

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 12:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026 AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustee and Chair Alexander Sierra, Trustee and Vice Chair Joyce Harant, and Executive Director Emily Cahill

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra, Mark Slover, and President Robert Johnson (in at 12:22 PM)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, Nick Conrad, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Kevin Davis, and Alicia Woodworth

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Sierra called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Trustee and Chair Alexander Sierra, Trustee and Vice Chair Joyce Harant, and Executive Director Emily Cahill

Members Absent: None

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

No requests were made for electronic attendance.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2026 and FEBRUARY 24, 2026 PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Committee reviewed the February 3, 2026 and February 24, 2026 Programming Committee meeting minutes.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on a unanimous aye of members present.

**5. WORK SESSION DISCUSSION**

**5.A. Scholarship Discussion**

The Committee engaged in discussion regarding the Park District's scholarship program, with emphasis on accessibility, consistency, and long-term sustainability.

Discussion included:

- Current eligibility criteria and application process
- Demand trends and funding limitations
- Balancing equitable access with fiscal responsibility
- Opportunities to increase awareness and utilization

Trustee Sierra emphasized the importance of maintaining equitable access to District programming while ensuring clear, consistent guidelines.

Staff will continue evaluation of the scholarship program and return with potential recommendations for Committee consideration.

**5.B. 2026 Programming Committee Plan**

Staff presented the proposed 2026 Programming Committee framework, outlining the two-part engagement model consisting of:

1. Monthly Talk About It Tuesday public input sessions
2. A corresponding Committee Strategy & Action Cycle focused on evaluation and prioritization of feedback

Discussion included:

- Clarification of the Committee’s governance role versus operational responsibilities
- Establishment of a consistent meeting structure and workflow
- Integration of public input into strategic planning and budgeting processes
- Development of measurable outcomes and tracking mechanisms

The Committee expressed support for the structured model and the emphasis on aligning public engagement with actionable outcomes.

**5.C. Review of Public Input: Summer Camp Talk About it Tuesday**

Staff provided a summary of key themes from the Summer Camp Talk About It Tuesday session. Highlights included:

- Strong overall satisfaction with camp staff and programming quality
- Continued demand for expanded capacity and program offerings
- Concerns regarding cost, deposit structure, and scheduling flexibility
- Capacity limitations at high-demand sites

The Committee acknowledged the value of structured public engagement and emphasized the importance of incorporating feedback into planning and operational review processes.

**5.D. Review of Public Input: Pickleball & Tennis (Talk About it Tuesday – March 3, 2026)**

The Committee reviewed and evaluated public input gathered during the March 3, 2026 Talk About It Tuesday session, consistent with the Programming Committee’s 2026 engagement and strategy model.

Overview of Public Engagement Session

The Talk About It Tuesday session was structured to gather patron input regarding:

- Participation trends and usage patterns
- Strengths and challenges within current offerings
- Opportunities for improvement and future investment

Staff compiled qualitative feedback and survey responses and organized input into key themes for Committee review.

## Evaluation Framework

Staff presented feedback using established evaluation criteria, including:

- Frequency of comment (recurring vs. isolated feedback)
- Impact on patron experience
- Alignment with District mission, strategic priorities, and policy
- Operational and financial feasibility

The Committee utilized this framework to guide discussion, prioritization, and categorization of identified needs and opportunities.

## Summary of Key Themes

### 1. Participation & Demand

- Continued and significant growth in pickleball participation
- High demand for court access, particularly during peak hours
- Consistent use of both indoor and outdoor facilities

### 2. Strengths Identified

- Quality and availability of existing courts
- Strong community engagement among users
- Positive perception of programming and open play opportunities

### 3. Challenges Identified

- Limited court availability during high-demand periods
- Conflicts between lessons, leagues, and open play
- Maintenance-related concerns including surface conditions and lighting
- Need for clearer expectations and rules governing court use

### 4. Suggested Improvements

- Expansion of pickleball court inventory
- Installation of lighting at outdoor facilities
- Addition of amenities such as shade structures, seating, and water access
- Improved scheduling and access management systems
- Consideration of safety enhancements and facility upgrades

Consistent with the Committee's established workflow, feedback and related initiatives were categorized as follows:

### Quick Wins / Operational Adjustments

- Tree trimming and routine maintenance
- Equipment additions (e.g., brooms, paddle racks)
- Adjustments to court access and shared use
- Clarification of rules and expectations for play

### Program Adjustments

- Scheduling modifications to balance open play, lessons, and leagues
- Evaluation of access policies during peak usage periods
- Capital Considerations

- Installation of lighting at Glen Oak courts
- Expansion of pickleball courts within the District system
- Addition of shade structures, seating, and gathering spaces
- Restroom improvements and water access enhancements
- Potential integration of pickleball facilities into broader planning efforts

Under Review / Not Yet Prioritized

- Emergency call systems
- Tournament-related policies and pricing considerations
- Long-term planning opportunities, including Riverfront Master Plan alignment

Staff provided updates on completed and in-progress items, as well as those under review

**Committee Discussion and Direction**

The Committee focused its discussion on:

- Prioritization of improvements based on impact and feasibility
- Alignment of potential investments with District-wide strategic goals
- Balancing growth in participation with available infrastructure and resources
- Identification of items requiring further evaluation or future budget consideration

The Committee emphasized its role in providing strategic guidance and prioritization, rather than directing day-to-day operational decisions.

Staff confirmed that all items are being tracked through the District’s project management system, with status designations including completed, in progress, under review, and unassigned. The Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in tracking community-identified priorities. The Committee further noted that items with budget implications will be carried forward for consideration during the September–October budget development cycle.

**6. PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

None noted.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:20 pm, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on a unanimous aye of members present.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary