

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, APRIL 23, 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, Alexander Sierra, Vice President Reagan Leslie Hill, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Steve Montez

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Mike Friberg, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorney Kevin Day, Attorney Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, Sue Wheeler, Mike Friberg, Steve Hausler, Melinda Huett, Nicole Staley, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:10 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 April 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra 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).

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill stated that Sue Wheeler will celebrate her retirement from the Park District next week and invited her to address the Board and let everyone thank her for all her many years of service at the RiverPlex.

6.B. Volunteer Coordinator Report

Melinda Huett presented the Volunteer Information Report for 2024. *Please see Attachment A.*

7. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 LANDEN MEMORIAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

President Johnson presented the Landen Memorial Volunteer Service Award to Karen Peterson, stating the following: As many of you know, in 1986 the Board of Trustees established the Landen Memorial Volunteer Service Award, which was established in recognition of Frances "Pat" Landen, a dedicated long-time volunteer. An important part of keeping the spirit of volunteerism alive is to express our gratitude in a tangible way and honor individual volunteers. The Board of Trustees established the Landen Memorial

Volunteer Service Award to honor an individual who has voluntarily given of his or her time, talents and skills, thereby assisting the Peoria Park District in the accomplishment of its overall goals.

8. PRESENTATION OF THE 2024 RHODELL E. OWENS DISTINGUISHED GROUP COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

President Johnson presented the Rhodell E. Owens Distinguished Group Community Service Award to PNC Bank, stating the following: As many of you know, Rhodell E. Owens was the Director of Parks and Recreation for the District from 1945-1981. He left a marvelous legacy of service to the community by his involvement with cultural and civic organizations. His name is synonymous with good citizenship and quiet service to fellow citizens and he was a leader in the field of parks and recreation. Therefore, it is fitting to commemorate his life with the Rhodell E. Owens Distinguished Group Community Service Award, to be presented to a local group which has made an outstanding contribution to the Peoria Park District through special donations of dollars, volunteer work, services, etc., and/or ongoing support on a special project for the advancement of parks and recreation that improves the quality of life within the community.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

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 Trustee Covington 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).

9.B. Golf Ad Hoc Committee – Golf Division Annual Action Plan – 2025

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Golf Ad Hoc Committee developed the 2025 Golf Division Annual Action Plan. *Please see Attachment B.* This plan is not policy, but merely a compilation of its goals and objectives.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.A. Naming Policy

Trustee Bertschy stated that the Naming Policy was presented for first read at the April 9 Regular Board meeting and is now presented tonight for approval.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Naming Policy. 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)

10.B. Purchase of Track Chairs

Executive Director Cahill stated that as championed by Trustee Bertschy through the DEIA Committee, staff has researched the possibility and cost of offering access to trackchairs for public use. Trackchairs are assistive devices that help those with mobility challenges access and navigate trails and terrain in our parks.

Staff recommends (and assumes for estimates) that the trackchair(s) be kept at Forest Park Nature Center because of on-site staff located there who could support the administration and care of the trackchairs. Staff has reviewed the terrain and believe there is sufficient experience offered there to support the goals of the offering. As possible, staff will include funds to support bringing the trackchairs to a select number of special events to support access.

Staff estimates that annual operating costs for the addition of this amenity would be \$6,850, which staff believes can be absorbed into the District's operating budget. Staff solicited bids and quotes for the capital costs associated with two trackchairs and related accessories. The \$57,000 capital expense was not budgeted in existing budgets. However, due to higher than usual investment income in the bonded project fund, staff believes utilizing a portion of the built up bond contingency for this capital purchase would be appropriate.

As such, staff recommends board approval to utilize \$57,000 of bond contingency to fund the trackchair capital purchases and approval of the purchase of the two all-terrain trackchairs from McCabe Outdoor Mobility of Eaton, OH at a total cost of \$39,800.00.

Trustee Bertschy MOVED TO APPROVE the Purchase of Trackchairs. 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)

10.C. Easement – Ameren at Vicary Bottoms Park

Mike Friberg stated that Vicary Bottoms is located between Kickapoo Creek Road and Kickapoo Creek. The park currently hosts Ameren electric and gas transmission lines and pipelines within easements. Ameren is continuing to inspect, test, and repair their gas transmission infrastructure within Peoria County. Ameren intends to inspect the gas transmission line that runs through Vicary Bottoms and needs to cross park lands to access the gas line. The gas line lies within an existing Ameren easement. Staff have inserted restrictions on tree removal during the endangered bat roosting season. Because the existing transmission easement is kept clear, this is precautionary as no tree removal should be needed unless extensive repairs are needed. This easement terminates December 2026. Ameren is offering \$1,000.00 for this temporary easement. As such, staff recommends execution of the temporary construction easement in favor of Ameren, to allow access across Vicary Bottoms in order to inspect, test, and repair the gas transmission line.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Ameren's Temporary Construction Easement at Vicary Bottoms Park. 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)

10.D. City of Peoria Easement – Orange Prairie Road at Charter Oak Park

This item is pulled at this time due to a delay in receiving all necessary documents from the city. Once received, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

10.E. City of Peoria Easement – Timberedge Drive at Charter Oak Park

This item is pulled at this time due to a delay in receiving all necessary documents from the city. Once received, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

10.F. City of Peoria Easement – Sheridan Road at Bicycle Safety Town
This item is pulled at this time due to a delay in receiving all necessary documents from the city. Once received, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

10.G. City of Peoria Easement – MacArthur Highway at Martin Luther King Jr. Park
This item is pulled at this time due to a delay in receiving all necessary documents from the city. Once received, it will be presented to the Board for approval.

11. CANVASS REPORT OF THE PEORIA PARK BOARD OF ELECTIONS COMMISSIONS: CANVASS OF THE VOTE OF APRIL 1, 2025 ELECTION FOR NORTHERN DISTRICT TRUSTEES AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT TRUSTEE

11.A. Park District Canvass Report

Canvass of the vote for Northern District Trustees, Vote for 2:

Mark Slover:	3,924
Ronald Silver:	3,528

Canvass of the vote for Southern District Trustee, Vote for 1:

Joseph F. Cassidy:	584
Alexander Sierra:	687

Vice President Hill MOVED TO Receive and File the certified canvass of the votes cast for Northern District Trustees, and Southern District Trustee in the Consolidated Election held on April 1, 2025 in the County of Peoria, State of Illinois. 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
(Secretary’s Note: The Canvass Report for The Pleasure Driveway and Park District of Peoria, Illinois Consolidated General Election held April 1, 2025 as certified by the Peoria County Board of Election Commissioners has been placed in the permanent record.)

12. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra 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

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1. CONVENING OF NEW PARK BOARD

2. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

3. OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS AWARD PRESENTATIONS

4. OATH OF OFFICE AND SEATING OF TRUSTEES

Board Secretary Woodworth administered the Oath of Office to duly elected Park Board Northern District Trustees Mark Slover and Ronald Silver, and duly elected Park Board Southern District Trustee Alexander Sierra.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- 5.A. Pre-Travel Expenses Approval for Trustees Mark Slover and Ron Silver to Attend the Annual IAPD Legislative Reception on April 29, 2025 and Conference on April 30, 2025 in Springfield, IL**
As required by state law and Peoria Park District policy, attached is a pre-travel cost estimate for President Johnson who has expressed interest in attending the IAPD Legislative Reception and Conference in Springfield, IL on April 29 and 30, 2025, respectively. Trustees will complete the process by providing a post-travel audit of expenses, which will also be presented to the Board for consideration. As such, staff recommends that the Board approve the pre-travel estimate for costs associated with the participation of Trustees Ron Silver and Mark Slover at the IAPD Legislative Reception and Conference in Springfield, IL April 29 and 30, 2025, respectively.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Pre-Travel Expenses Approval for Trustees Mark Slover and Ron Silver to Attend the Annual IAPD Legislative Reception on April 29, 2025 and Conference on April 30, 2025 in Springfield, IL. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays)

6. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

6.A. Bid – 2025 Pool Chemicals

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Item 6.A. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant, Sierra, Silver, Slover, Vice President Hill, and President Johnson. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays)

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

9. COMMUNICATIONS

9.A. Thank You

9.B. HISRA MARCH 2025 Impact Report

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

11. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:17 pm Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried by unanimous aye of those present.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bd-jilcdDI>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary

Volunteer Impact Report – 2024

Volunteers are the heart of our community. They give their time, share their talents, and make a lasting difference. Whether lending a hand at a one-day event or showing up week after week, our volunteers are vital to the success of the Park District—and we couldn't do it without them.

We are incredibly grateful for every individual who supported us in 2024. Your dedication helps us provide exceptional programs, maintain beautiful parks, and foster a strong, connected community.

By the Numbers:

- **10,600 total volunteer hours** contributed in 2024
- **465 new volunteers** registered through our online portal in 2024
- **1,400 active volunteers** in our network—ranging from occasional helpers to weekly regulars
- **172 scheduled volunteer days**, including:
 - District-wide special events
 - Monthly and weekly environmental workdays

Note: This does not include volunteer support for sports programs (soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football), which each run 6–8 weeks with 2–3 practices or games per week.

Community Partnerships:

In addition to our scheduled volunteer days, we hosted **45 volunteer events** with local businesses and organizations—including OSF, CAT, and area schools and universities. These efforts contributed **1,827 hours** of service, which are included in our overall total.

The Value of a Volunteer:

According to the Independent Sector and the Do-Good Institute at the University of Maryland, the 2024 estimated national value of a volunteer hour is **\$33.49 (this includes the cost of benefits, holidays, etc. if they were a full-time employee)**. Based on this figure, the time given by our volunteers this year equates to an extraordinary **\$354,994** in value to the Park District.

Beyond the Numbers:

This report only captures part of the story. It does **not** include the countless hours given by our dedicated volunteer committees—including:

- Our Park District Board Members
- Festival planning committees
- Committees that include community advisory groups like the Golf Ad Hoc and the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Committees.

Their ongoing leadership and guidance continue to shape the future of our programs and parks.

Thank You to Every Volunteer

Your energy, commitment, and generosity inspire us every day. Together, we're building a stronger, more vibrant community.



Peoria Park District Golf Division Annual Action Plan – 2025

Mission and Commitments of The Peoria Park District

Peoria Park District Golf is a division of the Peoria Park District, whose mission is to contribute to healthy and vibrant communities by providing high-quality parks, recreation, and education experiences.

Every strategic effort of the District finds its foundation and purpose in one of three District-wide Core Commitments. These, along with a brief overview of their goals and impact, are as follows:

1. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility:** Peoria Park District Staff and Board believe that diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility are central to our mission. Diversity of race, color, gender, disability, age, and culture in our employees and those we work with is important to fairly represent the same diversity in our communities. The differing perspectives available from a diverse workforce are important to solving the complex expectations of those who live, work and play with us.
 2. **Environmental Sustainability:** The Peoria Park District has been, and will remain, a leading force in the preservation of historical, cultural, and natural environments of the communities. As guardians of a quality environment, the Peoria Park District promotes and practices the conservation, preservation, and restoration of our unique natural heritage.
 3. **Vibrancy:** The Peoria Park District seeks to focus its efforts to have the most impact possible on the positive trajectory of the communities we serve, our staff and elected Board of Trustees are committed to continuing its tradition of providing important building blocks to engage and inspire people to live healthier, happier lives.
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Current Focus of District Commitments in the PPD Golf Division

Commitments are embodied in each division of the Peoria Park District differently based on the target population and amenities offered. In Golf, these embody as follows:

1. **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility:** It is a core tenet and expectation for all golf staff that they are welcoming and encouraging to all patrons at our golf facilities, without exception. Annual patron service training is a required element of onboarding for both full- and part-time golf staff.

PPD Golf is focused on engaging current and potential golfers at all skill levels and from all backgrounds. Our team's work to offer youth lessons as part of after-school programs and summer camps, as well as our Summer of Fun passes that offer a free bucket of range balls per day per student from June-August helps to introduce the game of golf to our youngest residents. Special membership rates are offered for young players in order to grow their love of the game.

Golf staff also support Special Olympics participants by acting as coaches and providing access to PPD golf courses.

2. **Environmental Sustainability:** PPD Golf has prioritized the establishment of no-mow and native planting areas across all of its golf courses in order to reduce mowing, fertilization and irrigation costs.

Its efforts to reduce water consumption include implementation of new smart technologies that help to monitor watering needs and adjust water flow levels accordingly. 2025 efforts include environmental analysis to look for alternate sources of water to support healthy courses and planning for renovations to the current irrigation system which is largely out of date.

3. **Vibrancy:** A robust, high quality, affordable golf system with offerings for golfers at a variety of skill levels is a necessary part of a vibrant community. With the game of golf growing since 2020, it is important to be able to engage and retain golfers as part of an attraction and retention plan for communities.

The addition of the Golf Learning Center reimagination in 2025 will further that effort by adding a top golf like experience to Peoria's inventory of recreation experiences for residents and visitors alike.



Vision for Peoria Park District Golf

The focus of Peoria Park District Golf is on providing vibrant, recreational golf experiences that are high-quality and that prioritize the benefits of golf as a part of a healthy lifestyle. Our vision is that our golf courses, properties and programs will:

- Reflect our District's core commitments and pillars in all respects
 - Be welcoming to all levels of golfers, including first-time golfers
 - Present a high-quality experience from parking lot through the final hole
 - Provide a variety of enjoyable skill level challenges to golfers, from beginners to scratch golfers
 - Provide practice facilities that encompass all aspects of the game
 - Be maintained at a consistent level of excellence and high visual appeal
 - Emphasize the PPD's sustainability goals in purchase and design
 - Present instructional opportunities for all levels of golfers, especially beginners and the historically underserved members of our community
 - Be affordable for all in our community, with concession made for those who are unable to pay
 - Provide reasonable opportunities for the disabled to enjoy golf
 - Be reviewed constantly for improvement
 - Provide a responsible return to the taxpayers and Park District budget
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2025 Golf Division Goals and Objectives

Grounded in the strategies for improvement developed by the District's Golf Ad Hoc Committee working with the District staff, the PPD Golf Division has identified the following goals and objectives for targeted completion in 2025. Note that some objectives are focused on planning for future year action and some require ongoing discussion by the Golf Committee:

OVERALL GOAL: Focus on quality of experience in order to attract and retain golfers.

- **Goal 1:** Improve experience for patrons of PPD Golf
 - **Objective 1.1:** Provide a modified scorecard as a .pdf for download and use by interested parties that provides different course lengths. This will be done for the Executive 9 course in 2025. Evaluation will be obtained from players.
 - **Objective 1.2:** Retain and rely upon an expert consultant to develop a strategy for additional tees and/or tee placement in advance of the irrigation replacement process. This includes beginning to develop a strategy for the numbers of tee markers we will want to have for each hole. It also includes considering adding tees or expanding size of existing tees, especially (but not solely) in historically difficult spots (e.g., No. 10 Kellogg). Upon completion, begin preparations for new irrigation systems at Kellogg and Madison.
 - **Objective 1.3:** Create plan for updates at pro shops and restrooms. Identify opportunities for energy efficiency in upgrades.
 - **Objective 1.4:** Improve everyday condition of facilities on the courses – porta-potties, water jugs, and repair broken and incomplete cart paths, including those over culverts
 - **Objective 1.5:** Evaluate round times. Determine if we need to address and, if so, how (e.g., better work by marshals, better controls on group sizes, etc). Also, consider how to market positives of our round times.
- **Goal 2:** Provide a variety of engagement experiences for golfers
 - **Objective 2.1:** Continue to promote, engage, and evaluate existing tournament schedule.

- **Objective 2.2:** Consider and pilot other formats that may be more attractive to current golfers, including scrambles or social special events.
- **Goal 3:** Successfully launch re-imagined Golf Learning Center.
 - **Objective 3.1:** Finalize GLC Operator Agreement for food and beverage.
 - **Objective 3.2:** Develop marketing plan for GLC
 - **Objective 3.2:** Open facility in mid-late summer 2025.

OVERALL GOAL: Improve overall environmental impact of courses.

- **Goal 1:** Reduce water usage at courses.
 - **Objective 1.1:** Contract with consultant to assess water alternatives, including wells at Madison and Kellogg or use of lakes (existing or otherwise).
 - **Objective 1.2:** Include new technology and other water saving measures in planning for new irrigation systems.
 - **Goal 2:** Balance use of perennial/native plantings at courses to improve sight lines and “curb appeal” of clubhouses.
 - **Objective 2.1:** Redo Kellogg back of clubhouse landscaping.
 - **Objective 2.2:** Improve sight lines through native prairie plantings.
 - **Goal 3:** Begin transition to electric golf carts (already underway).
 - **Objective 3.1:** Build out process for transition, including plan for staggered addition to fleet.
 - **Objective 3.2:** Establish infrastructure and purchase carts beginning in 2026.
 - **Objective 3.3:** As part of proposal process, price out addition of windshields, ball washers, sand/seed bottles, and beer coolers. Evaluate impact and cost of GPS on carts.
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Longer Term Goals – 2026 and 2027:

1. Start re-imagining the “short course” at GLC
 2. Consider what we want to do with ball washers in light of decisions made re ball washers on new carts. One suggestion is to put the ball washers nearer to the “prior” green.
 3. Evaluate the future of food service at the courses.
 - a. Can it be profitable?
 - b. What is realistic at this point in time from an economic standpoint
 - c. What is our competition and how do they do it?
 4. How can we advertise (tastefully) on more items?
 5. Evaluate if a few "Please repair your pitch marks" signs in front of the greens on couple of the par 3's (#4) or other greens where there's a high number of pitch marks (#13?) might help? Or maybe even the less subtle "If you are not prepared to repair your pitchmarks on the greens, then please to do not proceed to the 1st tee"?
 6. Evaluate if it might be helpful to have a sign on the first tee, something to the effect of "Today, please DO replace your fairway divots" Can get a little creative and have "DO NOT" also on the sign....just be able to have it on a single sign.
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