

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, MARCH 26, 2025 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, David Gray, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorney Kevin Day, Attorney Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, Sue Wheeler, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

No request to attend the meeting electronically was received.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Montez requested an amendment to the March 12, 2025 meeting minutes, stating that while he requested to attend the meeting electronically, he did not vote to allow him to do so. The minutes state that Trustee Montez voted on this and as such, he requests the minutes be amended accordingly.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Amended (as requested by Trustee Montez) Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Bertschy and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill stated that included in tonight's agenda HISRA's January and February 2025 Impact Reports. These reports help to see the volume of wonderful things that HISRA is doing.

Executive Director Cahill stated that as a reminder, tomorrow at 10:30 am is the Moonlighting at PIA 10th anniversary press conference, and big thanks to everyone that attended last night's Moonlight graduation ceremony.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.A. Finance Committee/Board of the Whole – Approval of Accounts Payable

The Finance Committee/Board of the Whole Presents the Accounts Payable for Approval

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Finance Committee/Board of the Whole met and reviewed the accounts payable materials that are provided in the agenda and based upon that, the Finance Committee/Board of the Whole voted to approve payment of the accounts.

As such and as Chair of the Finance Committee/Board of the Whole, Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the accounts payable that were shown in the agenda materials. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

7.B. Finance Committee/Board of the Whole – Debt Policy Revision

Approval

Trustee Bertschy stated that at the last Finance Committee/Board of the Whole meeting, a long discussion was had concerning review and overhaul of the Debt Policy. This policy is part of an overall review of all the District's financial policies. At that meeting, all Board members attended and what is presented for approval, represents what was discussed and agreed upon by Trustees. This same policy revision was presented for first read at the last Regular Board meeting on March 12, 2025.

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. Policy Updates Related to 2025 Changes in State Law

Shalesse Pie stated that presented for first read, the following policy changes are provided in order to be in compliance with employment law changes that became effective January 1, 2025, staff is recommending the following changes to the Policy Manual:

- PART II, SECTION I, Subsection 12.00 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy,
- PART II, SECTION I, Subsection 22.00 Funeral/Bereavement Leave
- Part II, SECTION III, Subsection 38.00 Discriminatory Harassment Policy
- PART II, SECTION III, Subsection 4.00 Equal Opportunity
- PART II, SECTION III, Subsection 7.00 Official Records

These policy changes will then be presented at the April 9, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

8.B. Ratification of Phone Poll Dated March 13, 2025: Peoria Zoological Society Agreements

Trustee Montez stated that

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO RATIFY the Phone Poll Dated March 13, 2025: Peoria Zoological Society Agreements. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call

vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.C. Camp Wokanda Naming Sites

Kristi Shoemaker stated that Camp Wokanda was acquired from the W.D. Boyce Council of the Scouts B.S.A. in 1995. The camp was formed in 1937 and consists of tent sites, cabins, larger event spaces, hiking trails, a fishing pond, and natural areas. Currently, tent sites and cabins within the valley are named after Native American tribes. Many of these names originated in the 1960's; prior to that time several sites were named for cartoon characters.

To be consistent with the District's DEIA efforts and being proactive to be a welcoming and inclusive campground, staff recommend renaming some of the tent sites and the Valley cabins with a nature theme. Staff recommend renaming the Valley cabins with bird names and the tent sites with the names of trees to honor the camp's history as a place where scouts would learn tree identification.

Currently the Valley cabins are named: Blackfeet, Cherokee, Handicraft, and Iroquois. The Nature Lab is an additional "cabin back up" site within the Valley that would follow the recommended naming scheme.

As such, staff recommends the following:

Tent Camp Site Changes:

1. Apache to Hackberry
2. Delaware to Locust
3. Navajo to Buckeye
4. Lakeside – stays the same
5. Future Site – Maple
6. Algonquin to Sycamore
7. Pines – stays the same
8. Cedar – stays the same
9. Walnut Grove – stays the same
10. Ridge Adirondacks to Oak Shelters
11. Winnebago (Valley Adirondacks) to Hickory Shelters
12. Illini to Ironwood

Valley Cabin Changes:

1. Cardinal
2. Finch
3. Blue Jay
4. Chickadee
5. Nuthatch

In addition, staff also recommend changing the name of the O.A. Lodge to "the Lodge", and the Dining Hall to the "Event Hall". The 'O.A.' refers to the Order of the Arrow, a Scouting honor society and our site is not an official O.A. Lodge. The Dining Hall is primarily used as a wedding

venue and event space. Changing the name to “Event Hall” is a more user-friendly identifier for prospective clients.

Trustee Covington MOVED TO APPROVE the Recommended Name Changes to Camp Wokanda sites. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Nays).

8.D. Post-Travel Report for President Johnson Attending the 2025 IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago, IL January 22 - January 26, 2025

President Johnson stated that he issued a check for \$322 to the District, as reimbursement for per diem advance received.

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE President Johnson’s Post-Travel Report for Attending the 2025 IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.E. RiverPlex Membership Rates

Scott Loftus stated that during the 2025 budget presentation, staff noted that RiverPlex membership rates would be reviewed by both the Peoria Park District and Greater Peoria YMCA, with a possible rate increase recommendation for board approval. All other rates were approved as part of the 2025 budget process and the focus here, as shared during the budget presentation, is solely focused on membership rates. After evaluating membership trends and market rates, a rate increase is necessary to address rising operational costs and support ongoing facility improvements.

Membership rates have not been increased in several years, and in 2022, some membership types were reduced as part of the partnership with the Greater Peoria YMCA. Since then, RiverPlex has experienced steady growth in both membership and usage, which has positively impacted the community. However, rising expenses related to maintenance, staffing, and utilities have made it necessary to adjust the current financial structure to ensure the facility remains viable and able to continue providing high-quality services and programming to their members and visitors. The proposed rate adjustments align with those at similar facilities in the Peoria area. Additionally, the Park District continues to offer RiverPlex scholarships for those in need, ensuring access to the facility for everyone. The financial impact of these rate increases over the course of a year is estimated to be \$105,000. This additional revenue will help offset rising operational costs and ensure the facility can continue to operate effectively and efficiently, supporting its long-term sustainability.

As such, staff recommends approval of the proposed RiverPlex membership rate increases, effective May 1, 2025. Upon approval of these rates, staff will facilitate the distribution of membership communications notifying them of the upcoming change.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Proposed RiverPlex Membership Rate Increases, to be Effective May 1, 2025. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call

vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.F. Rental Lease Agreement – IDOT Parcel

Becky Fredrickson stated that as part of the lease and development agreement with the Kim Group, the Peoria Park District agreed to follow up on acquiring a 0.277 acre excess right of way parcel at the corner of Knoxville Avenue and Northmoor Road to secure permanent access into the former IDOT property, now Keller Station, off of Northmoor Road. Staff has been working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to acquire the parcel. In August of 2024 the Park District received a letter from IDOT offering to sell the parcel to the Park District for \$39,500. Staff reviewed this information with the Board. With the proposed asking price, staff believes it is better to continue leasing it until more discussions can take place with state legislators. The Peoria Park District has been leasing the parcel for ingress and egress purposes since 2020. There are no changes to the language in the agreement from 2024 to 2025 other than dates. As such, staff recommends approving the attached renewal Rental (Lease) Agreement between the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Peoria Park District for the 0.277-acre parcel of land at the corner of Knoxville Avenue and Northmoor Road adjacent to the IDOT property for \$200.00/year. This Lease runs from March 1, 2025, until February 28, 2026.

Trustee Covington MOVED TO APPROVE the IDOT Parcel Rental Lease Agreement. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

8.G. Reallocation of Bonded Funds

Becky Fredrickson stated that in the 2021 Bond Issue, two projects were requested for Proctor: Balcony/Railing Upgrade and Gym A/C Engineering. Both of these projects were paused due to outside factors and are anticipated to take place in the future for different reasons. Staff would like to use the funds set aside for these two projects on interior painting at Proctor in the immediate future. The other two projects will be funded in either a future bond issue or through other funding. As such, staff recommends re-allocating the funds in the following two bonded project accounts to be used for Proctor Interior Painting.

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

9. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

9.A. Ratification of Phone Poll Dated March 17, 2025: Golf Learning Center Change Order #16

9.B. Quote – Owens Mechanical Equipment Repairs

9.C Bid – Dingo Mini Skid Steer

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent items 9.A. – 9.C. Motion seconded by Trustee Covington and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

11. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

12. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

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 6:37 pm, Trustee Covington 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 Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Montez, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays)

At 8:05 pm President Johnson reconvened the Regular Board meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:07 pm Vice President Hill MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried by unanimous aye of those present.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYRnWmXi2Rg>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary