MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 11:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026 AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Trustee and Chair Alexander Sierra, Trustee and Vice Chair Joyce Harant, and Executive Director Emily Cahill

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant and Alexander Sierra

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill (v), Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Chanel Hargrave-Murry, Doug Silberer, and Alicia Woodworth
Note: (v) = Attended Virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Sierra called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Trustee and Chair Alexander Sierra, Trustee and Vice Chair Joyce Harant, and Executive Director Emily Cahill

3. MOTION TO PERMIT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

Executive Director Cahill requested to attend the meeting electronically due to personal illness. Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE Executive Director Cahill attend the meeting electronically due to personal illness. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2026 PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the June 17, 2026 Programming Committee Meeting. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on a unanimous roll call vote.

5. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

None at this time.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. Community Outreach

Executive Director Cahill introduced the item as a follow-up to recent Committee discussion regarding community outreach and promotion of Park District programs and services. Chanel Hargrave-Murry reviewed current Community Connections efforts, including outreach to local schools, neighborhood and homeowners' associations, businesses and community organizations; participation in community events; distribution of program and event information; and mock interview programs with local police and fire departments. She noted that Community Connections consists of one full-time employee supported by interns and that reaching working residents through neighborhood associations can be challenging.

The Committee discussed opportunities to strengthen relationships with residents who live near neighborhood parks. Trustee Harant emphasized the value of more direct neighborhood engagement so residents feel connected to, protective of, and involved in decisions affecting nearby Park District assets. Trustee Sierra stated that the goal is to build stronger relationships between the Park District as an institution and residents around neighborhood parks, and expressed interest in identifying additional resources or models that could support residential outreach. Staff discussed safety concerns with sending interns door-to-door and noted that partnerships with other organizations already conducting neighborhood outreach may be a possible approach. The Committee requested follow-up after staff evaluates options for residential outreach, including potential partnerships and any related capacity or resource needs.

6.B. Evaluation, Categorization and Prioritization of Identified Items of Public Input: Owens Ice Center (Talk About it Tuesday July 2026)

Staff reviewed the public input received at the July Talk About it Tuesday at Owens Ice Center and the written comments received afterward. The Committee agreed that capital-related items should also be carried forward to the Planning Committee and reviewed the identified items to confirm that the public feedback had been accurately captured.

Discussion included the request for a third sheet of ice and the potential effects on construction cost, operating subsidy, rental rates, scheduling, parking and affordability. Staff explained that a third full ice sheet could substantially increase costs and potentially price some user groups out of the market, while the greatest need for three sheets of ice would occur during only a portion of the winter season. Alternatives such as synthetic ice, roller skating space, an outdoor or mobile rink, and other flexible-use options were discussed. Executive Director Cahill noted that multiple options remain under evaluation and that future decisions will need to balance capital costs, operating impacts, fundraising opportunities and accessibility.

The Committee also reviewed feedback concerning additional and larger locker rooms, accommodations for women and girls, restroom improvements, participant space, viewing areas, concessions and food service, a possible library or youth waiting area, project updates to hockey and figure skating organizations, the proposed Lakeview Park skating ribbon, examples from other renovated ice facilities, fundraising, recognition of individuals important to the history of local hockey and skating, and parking. Staff reported that several of these items are already reflected in the current renovation concept, subject to available funding. Vertical expansion and second-floor viewing were previously evaluated but were not considered viable within the current project scope and budget; enhanced viewing through televisions or similar technology is being considered.

Staff reported that fundraising opportunities are being developed, including a donation portal, broader community outreach and targeted asks to potential donors. The Committee asked to be invited when future meetings are scheduled with hockey and figure skating organizations to provide project updates and receive additional feedback. Timing of those meetings will be coordinated as the project and Planning Committee discussions progress.

6.C. Next Meeting: August 19, 2026 Pickleball & Tennis

Staff reviewed the planned format for the August 19, 2026 Programming Committee meeting regarding pickleball and tennis. Rather than holding a separate traditional Talk About it Tuesday, representatives from the pickleball and tennis communities will be invited to the Committee meeting. Staff will report on feedback previously received and the status of related items, followed by an opportunity for dialogue and additional feedback. Staff will follow up with tennis organizations and representatives regarding attendance.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Harant asked for clarification regarding whether Talk About it Tuesday events sponsored by the Programming Committee are themselves Committee meetings and whether a quorum and meeting minutes are required. Trustee Sierra and Trustee Harant expressed differing understandings of how the events should be treated. Executive Director Cahill agreed to put the question in writing, confirm the issue with Trustees Sierra and Harant, and obtain guidance from legal counsel regarding the appropriate Open Meetings Act treatment and minute-taking requirements.

9. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Executive Director Cahill will formulate the question regarding Talk About it Tuesday meetings, confirm it with Trustees Sierra and Harant, and seek legal guidance.
2. Staff will continue preparations and outreach for the August 19 pickleball and tennis meeting Capital-related Owens Ice Center feedback will be carried forward to the Planning Committee as appropriate
3. Staff will evaluate options for enhanced residential outreach, including potential partnerships and resource needs

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:25 pm, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on a unanimous aye of members present.

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Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary