

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, JUNE 24, 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, Brianna Cobb, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Willie Howe, Chief Aaron Watkins, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and all Trustees were present.

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

No request was made to attend the meeting electronically.

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 June 10, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the May 27, 2026 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

5.B. Approval of Minutes of the May 6, 2026 and June 3, 2026 Special Board Meetings

Trustee Harant requested that consideration of the May 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes be deferred. She explained that she had identified several proposed corrections related to statements she made during that meeting and believed the discussion surrounding those corrections could become lengthy and cumbersome. Trustee Harant further stated that there had been confusion regarding portions of the May 6 meeting record and requested additional time to prepare and present her proposed revisions.

As such, Trustee Harant MOVED TO DEFER the May 6, 2026 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Trustee Silver then MOVED TO APPROVE the June 3, 2026 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

5.C. Approval of Corrected Minutes of 8.13.25 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the Corrected Minutes of the 8.13.25 Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Hill inquired as to what the correction entailed. Secretary Woodworth stated that in item 9.G. *Peoria Grown MOU*, it was incorrectly recorded that Trustee (then Vice President) Hill had

voted Aye, when in fact she Abstained. The minutes have been corrected and are presented for approval. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Karrie Alms addressed the Board and began by commending the Peoria Park District, Board of Trustees, staff, and volunteers for the successful Juneteenth Jubilee Day celebration. She stated that the event was well attended and served as an excellent opportunity to bring the community together in a positive and meaningful way. Ms. Alms expressed appreciation for the District's efforts in organizing the celebration and recognized the event as a successful community gathering. She also thanked the Board for voting to defer approval of the May 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting minutes until a future meeting, noting her appreciation that additional time would be taken to review the record before approval.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill recognized and thanked staff from across the District for their efforts in planning and executing the 2026 Juneteenth Jubilee Day celebration. She also expressed appreciation to Chief Aaron Watkins and the Park District Police Department for working seamlessly with the Peoria Police Department and Peoria Fire Department to help ensure a safe and successful event. She reported that according to Placer.ai attendance data, more than 10,000 people attended the celebration. She thanked the Board for its prior decision to relocate the event from Glen Oak Park to the Peoria RiverFront, noting that the larger venue proved well-suited to accommodate the significant attendance and community participation. She also encouraged Board members to view the event photographs published by the Journal Star, highlighting the positive community response and the many memorable moments captured during the celebration.

Executive Director Cahill advised that District staff were already preparing for several upcoming summer events, including the Streets Belong to Me event scheduled for July 3 at Glen Oak Park and the Red, White & Boom! Independence Day celebration and fireworks. She expressed her appreciation for the continued dedication of District staff as they transitioned from one major community event to the next.

Executive Director Cahill further noted that the May 2026 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report had been included in the Board packet and offered to answer any questions from the Board regarding the report.

President Johnson congratulated District staff on the success of the Juneteenth Jubilee Day celebration, describing the event as spectacular. He specifically recognized the many employees whose collaboration contributed to the event's success. President Johnson acknowledged that he had initially been apprehensive about relocating the celebration to the RiverFront but stated that the attendance clearly demonstrated the necessity of the larger venue. He further commented that the event successfully celebrated the East Bluff community while maintaining the District's commitment to the upcoming Streets Belong to Me event.

President Johnson then requested that a Peoria Park District promotional video be shown. Following the presentation, he remarked that the video served as an important reminder of the District's mission, the breadth of services provided to the community, and the importance of maintaining focus on recreation, parks, conservation, education, and public service. He thanked

District staff for their commitment and professionalism, reflected on the District's successful recovery from the financial challenges experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and encouraged both Trustees and staff to continue working together to preserve the Park District's tradition of leadership and excellence in serving the residents of Peoria.

7.B. Chief of Police

Police Chief Aaron Watkins presented the May 2026 Police Report. He reported that Park District Police responded to a total of 30 incidents during the month, including three traffic crash reports, four traffic citations, ten ordinance violations, ten parking citations, eleven non-criminal reports, and sixteen criminal reports.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. Programming Committee – Approved Minutes of May 10, 2026

Trustee Sierra presented the approved minutes of the May 20, 2026 Programming Committee meeting for the Board's information.

Trustee Sierra reminded the Board and members of the public that the next Talk About It Tuesday community engagement session would be held on July 7, 2026, at the Owens Center. He noted that the meeting would include the first public presentation of the renovation and construction plans for the Owens Center Redevelopment Project and encouraged the public to attend.

President Johnson referenced the promotional video presented earlier in the meeting and remarked that the Peoria Park District serves more than 500,000 visitors annually. He observed that the District's reach and impact continue to grow and emphasized the importance of the services and recreational opportunities provided throughout the community.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Trustee Communication with Attorney

Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the Trustee Communication with Attorney Policy. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver.

Trustee Sierra stated that he remained opposed to adopting the policy, consistent with the position he expressed when the policy was originally proposed. He indicated that he did not intend to restate every previous objection, but summarized three primary reasons for his opposition.

First, Trustee Sierra explained that after consulting representatives from both the Illinois Association of Park Districts and the National Recreation and Park Association, he had been advised that a policy of this nature was considered unusual and unprecedented for a park district. He questioned why the Board would adopt a policy that both organizations viewed as uncommon, particularly given the District's reliance on those organizations for governance guidance and best practices.

Second, Trustee Sierra expressed concern that the policy could interfere with the ability of individual elected trustees to independently utilize legal resources available to them in carrying out their public duties. He stated that the policy could allow the Board, or designated individuals acting on behalf of the Board, to restrict or interfere with Trustees' access to those resources, which he believed were appropriately available to elected officials.

Third, Trustee Sierra stated that the policy would place additional responsibility and potential liability upon both the Board President and the Executive Director by requiring them to serve as gatekeepers for communications with legal counsel. He expressed concern that if either individual declined to engage legal counsel in circumstances where it later proved necessary, the District could be exposed to unnecessary liability. While noting that he would not discuss matters appropriate for closed session, he stated that current circumstances illustrated why this concern was significant.

Trustee Sierra concluded by encouraging the Board not to adopt the policy for those reasons, as well as additional concerns he had previously expressed.

Following discussion, the motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Trustee Joyce Harant – Aye, Trustee Reagan Leslie Hill – Nay, Trustee Alexander Sierra – Nay, Trustee Ron Silver – Aye, Trustee Mark Slover – Aye, Vice President Steve Montez – Aye, President Robert Johnson – Aye. (Results: Aye – 5; Nay - 2; Abstain - 0)

9.B. Owens Center Recognition Naming Rights

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the Owens Center Recognition Naming Rights. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

9.C. MOU – Jon Buckley Memorial Garden Care and Maintenance

Trustee Sierra thanked President Johnson and Executive Director Cahill for referring the proposed Memorandum of Understanding back to the Programming Committee for additional review. He stated that the District's community partner appreciated the opportunity to continue working collaboratively through the committee process and believed the agreement was now in a good place.

President Johnson also recognized Brianna Cobb for her efforts in coordinating communications and facilitating discussions among the parties throughout the review process.

Trustee Slover inquired whether the memorial garden was located on City of Peoria property. Executive Director Cahill explained that the parcel is owned by the City of Peoria. She stated that, although the property is city-owned, the Park District has historically served as the steward of that section of the riverfront and is responsible for its maintenance under its longstanding maintenance agreement with the City. She further explained that Park District riverfront staff perform the primary maintenance of both the memorial garden and the surrounding area.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Jon Buckley Memorial Garden for Care and Maintenance. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

9.D. Approve Legal Counsel Action to Consult with Peoria County States Attorney's Office (Civil Division)

Trustee Hill MOVED TO DIRECT AND AUTHORIZE District legal counsel to coordinate with and obtain guidance from the Civil Division of the Peoria County State's Attorney's Office regarding statutory compliance. The proposed submission shall be presented to the Board of Trustees for review and approval in a subsequent closed session on a date to be determined. Upon Board

approval, District legal counsel is authorized to transmit the approved submission to the State's Attorney. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver.

During discussion, Trustees requested clarification regarding the language of the proposed motion and how it differed from the recommendation contained in the Board packet. Questions were raised concerning the sequence of consultation with the State's Attorney's Office, the preparation and review of the proposed submission, and whether the revised language would affect the timing of the process.

Attorney Kevin Day clarified that the intent of the motion was to authorize District legal counsel to consult with the Civil Division of the Peoria County State's Attorney's Office regarding statutory compliance, prepare a proposed submission for the Board's review in a future closed session, and, following Board approval, transmit the approved submission to the State's Attorney. Following Attorney Day's clarification, Trustee Hill agreed to modify her motion (as stated above) to incorporate the recommended language regarding statutory compliance and the review process.

Motion carried on roll call vote as follows: Trustee Joyce Harant – Aye, Trustee Reagan Leslie Hill – Aye, Trustee Alexander Sierra – Aye, Trustee Ron Silver – Aye, Trustee Mark Slover - Aye, Vice President Steve Montez – Nay, President Robert Johnson – Aye. (Results: 6 – Aye; 1 – Nay; 0 – Abstain)

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

10.A. Quote – PlayHouse Exhibit Components

Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent item 10.A. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

11. PENDING BUSINESS

No Pending Business was presented.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 PM Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried unanimously on voice vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G3ChHKunA8>

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary