

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, HELD AT 6:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill, Alexander Sierra, Ron Silver, Mark Slover, Vice President Steve Montez, and President Robert Johnson

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Willie Howe, Mike Friberg, Yoginee Nawale, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Peoria Police Sergeant Stevie Hughes

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

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

Trustee Silver MOVED TO PERMIT Trustee Hill attend the meeting electronically due to unexpected childcare obligations. Motion seconded by Trustee Serra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant - Aye, Sierra – Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Montez - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

Note: Although the motion was approved, Trustee Hill ultimately attended the meeting in person. The vote was taken in anticipation of a potential early departure due to childcare obligations; however, Trustee Hill remained present for the entire meeting.

4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. MINUTES

5.A. Approval of Minutes of the March 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the March 25, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried and unanimously on roll call vote.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

President Johnson modified the agenda to allow citizens wishing to speak on Item 9.E (Detweiller Marina Location) to address the Board at this time. Speakers were asked to state their name and were given a five-minute time limit.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

Pat Palmer, 1419 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria, IL

Ms. Palmer stated that he resides near the subject property and has a direct view of the river. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the area for public use, noting that it has long served as a location for activities

such as kayaking, canoeing, sailing, and general recreation. He expressed concern about preserving access to the river for both neighborhood residents and the broader community.

Joyce Blumenshine, representing the Heart of Illinois Group of the Sierra Club

Ms. Blumenshine read a letter on behalf of the organization expressing concern regarding the proposed sale of a significant portion of the Detweiller Playground Trust property. The letter raised issues regarding lack of public notice, potential deficiencies in information presented to the court, and the historical significance of the property. The organization requested that the Park District seek a pause in any sale proceedings and advocate for protection of the land for public use.

Julie Dodge, 8756 N. Picture Ridge Road, Peoria, IL

Ms. Dodge spoke about the historical significance of the Detweiller property, noting its role in early Peoria history and its intended purpose as a public recreational space. She expressed concern about potential industrial use of the land, including removal of trees and loss of natural features, and emphasized the importance of maintaining access to the Illinois River and the Rock Island Greenway connection.

Elaine Hopkins, 1825 E. Maple Ridge, Peoria, IL, representing Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation

Ms. Hopkins expressed concern regarding the potential loss of a historically significant site. She referenced the long-standing public use of the property and noted the presence of historic markers. She also raised environmental concerns, including the presence of osprey, a threatened species in Illinois, and urged the Board to consider the long-term impacts of any change in use.

Kathy McNeil, Peoria, IL

Ms. McNeil spoke in support of preserving the property as a natural habitat and wildlife corridor. She stated that community members are reaching out to conservation and historical organizations for support and asked the Board to assist in making connections that could help protect the land.

Jo Lakota, 1111 W. Russell Street, Peoria, IL

Ms. Lakota spoke about his personal experiences using the park both as a child and as a parent. He emphasized the importance of accessible public spaces for individuals without transportation and described the site as an important natural and recreational resource. He expressed concern about the long-term loss of such spaces for future generations.

David Pittman, 2422 W. Moss Avenue, West Peoria, IL

Mr. Pittman reiterated concerns regarding transparency and public involvement in the process. He encouraged the Board to advocate for postponement of the sale to allow for a more thorough and transparent public review. He also suggested exploring alternative locations for boating access and opportunities to create additional green space within the community.

Eric Hutcherson, 4110 N. Hawthorne Place, Peoria, IL

Mr. Hutcherson discussed ongoing maintenance concerns at the property, including issues with trash and upkeep under the current ownership structure. He indicated that these concerns prompted further investigation into the ownership and management of the site and expressed support for increased Park District involvement moving forward.

Karrie Alms, North Valley resident, Peoria, IL

Ms. Alms spoke on behalf of community members and neighborhood organizations who have been working collaboratively over the past several weeks to develop alternative solutions. She expressed disappointment regarding lack of engagement from involved parties but thanked the Park Board for its willingness to listen. She

presented a community-supported proposal that included revising sale boundaries, maintaining public access, and transferring remaining land and assets to the Park District.

Following all public comments, President Johnson thanked the speakers for their participation and input.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Emily Cahill provided a brief update and, in consideration of the length and significance of other agenda items, elected to forgo a formal report. She indicated she was available to respond to any questions from the Board regarding current Park District operations or initiatives.

7.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction

Becky Fredrickson presented the March 2026 Monthly Report. She highlighted recent project activity and thanked Board members and attendees who participated in a recent sculpture ribbon cutting event at Bradley University, noting the success of the event and community engagement.

7.C. Chief of Police

Peoria Police Sergeant Stevie Hughes presented the March 2026 Police Activity Summary Report. The report included the following activity totals:

- 10 criminal reports
- 2 non-criminal reports
- 2 crash reports
- 5 traffic citations
- 4 ordinance violations
- 12 parking violations

Board members expressed appreciation for the work of park police staff. Specific recognition was given to Sergeant Stevie Hughes for his leadership and efforts in supporting operations and assisting staff and administration in gaining a deeper understanding of police procedures and departmental functions.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. Planning Committee – Memorial at Donovan Park

Staff presented a request from a community member for placement of a memorial wind phone, originally proposed for Donovan Park. Following review, staff recommended an alternative location at Luthy Botanical Garden, noting the Garden provides a more appropriate setting due to its existing peaceful, reflective environment and accessibility for visitors.

The Planning Committee concurred with staff's recommendation.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the Memorial at Luthy Botanical Garden. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. PZS/PPD Agreement Relative to Capital Campaign

Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the PZS/PPD Agreement Relative to Capital Campaign. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.B. Post-Travel Report for Trustee Sierra to Attend the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago, IL January 29-31, 2026

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the Post-Travel Report for Trustee Sierra to Attend the 2026 IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago, IL January 29-31, 2026. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.C. Parental Leave Policy

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Parental Leave Policy. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.D. Rental Rate Structure

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Rental Rate Structure. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9.E. Detweiller Marina Location

The Board engaged in extensive discussion regarding the Detweiller Marina property, including its historical context, current ownership structure, and potential future use.

Trustee Harant provided a detailed statement outlining:

- The historical intent of Thomas H. Detweiller's will to preserve riverfront land for public recreation
- The Park District's historical connection to the property, including prior operational involvement and financial support relationships
- The Board's responsibility to act as stewards of public access and natural resources

Trustee Harant acknowledged the complexity of the issue and the short timeline but emphasized the importance of responding to community concerns and exploring all available options.

In keeping with its Mission and Core Commitments, Trustee Harant MOVED that the Peoria Park District will:

- A. Seek immediate expanded discussions beyond the re-routing of the Rock Island Greenway easement with the DP Trustees and O'Brien Steel. Further, while selling Mr. Detweiller's property is not the preference of the PPD, these expanded discussions would seek a revision of the DP sale property boundaries to O'Brien Steel that would allow increased land for public access to the boat dock and parking.

and that

- B. The PPD, at an appropriate time, will enter discussions with the City of Peoria regarding maintaining Caroline Street with public access and their ability to assist with maintaining access to public green space.

Further, I move to direct staff to provide for potential action, no later than the next board meeting scheduled for April 22, information about the impact and viability of the following opportunities to support protection of public access to the marina as follows:

- C. Potential gifting all of the remaining Trust property, financial assets and proceeds generated by the sale of any property to the PPD to be held and to retain, in as fair a manner as possible, the property for public access and recreation.
- D. Discussions with the Peoria Boat Club and any other entities using the property to discuss leasehold responsibilities and public access issues with a goal to recognize the established assets and membership of the Peoria Boat Club while needing to improve the land's financial sustainability and the need for increased public access.
- E. Creation in collaboration with the DMNA and others a "Friends of the Detweiller Playground and Marina" and participate in discussions about the planning and financial needs of this land.

Board Discussion

Board members expressed:

- Appreciation for the strong community engagement and advocacy
- Recognition of the need for transparency and collaboration
- Support for continued dialogue and exploration of alternatives

Several Trustees emphasized the importance of:

- Protecting public access to green space
- Ensuring alignment with the Park District’s mission
- Balancing community interests with legal and practical considerations

The motion was seconded by Trustee Sierra and approved unanimously by roll call vote. President Johnson concluded by noting that the public participation demonstrated “true democracy,” highlighting the importance of community involvement in decision-making.

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

- 10.A. Bid – Equipment Service Center Solar**
- 10.B. Bid – Golf Learning Center Solar**
- 10.C. Bid – Riverfront Path Replacement**
- 10.D. Bid – Concrete Buggy Purchase**
- 10.E. Bid – 2026 Pool Chemicals**
- 10.F. Bid - Bid - Janitorial Services at the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association (HISRA)**
- 10.G. Purchase of a 2026 Ford F550 and 2026 Ford F150 per State of Illinois Contract**
- 10.H. Purchase of Toro and Ventrac Equipment per OMNIA Partners Contract**
- 10.I. Unarmed Security Service at the Peoria Zoo per State of Illinois Contract**

Trustee Sierra requested items 10.A. and 10.B. be pulled for comment.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent items 10.C. thru 10.I. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent items 10.A. and 10.B. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

11. PENDING BUSINESS

None.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

13. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

No formal action steps were identified.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.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.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:28 PM Trustee Slover MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on voice vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sry0ITNHJ8>

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary