

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, HELD AT 4:00 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2024 AT THE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee and Chair Joyce Harant and Executive Director Emily Cahill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Steve Montez

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Laurie Covington, Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill (v), Vice President Alexander Sierra, and President Robert Johnson (in at 4:15 pm)
(v) = Attended Virtually

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Kristi Shoemaker, and Alicia Woodworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Yager of the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA) (Left at 5:10 PM), and Julie Eliathamby and Abby Davis of Peoria Grown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Harant presided and called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MOTION TO PERMIT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2024 Programming Committee Meeting

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the April 4, 2024 Programming Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on a unanimous aye of those present.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. PDRMA Crisis Management Plan Discussion

Consideration of a Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under the Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.

At 4:09 PM, Executive Director Cahill MOVED TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION under the Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on a unanimous aye of those present.

At 5:10 PM, Trustee Harant reconvened the Programming Committee meeting.

5.B. Peoria Grown Presentation/Discussion

Peoria Grown Founding Executive Director Julie Eliathamby, and Community Dietician Abby Davis presented Peoria Grown's 2023 Impact Report. Abby Davis stated that one of Peoria Grown's core programs, Market 309, was previously hosted at the Peoria Women's Club but encountered financial pressures due to rising food costs. Consequently, the difficult decision was made to consolidate locations, closing the Peoria Women's Club site in June 2023. This strategic decision ensures sustainability while optimizing resources for a more significant impact elsewhere, reflecting the commitment to maximizing community benefit within Peoria Grown's means.

Two locations are Market 309 at Trewyn Park and Market 309 at Bradley University. Both locations continue to experience significant growth. These hubs signify the ongoing dedication to providing accessible fresh produce while adapting to evolving needs. The subsidized market model for Market 309 was developed with feedback from community members. It provides a pathway for families to transition out of the emergency food system and become empowered to be more self-reliant.

Presently, there are few options for families to take ownership of their health, and Market 309 endeavors to fill this critical gap by fostering self-sufficiency. The fruit stand program, spanning eight locations across community centers and schools, was pivotal in promoting access to free, fresh produce, instead of encouraging children to spend money on unhealthy, processed snacks. In 2023, Peoria Grown provided over 60,000 servings of fruit to school children. Operations were paused in February 2024 due to the same pressures experienced by the markets. Peoria Grown continues to seek funding to restart the program.

Among Peoria Grown's most impactful endeavors are nutrition classes, which have experienced a surge in demand over the past five years. Hiring a part-time dietician in 2023 has helped reach over 500 young people and adults through Peoria Grown classes. Through educational sessions, Peoria Grown has experienced a tangible increase in nutritional awareness among participating children, as evidenced by the results of pre and post-surveys, underscoring the power of informed choices in shaping long-term health outcomes. In 2023, Peoria Grown continued to hit new milestones in core programs. These achievements demonstrate the dedication and resilience of the community.

Market 309 offers fresh produce at a convenient location and at a cost cheaper than grocery stores. The market provides individuals and families access to healthy food to individuals and families in Peoria's 61603, 61604, and 61605 zip codes as well as anyone with a Link/EBT card, senior citizens, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. The market is open to Peoria residents on Sunday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and to Bradley University students on Fridays from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Executive Director Cahill stated that Peoria Grown has been very good to work with and appreciates their commitment. The District is looking to find ways that help support Peoria Grown's sustainability and help with food costs and help facilitate grants that may be

available. Peoria Grown's positive impact continues to grow and the District continues to look for ways to increase its potential in an intentional manner.

5.C. Third of July Process Update

Trustee Harant stated that a meeting was held two weeks ago at Glen Oak School with community members and leaders. It was a great meeting where the time of the 3rd of July event was agreed to be 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. September 7 was discussed as being a Founder's Day/Birthday celebration for Glen Oak Park as well. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm on May 1 at Glen Oak School where all are invited.

6. PENDING BUSINESS

None noted at this time.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

None noted at this time.

8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Include the Board President in the Crisis Management Plan document/discussion.
2. Monitor Peoria Grown's grant application.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:31 pm, Executive Director Cahill MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on a unanimous aye of those present.