OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE STRATEGY AD HOC COMMITTEE/BOARD OF THE WHOLE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS, AT 4:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill (v), Alexander Sierra, Ron Silver, Mark Slover, Vice President Steve Montez, and President Robert Johnson
Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Willie Howe, Chief Aaron Watkins, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Trustee Hill attend the meeting electronically due to unexpected childcare obligations. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously by roll call vote. Trustee Hill then arrived to the meeting in-person at 5:16 PM.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the April 22, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. HR Policy Updates

Shalesse Pie introduced the proposed Human Resources policy updates and explained that several revisions were being recommended due to recently enacted legislation and operational updates affecting the District's policy manual. Ms. Pie stated that one of the updates was necessary to comply with a new law taking effect June 1, while several additional revisions reflected amendments to laws that became effective January 1 and impacted existing District policies. She also explained that updates were being recommended to the District's discipline policy in order to better align with current operational practices. She noted that Corporate Counsel had assisted staff in reviewing and preparing the proposed revisions and had also recommended an update to the "Notice to Employees" language included at the beginning of the policy manual. She advised the Committee that the purpose of presenting the updates during the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting was to obtain consensus prior to presenting the policies later that evening as a first read during the Regular Board meeting.

Attorney Justin Gunn further clarified that several minor formatting corrections remained within the draft document, including an unclosed parenthetical reference within the Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Leave section, but stated that those corrections would be completed prior to the final version being presented for approval.

Trustee Silver asked for clarification regarding the proposed Family Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Leave policy and specifically questioned whether the leave entitlement would be in addition to leave available under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Attorney Gunn confirmed that the leave would indeed be in addition to FMLA leave under the applicable statutory subsection.

No additional questions or comments were raised regarding the proposed policy updates and consensus was given to present to the Full Board for first read at tonight's Regular Board meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Prior to proceeding with the remainder of the agenda, President Johnson requested that the Citizen Request to Address the Board portion of the meeting be moved up on the agenda in order to accommodate those in attendance wishing to speak. Committee members agreed.

William Ordaz, a member of the Detweiller Marina Neighborhood Association, addressed the Committee regarding the Rock Island Greenway easement and the Detweiller riverfront property. Mr. Ordaz stated that the Park District has both a responsibility and an opportunity to act regarding the ongoing court proceedings related to the property. He commented that the Park District had been excluded from the court process affecting the easement, public recreational access, and long-established community use of the riverfront area. Mr. Ordaz noted that May 13 marked the anniversary of Thomas Detweiller's death and referenced Detweiller's past service as a Park Board Trustee. He stated that the Board had an opportunity to protect both Mr. Detweiller's legacy and the public interest connected to the property. Mr. Ordaz respectfully requested that the Park Board direct legal counsel to file a petition for relief from judgment, seek immediate court review of the process and newly discovered information, and pursue emergency relief necessary to preserve the status quo. He further stated that if the land were transferred or industrialized, the loss to the community could become permanent and added that the public had not been given an adequate voice in the process.

Joyce Blumenshine addressed the Committee on behalf of Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club. Ms. Blumenshine echoed the concerns raised by Mr. Ordaz and urged the Park Board to file with the court regarding the matter. She referenced the longstanding historical connection between the Park District and the Detweiller property and stated that the public deserved an opportunity to be heard. Ms. Blumenshine thanked the Board for its consideration.

Another resident addressed the Committee and expressed appreciation for the Park Board's efforts to keep Peoria beautiful and maintain public gathering spaces throughout the community. The speaker acknowledged the complexity of balancing public and private interests but emphasized that community members viewed the Board as representatives of the public. The speaker stated that many residents believed the Detweiller riverfront area was a special and irreplaceable public space within Peoria. The resident further commented that volunteers had been actively working to clean up portions of the shoreline and preserve the natural beauty of the area and urged the Board to continue supporting those efforts.

Julie Dodge addressed the Committee and stated that a gathering had been held earlier that day at the park in recognition of the anniversary of Thomas Detweiller's death and the enactment of his will. Ms. Dodge explained that community members had hung prayer lights on trees believed to be under threat of removal and spoke emotionally about the significance of the park to local residents. She described the property as one of the few locations along the riverfront where individuals can walk extensive loops and fully experience the riverfront environment. Ms. Dodge recounted witnessing a sunset and double rainbow at the park the previous evening and described the experience as deeply meaningful. She expressed concern regarding what she characterized as a lack of transparency surrounding negotiations related to the property and stated that many residents feared the space could permanently be lost. Ms. Dodge also referenced statements made publicly regarding the scope of the land involved in the transaction and questioned the accuracy of those statements based upon maps she had reviewed. She concluded by urging the Park District to consider filing legal action to stop the process and allow additional review and public discussion.

Tim Herold, a resident of the Detweiller Marina neighborhood for nearly 30 years, addressed the Committee and stated that he had previously submitted documentation to the Board outlining what he believed to be the Park District's standing to reopen the case. Mr. Herold stated that the materials also included concerns related to fiduciary responsibilities and possible conflicts of interest. He expressed his desire for the matter to return to court in order to allow broader public participation and discussion. Mr. Herold further stated that approximately 150 individuals had signed petitions supporting additional legal action and indicated that additional residents were willing to participate as petitioners if necessary.

A previous speaker returned to the podium and stated that community members had also been contacting members of the Peoria City Council and other government officials in an effort to raise awareness about the issue. The speaker commented that residents had reached out to the Illinois Attorney General's Office and other state officials seeking assistance and reiterated the belief that preserving the property was important to the entire city. The speaker concluded by asking the Board to support the community's efforts.

J. Gruber addressed the Committee and described herself as "a fan of the water." Ms. Gruber stated that earlier in the day community members had sprinkled flower petals into the river in remembrance of Thomas Detweiller. She spoke about the importance of preserving special places for future generations and encouraged the Board to consider alternatives to industrial development of the site. Ms. Gruber specifically expressed concern regarding potential barriers and visual obstructions along the Rock Island Trail and emphasized the importance of maintaining green space and public riverfront access. Ms. Gruber also referenced the recent acts of violence that had

occurred within Park District parks and presented roses in remembrance of the mothers affected by those tragedies. President Johnson thanked Ms. Gruber for her remarks and specifically acknowledged her thoughtful comments regarding the recent violence in the parks.

President Johnson then asked if anyone else wished to address the Board. Hearing no additional requests, the Committee resumed the regular order of business.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.A. Approval to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to 2(c)5 The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and, 2(c)11 Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent; and, Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, 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, staff, the public, or public property.

At 4:55 PM, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO CONVENE Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)5 The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and, 2(c)11 Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent and, Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, 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, staff, the public, or public property. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Prior to entering Closed Session, Executive Director Cahill explained that staff had prepared an overview presentation regarding the District's current and future public safety initiatives, particularly in advance of the community conversation regarding violence scheduled later that evening. She stated that the District's priorities included providing safe and welcoming public spaces, engaging youth through programming opportunities, maintaining a visible safety presence through Park Police and security staff, and strengthening partnerships with community stakeholders. She emphasized that the Park District alone could not solve broader community violence issues and noted that public safety required collaboration between law enforcement, schools, families, programming staff, and community organizations.

At 6:28 PM Trustee Slover MOVED TO RECESS the Closed Session meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 8:42 PM Trustee Slover MOVED TO RECONVENE the Closed Session meeting Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)5 The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and, 2(c)11 Litigation, when an action against,

affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent and, Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, 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, staff, the public, or public property. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 9:06 PM President Johnson reconvened the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:09 PM, Trustee Slover MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on voice vote.

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Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary