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 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 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, Chief Aaron Watkins, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Megan Mally

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request was received to attend meeting electronically.

4. MINUTES

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

Trustee Silver then MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the July 22, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. Open Meetings Act Communications Guide

Executive Director Cahill provided several policy and process updates. Chief Watkins reviewed concerns and enforcement actions related to the Soulful Sundays gatherings at Proctor Recreation Center, including noise, alcohol and cannabis use, parking and emergency-access concerns, security needs, and the growth of attendance beyond the original rental estimate. Staff advised that future policy recommendations will address a more centralized rental review process, consistency between rental procedures and the District's conduct ordinance, appropriate locations and infrastructure for large gatherings, security requirements, and resource allocation. Trustees also discussed the value of continued engagement with event organizers and participants and opportunities to identify appropriate alternative locations and collaborative programming.

Executive Director Cahill also advised that the IAPD Joint Legislative Survey had been received and was due September 18. Trustees Harant and Silver agreed to work with staff to review the survey, with the survey also to be distributed to other Trustees for comment.

Regarding the Open Meetings Act Communications Guide, Executive Director Cahill and Attorney Day reported that a draft guide was being developed to provide practical guidance and examples concerning electronic communications, quorum requirements, committee communications, and definitions under the Open Meetings Act. Additional guides were discussed regarding closed session parameters, meetings without a quorum, trustee-attorney

communication procedures, policy enforcement and accountability, and strategies for achieving consensus in committee meetings. Staff will continue working with legal counsel on the guides and distribute the proposed list of guidance documents to the Board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. 2027 OSLAD Grant Application Process Update

Becky Fredrickson reported that during preparation of the 2027 OSLAD grant application, the District learned it no longer qualifies as a distressed community under the Illinois Department of Natural Resources criteria because of the amount of prior OSLAD funding received relative to population. As a result, the previously contemplated Charter Oak project would require a 50% local match rather than the anticipated reduced match. Staff recommended pivoting the application to Bradley Park, where approximately $700,000 had already been allocated for tennis court improvements. The proposed project would leverage those committed funds as the local match and could include replacement of the tennis courts and playground, improvements to the restroom, sand volleyball courts and sidewalks, and the addition of pickleball striping/use on a portion of the courts. Trustees discussed balancing tennis and pickleball use, existing capital commitments, and the benefit of leveraging funds already allocated to Bradley Park. Consensus was supportive of staff proceeding with the Bradley Park application. The formal grant application will be presented to the Board for approval on August 26, 2026, prior to the end-of-month application deadline.

6.B. HISRA FY2027 Budget Discussion

Executive Director Cahill and Karrie Ross provided an overview of HISRA's current financial position and FY2027 budget considerations. Staff explained that HISRA is requesting that each member district increase its tax-supported member assessment from two cents to two and one-half cents. The request had been raised in prior years; however, because previous requests occurred too late in the member districts' respective budget and levy cycles, the districts had not been in a position to fully consider an increase. Staff noted that the current request was being presented early enough for each member district to evaluate the proposal as part of its FY2027 budget and levy process.

Staff reviewed the factors contributing to HISRA's current financial position. Although HISRA has experienced growth in member assessment revenue as EAV has increased, operating deficits and capital expenditures have reduced available fund balance and reserves. Staff explained that HISRA does not have bonding authority to finance capital improvements in the same manner as its member park districts and therefore must accumulate reserves to address future capital needs. Trustees discussed the distinction between operating and capital needs and expressed concern that an increase in the member assessment should not simply provide additional operating revenue without corresponding financial controls and a plan for rebuilding reserves.

Trustees discussed HISRA's recent capital expenditures, ongoing operating deficits, program costs and participation levels, and whether current program revenues adequately support the cost of providing services. Particular concern was expressed regarding programs in which each additional participant may increase the operating deficit, as well as the need for realistic budgeting based upon the actual cost of delivering services. The Committee also discussed HISRA's fee structure, including the fact that out-of-district participants may pay the same program rates as participants residing within the member districts. Trustees emphasized the importance of preserving HISRA's programming and services while also ensuring that the organization operates on a financially sustainable basis.

The Committee discussed the Peoria Park District's significant interest in HISRA's continued financial stability. Staff reported that approximately 60% of HISRA's program participation and approximately 60% of its revenue are attributable to Peoria. Trustees noted that the District therefore has a substantial interest both in ensuring continuity of services for participants and in strengthening HISRA's financial oversight and governance. Trustees expressed concern that, had HISRA's financial issues not been identified earlier in the year, a significant number of participants could have experienced disruptions in services.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the financial information provided to the HISRA Board and the member districts. Karrie Ross explained that as HISRA's administrative agent, the Peoria Park District's Finance Department produces monthly financial information for HISRA staff, including a balance sheet, income statement, check listing, credit card report, and general ledger detail. HISRA staff reviews that information and is responsible for determining the information ultimately included in materials provided to the HISRA Board. Trustees expressed concern that the detailed financial information available through the District's Finance Department was not consistently reaching HISRA Board members in a manner that allowed them to fully monitor the organization's financial position.

Trustees discussed establishing more regular financial reporting requirements and earlier warning mechanisms so that member districts would not learn of significant financial concerns late in the budget process. Staff suggested that HISRA's annual budget process should become a regular reporting touchpoint and that HISRA staff should provide more complete information during the Peoria Park District's own budget review process. The Committee also discussed whether revisions to the administrative or management agreement could establish clearer expectations regarding financial reporting, governance, and the respective responsibilities of HISRA and the Peoria Park District as administrative agent.

Staff recommended that any approval of the requested assessment increase be accompanied by additional governance and financial safeguards. Those safeguards would include revisions to HISRA's Articles of Agreement, enhanced fiscal reporting requirements to the HISRA Board, and development of formal reserve and investment policies. Staff explained that the Articles of Agreement serve as HISRA's primary governance document and that proposed changes ultimately would need to be considered by the HISRA Board and then returned to the individual member districts for approval.

Staff further explained that the proposed framework contemplated directing assessment revenue generated by EAV growth above an established threshold into restricted reserves rather than allowing all additional revenue to be absorbed into operations. The intent would be to build financial capacity for future capital needs and provide greater long-term stability. Trustees discussed the need for separate consideration of operational and capital reserves and emphasized that a reserve policy should identify appropriate reserve levels, permitted uses of reserves, and a process for replenishing reserves after expenditures.

Trustees emphasized that the proposed assessment increase should be accompanied by financial discipline and should not be viewed as an unrestricted increase in funding. Discussion focused on establishing a more robust budget process, improving financial reporting, setting meaningful reserve targets, and ensuring that both operating and capital sustainability are addressed. Trustees also discussed whether HISRA may need to evaluate program costs and expenditures as part of achieving long-term financial stability.

The Committee discussed establishing both operational and capital reserves and requiring the reserve policy to address the amounts or targets appropriate for each. Staff proposed that the reserve and investment policies be established by the end of 2026 and that the policies support both operational and capital sustainability using applicable municipal financial-management best practices. Staff further advised that the member districts would ultimately need to approve the applicable governance and policy provisions before the District's representatives could support them at the HISRA Board level.

Trustees also discussed HISRA's impact on participants and the importance of considering service outcomes in addition to financial performance. It was reported that HISRA had conducted a participant satisfaction survey across its programs, with average responses reportedly in the range of approximately four to four-and-one-half on a five-point scale, although the response rate was approximately 12%. Trustees acknowledged the importance and value of HISRA's services while reiterating that the organization must have a sustainable financial structure to continue providing those services.

Following discussion, the Committee expressed general support for the District's HISRA representatives continuing discussions with the HISRA Board regarding the requested increase from two cents to two and one-half cents, provided that the increase be tied to strengthened governance and financial controls. The Committee's direction included revisions to the Articles of Agreement; increased and more timely financial reporting to the HISRA Board and member districts; development of reserve and investment policies by the end of 2026; consideration of both operational and capital reserve needs and appropriate reserve targets; and a more robust budgeting and financial oversight process. The District's representatives were directed to take these concerns and proposed conditions back to the HISRA Board as discussions regarding the FY2027 member assessment continued.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.A. Approval of Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 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)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, and, Section 2(c) (8) Security procedures, school 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, students, staff, the public, or public property.

At 7:00 PM, Trustee Silver MOVED TO CONVENE into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 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)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, and, Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, school 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, students, staff, the public, or public property. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 7:25 PM President Johnson reconvened the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.

Following reconvening of the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Vice President Montez requested that staff provide a report regarding the recently completed summer camp season. The requested report would include information regarding the various camps offered, overall registration and participation, revenues generated by the camps, and how camp-related revenues and expenses are reflected within facility and program budgets. Executive Director Cahill agreed to provide camp-specific information to the Board.

Trustee Sierra raised a concern regarding information that had been brought to his attention concerning a possible informal or formal complaint involving him and matters pertaining to closed session. Trustee Sierra stated that he understood concerns may have been communicated to individual Board members and/or staff but had not been raised directly with him. Trustee Sierra referenced the Board's earlier discussion regarding development of guidance for addressing complaints or concerns and requested an open discussion with the full Board regarding the matter and the context surrounding any concerns that had been raised.

Trustee Slover, identified by Trustee Sierra as having the concern, stated that the matter remained a work in progress and that he was not prepared to discuss it until he had a better understanding of the issue and had determined whether further action or another direction was appropriate. When asked whether a complaint had been presented to staff or other members of the Board, Trustee Slover reiterated that the matter remained under consideration and stated that once a determination had been made, Trustee Sierra would be informed.

Trustee Sierra responded that information available to him indicated that some discussion or due diligence concerning a potential complaint had occurred with members of the Board and/or staff. Trustee Sierra emphasized that when he has had concerns regarding another Board member, those concerns have been raised directly with that individual. Trustee Sierra asked that any concern ultimately pursued be raised directly with him and before the full Board so that it could be addressed openly.

Trustee Hill asked whether the Board had received notice of a complaint. President Johnson clarified that no formal complaint had been presented to the Board and that the matter remained a concern under consideration. President Johnson stated that Board members should not be blindsided by concerns involving fellow Trustees and emphasized the importance of bringing concerns to the attention of the individual involved so that the Board could move forward constructively.

Trustee Sierra further emphasized the importance of open and transparent communication among Board members. He expressed concern that informal discussions involving only subsets of the Board could contribute to an unhealthy Board culture and create the appearance of

"gotcha" situations or political gamesmanship rather than improving Board relationships and effectiveness. Trustee Sierra specifically requested that, whether concerns are informal or formal, they be raised directly with the individual involved and when appropriate, with the full Board rather than only with a subset of Board members.

President Johnson stated that staff should not be involved in matters that are strictly Board decisions. This matter is between Trustees and is not to involve any staff members. Trustee Sierra agreed and reiterated a willingness to have a direct open dialogue. Trustee Sierra asked that Board members not be placed in a position of receiving or withholding information concerning concerns about another Trustee without the individual involved being made aware of the matter, and again expressed willingness to discuss the substance or source of the concerns directly.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:27 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary
Prepared from the meeting recording and notes taken by Megan Mally, Assistant Secretary