Bereavement Policy
- Sick Leave Policy
- Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Parental Leave Policy was removed from consideration and will return to Strategic Committee for further revisions before future Board action.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Policy Changes Based on Union Contracts. Seconded by Trustee Silver. Motion carried unanimously on roll call vote.

10.C. Rental Policy Public Demonstrations

This item was presented as a first reading only and will return for Board action at a future meeting. Staff presented proposed updates to the rental policy addressing public demonstrations.

Key points:

- Policy is designed to ensure compliance with constitutional protections related to free speech.
- Attorney Day explained:
 - Requirements such as insurance or fees could be interpreted as prior restraint.
 - The policy establishes a framework to balance operational needs with constitutional rights.

10.D. Appointment of Judges Panel for Rhodell Owens Group Service and Landen Memorial Volunteer Awards

President Johnson appointed **Trustees Silver and Slover** to serve on the judges panel.

- Staff will distribute nomination materials following the submission deadline.
- Board Secretary Woodworth will coordinate the review process and next steps.
- Awards are anticipated to be presented at an April Board meeting.
Background context was provided regarding:
 - Rhodell Owens' legacy as a former Executive Director and community leader
 - Landen's contributions to marketing and communications for the District

10.E. Post-Travel Report for President Johnson Attending the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago, IL January 29-31, 2026

President Johnson's travel report for the IAPD/IPRA Conference (January 29–31, 2026) was presented. Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the post-travel report. Motion seconded and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

11. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

None at this time.

12. PENDING BUSINESS

None.

13. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.A. Approval to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal or Specific Employees of the Public Body.

At 7:14 PM Trustee Sierra moved to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) The Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal or Specific Employees of the Public Body. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 9:06 PM President Johnson reconvened the Regular Board meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:08 PM Trustee Hill MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Sierra and carried unanimously on voice vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtHP5qZ0QsA>

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary