

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE/BOARD OF THE WHOLE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 4:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025 AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Covington (in at 4:39 pm), Joyce Harant, Alexander Sierra (in at 5:15 pm), Vice President Reagan Leslie Hill, and President Robert Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Montez

OTHERS PRESENT: Trustees-Elect Ron Silver and Mark Slover

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Kristi Shoemaker, Jenny Swanson, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Bertschy presided and called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. CALL FOR A MOTION TO PERMIT MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING REMOTELY

No request to attend the meeting remotely was received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of March 26, 2025 Finance Committee/Board of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the March 26, 2025, Finance Committee/Board of the Whole meeting. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. Review of Accounts Payable

The Finance Committee/Board of the Whole members present confirmed they had reviewed the current listing of accounts payable and bills and had no questions or comments.

Trustee Covington MOVED TO RECOMMEND the accounts payable and bills be presented to the full Board for approval and payment. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

5.B. Review of Monthly Financials

Karrie Ross stated that at the close of the first quarter, some District operations are winding down while others are ramping up. The RiverPlex and Owens Center are entering their slower seasons following a strong winter. RiverPlex ended the quarter \$207k ahead of prior year net performance, and Owens improved by \$47k. While some of this is due to

timing differences in revenue and expenses, both facilities are well positioned heading into seasonal transitions; Owens will undergo a full month preventative maintenance shutdown, and RiverPlex is recruiting a new General Manager as Sue Wheeler approaches retirement.

At the Zoo, the Glow Wild traveling exhibit drove significantly higher first-quarter activity, despite chilly and wet March weather. Although March financials don't yet reflect ticket revenue, due to the utilization of Glow Wild's point-of-sale system, they do show a \$54k year-over-year increase in ancillary revenue from concessions and merchandise.

Golf saw a slower February compared to 2024's unseasonably warm weather but rebounded in March. The division ended the quarter with net performance \$135k above prior year, providing a solid start to the season.

Overall, the District is off to a strong start in 2025 and is well-positioned to build on this momentum. A stretch of warm weather will be the final push needed to fully ignite seasonal revenue.

5.C. Review of Unaudited 2024 Financials

Karrie Ross stated that as discussed during the November 2024 budget process, the District's financial performance is typically influenced by five key factors, aside from significant changes in tax revenue. These factors are outlined below, along with brief commentary on their impact on the District's fiscal year 2024 performance. Provided are the unaudited financial statements for 2024. At the April Finance Committee meeting, management will provide additional context on the financial results, overall fiscal health of the District, and alignment with strategic priorities.

- Personnel – While the District was generally successful in filling recreation related positions in 2024, it faced significant challenges in hiring for budgeted roles in park maintenance. This issue was identified and addressed as part of the 2025 planning process. As a result of these hiring difficulties, personnel expenses came in below budget, with total savings of \$519K across all funds. Of that amount, \$451K was in the General Fund, which primarily supports park maintenance wages.
- Weather – Weather remains an uncontrollable yet impactful factor in the District's operations. In 2024, a cold snap in January and February benefited RiverPlex attendance, an unusually early spring gave the Golf Division a strong start to the season, and a mild, extended fall sustained high golf activity and supported successful RiverFront cultural festivals.
- Usage levels across facilities – Charges for services represent a significant portion of the District's overall budget, accounting for approximately 42% of budgeted operating fund revenue (about \$14MM). In 2024, Golf, RiverPlex, and RiverFront operations exceeded budget expectations, driven in part by favorable weather. Within the Recreation Fund, the athletics, Owens, and EIS units performed well, while the Zoo and PlayHouse faced challenges in meeting budget targets.
- Grant Revenue – 2024 was an active year for capital and program grants with over \$6MM of grant activity. The District's most material 2024 program grants included ICJIA (\$1MM), OSF Mission Grant (\$400k) and WIOA (\$183k).

- Capital Improvements – 2024 was a banner year of capital work, despite challenges hiring in key maintenance and planning personnel positions, the District cleared nearly \$6MM of bonded project work, and \$6MM of capital grant and designated reserve capital project work, all while forging ahead on planning for large transformational project, like Owens Recreation Center, Zoo capital campaign, and golf irrigation.

Management looks forward to finance committee discussion regarding the above items, how they relate to overall District financial health, and strategic priorities.

6. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No request was received.

8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.A. Approval to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) Concerning litigation, an action against, affecting or on behalf of the public organization has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public organization finds that an action is probable or imminent.

At 5:48 pm, Trustee Covington MOVED TO CONVENE into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(11) Concerning litigation, an action against, affecting or on behalf of the public organization has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public organization finds that an action is probable or imminent. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Bertschy, Covington, Harant, Sierra, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

At 6:03 pm, Trustee Bertschy reconvened the Finance Committee/Board of the Whole meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:05 pm, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on a unanimous aye of members present.

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary