

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024 AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Trustee and Chair Laurie Covington, Trustee and Vice Chair Reagan Leslie Hill (in at 4:06 pm), and Executive Director Emily Cahill

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Timothy Bertschy, Laurie Covington, Reagan Leslie Hill (in at 4:06 pm), Joyce Harant (v), Steve Montez, Vice President Alexander Sierra (in at 4:06 pm) and President Robert Johnson (in at 4:26 pm)

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brent Wheeler (v), Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Mary Harden, Kristi Shoemaker, and Alicia Woodworth

Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Trustee Covington called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 April 10, 2024 Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**

Executive Director Cahill moved to approve the minutes of April 10, 2024. Motion seconded by Trustee Covington and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.A. Easements – Nebraska Avenue Improvement**

Kristi Shoemaker stated that this project will include reconstruction of Nebraska Avenue from Park Avenue to Sterling Avenue modifying the road from four lanes with a median to three lanes, including a middle turn lane. This modification will require the replacement and improvement of two storm drainage structures at Newman Golf Course and a modification to the Newman Golf Course entrance. The permanent easement will consist of two small areas approximately 700 sf (300 sf and 400 sf). The temporary easement will consist of areas totaling approximately 6,619 sf.

**5.B. Memorial Bench Request – River Bluff Trail in Robinson Park**

Staff received a request from Tim O’Hanlon requesting a memorial bench be placed on a Forest Park Nature Center Trail in honor of his wife who in the past worked with the Park District and presented number of programs at both Forest Park Nature Center and

Camp Wokanda. She was a counselor with an office in Peoria Heights and was interested in mindfulness and its relationship to nature. Unanimous consensus (approval) from members present to present to the Full Board for approval.

**5.C. Discussion – Northern District Pickleball**

Executive Director Cahill stated that previously, a memo was sent to all trustees after receipt of a patron inquiry related to pickleball at Cassidy Park. As follow up to that memo, an inquiry was received from board members about the possibility of other pickleball courts in the District. Staff requests that initial conversation about process and timing be had at the Planning Committee meeting on June 12, 2024, so that staff has clear direction on next steps, if any.

Trustee Bertschy stated that there are some that this is a huge issue that he believes should be discussed between all trustees and that opportunities for public input should be provided. Trustee Harant stated that she has reached out to some in the pickleball community and they are very thankful for the work to be done at Charter Oak. She has not heard any strong opinions about pickleball offerings in other Park District outdoor spaces. She has however, been told that indoor pickleball offerings November – April. Trustee Harant stated that she believes a robust discussion with all trustees should be had about pickleball offerings, and not just about outdoor pickleball in the Northern District.

Trustee Hill MOVED to place Northern District Pickleball outdoor options on the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting agenda for full board discussion. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.D. Discussion – Naming Policy**

Executive Director Cahill stated that per the request of Trustee Bertschy and the direction of President Johnson, the following policy on naming park properties, programs and facilities is presented for review and discussion by the Planning Committee. Direction is sought on language and whether this policy should be recommended to the full board for approval.

PPD POLICY ON NAMING PARK PROPERTIES, PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES

This policy addresses the naming of Peoria Park District properties, programs, and facilities. It is to be applied prospectively and does not require the re-naming of any existing park properties, programs, or facilities unless so determined by the PPD Board (“Board”).

1. New park properties, programs, and facilities shall be promptly named in accord with this policy. The name selected is intended to be the permanent name of that park property, program, or facility. The name shall be determined prior to the opening or commencement of the park property, program, and facility, and widely publicized to the public to acquaint the public with the name of that park property, program, and facility.

2. The name of a park property, program, or facility should bear a relation to the science, nature, geography, culture, or history of this area or to significant figures or events of state or national history.

3. No park properties, programs, or facilities shall be named for a living person or existing entity, except where there is a compelling case for such honor or where the new park property or facility (or its cost) is offered to the District and the donor stipulates a name as being part of the consideration for the donation. In the latter case, the Board has the prerogative of accepting or rejecting that donation offer.

4. No existing park properties, programs, and facilities, previously named, shall have portions of such park properties, programs, and facilities re-named, unless so determined by the Board. A portion of any presently named park property, program, or facility may be given a different name so long as it does not change the overall name of the existing park property, program, or facility. For example, rooms in a named facility may be given an individual's name that is different than the name of the facility, so long as the subsequent naming does not materially impact the weight of the prior naming. Where property is added to an existing park, the additional park property may be given a different name should that naming reflect the proportionality of the increase in the overall park property.

5. Park properties, programs, and facilities shall not be named for District officials or staff until a minimum of five years has passed from the termination of their service to the District, and then only where truly exceptional circumstances are found by the Board to justify the naming.

6. Rooms within buildings may be given specific names but then only in accord with all provisions of this policy.

7. Park properties and facilities may bear appropriate plaques or markers, as approved by the Board, to honor people, including District officials and staff, who have made a material contribution to the creation of such properties or facilities.

Trustee Hill MOVED to place the updated naming policy on the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting agenda for discussion and consensus to submit to full Board for first read and approval. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

**5.E. Discussion – East Bluff Community Center**

Executive Director Cahill stated that this spring, she was contacted by the East Bluff Community Center (EBCC) regarding the future of the EBCC from both an operating and capital perspective. After discussion, connections have been made between EBCC, the District, Greater Peoria Family YMCA, and Heartland Health Center.

The collective group has expressed interest in evaluating the opportunity to collaborate around moving the EBCC to the former Kroger building which is owned by Heartland, renovating the space to allow for recreation and education programming, and subsequently to organize programming that would be provided by partners and other non-profits in the neighborhood/larger community.

The District asks the Planning Committee to review the request for collaboration and consider the District's support of the draft Letter of Intent.

Given the many conversations about global needs in the East Bluff and the role that the District could play in impacting quality of life, it is important that the District help to support anchors like East Bluff Community Center that are rooted in the East Bluff and District staff supports signing on to this collaborative effort.

At present, the District has applied for an R3 grant that would support some of the operational needs of the EBCC in conjunction with support of District events and programs targeting the neighborhood. EBCC also requested operational assistance from a local legislator that may have been included in the FY2025 state budget.

After discussion, Trustees and Planning Committee members in attendance offered their full support in pursuing a Letter of Intent and look forward to approving it at the Board level.

**5.F. Bradley Park Statue Update**

Executive Director Cahill stated that after meeting with interested parties on April 25, meeting in Bradley Park with artist Preston Jackson on April 29, meeting in Bradley Park with interested parties and community on May 10, and meeting with Preston Jackson and Joy Kessler on June 5, staff was left with the direction that there need to be three elements in the artwork proposed in the space at Bradley Park.

There needs to be verticality that you can see coming from Columbia Terrace, there needs to be seating so that a person can sit in the space and be reflective, and there needs to be some sort of natural plantings along with it. There have been conversations with local artist Preston Jackson asking him if he would lead this effort, what is his vision for it, how does he see this proceeding, what is something that meets those criteria, and that is impactful in the space focused on Native Americans and their history in this part of the state. Mr. Jackson is very interested in this project and working with the Native American community. His assistant sent a note stating that if Mr. Jackson were to do a full piece in bronze on a concrete pad, it would cost in the range of \$90k - \$100k. As such, staff needs direction as to whether this is something to proceed with. More information from Preston Jackson was requested at which time Executive Director Cahill will report back and seek further direction.

**5.G. State of Illinois Capital Grants Update**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**5.H. General Project Updates**

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

**6. PENDING BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

1. Implement the process as presented for Northern District pickleball.
2. Trustee Bertschy will rewrite paragraphs 3 and 5 of the Naming Policy and staff will add it to a future Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting for review.
3. Staff will work on gathering a rendering and obtaining more information on a potential collaboration with artist Preston Jackson.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:35 pm, Trustee Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion second by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary