

**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, AUGUST 13, 2025 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL**

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Trustees Joyce Harant, Steve Montez, Alexander Sierra, Ron Silver, Mark Slover, Vice President Reagan Leslie Hill, and President Robert Johnson

**TRUSTEES ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Scott Loftus, Becky Fredrickson, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Friberg, Tammy Johnson, Kristi Shoemaker, 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 6:35 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

No request to attend the meeting electronically was received.

**4. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**5. MINUTES**

**5.A. Approval of Minutes of the July 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the July 23, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant

- Aye, Montez - Abstain, Sierra – Aye, Silver - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson

- Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Peoria Heights Mayor Matt Wigginton addressed the Board to express appreciation for the Park District's ongoing investment in Peoria Heights. He noted the District's role as the largest landowner in the community and highlighted its stewardship of "the World's Most Beautiful Drive" and Forest Park Nature Center.

Specific thanks were extended for the recent \$300,000 commitment to the Endres Park improvements, including playground upgrades and accessible parking. Mayor Wigginton commended the community outreach process, noting the public forum where residents, including he and his daughter, were able to provide input and meet with staff and Trustees Silver and Slover.

Mayor Wigginton expressed enthusiasm for continued collaboration and intergovernmental agreements to provide quality programming, accessible opportunities, and safe environments for Peoria Heights residents. He concluded by reiterating Peoria Heights' willingness to partner with the District to advance shared goals.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**7.A. Executive Director**

Executive Director Cahill reported that this is a particularly busy period for the District as staff manage a full program calendar while also preparing for the 2026 budget process, which is now underway. Updates on budget progress will be provided in upcoming meetings.

She also introduced Officer Byron Glover, who has accepted a full-time position with the Park District beginning in September. Officer Glover, who began with the District as an Explorer in 2015 and has served part-time in security, introduced himself to the Board and expressed enthusiasm for continuing to serve the community in this new role.

**7.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction**

Becky Fredrickson presented the July 2025 Project Report. *Please see Attachment A*, noting that as with other departments, this is an especially busy time with both construction season and budget preparation underway.

In response to a question from Trustee Sierra, regarding pending state funding for capital projects, Executive Director Cahill provided an update. She reported that the District recently held a call with the Deputy Director of DCEO and Leader Gordon-Booth regarding access to state funds. Operational/general revenue funds are expected to be available soon, with greater flexibility for use, and will be prioritized for the District.

Capital funds, tied to the Build Illinois bond program, remain dependent on the release of bond proceeds. While the District has received tips to strengthen its position in the funding queue, staff acknowledged these are likely shared broadly across applicants. Executive Director Cahill emphasized the importance of the District's continued presence in the state budget, as it indicates that funding allocations remain intact.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None at this time.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9.A. Central States Media Six-Month Workforce Profile Submission**

Jennifer Swanson presented the six-month semiannual performance report from Central States Media for Board review and receive-and-file.

Trustee Sierra noted that this report was originally requested by himself and Trustee Bertschy and expressed appreciation to staff for facilitating its inclusion. He acknowledged positive strides in workforce diversification by Central States Media, particularly through expanded marketing and outreach efforts, and looks forward to future reports reflecting continued progress.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO RECEIVE AND FILE Central States Media's Six-Month Workforce Profile Submission. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant - Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.B. OSLAD Grant Application – Chartwell Park Improvements**

Becky Fredrickson stated that staff are preparing an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant for the development of several recreational features within Chartwell Park. As a requirement of the grant process, a Resolution of Authorization must be signed by the applicant’s chief elected official. The grant application proposes the development of new play elements within the park, a picnic shelter, as well as path improvements and pollinator plantings. The plan incorporates feedback received at the August 7, 2025 public meeting held at the park.

As such, staff recommends approving the attached Resolution of Authorization (Form OS/DOC-3) for the Open Space Land acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program in order to apply for a grant for the development for the Chartwell Park Improvement project.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the OSLAD Grant Application for Chartwell Park Improvements. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant - Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.C. City of Peoria Easements – John Gwynn and Martin Luther King Jr. Parks.**

Mike Friberg stated that at the Board meeting on April 23, 2025 staff presented recommendations to execute several permanent and temporary easements in favor of the City of Peoria. These were later approved by phone poll on May 12, and ratified at the May 28, 2025 Board meeting. Due to the urgency expressed by the City, these documents included language crafted by the District’s legal counsel, but not yet reviewed by the City of Peoria. The City of Peoria’s legal team did not accept the signed documents with language proposed by the District. Negotiations between the City and District legal teams in the months since have finally produced a compromise acceptable to both the City and District legal teams. As such, staff recommends executing the revised permanent easements, temporary easements, and supporting documents for the City of Peoria’s MacArthur Highway Improvement project.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the City of Peoria Easements for John Gwynn and Martin Luther King Jr. Parks. Motion seconded by Trustee Montez and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.D. City of Peoria Easement – Bicycle Safety Town**

Mike Friberg stated that at the Board meeting on April 23, 2025 staff presented recommendations to execute several permanent and temporary easements in favor of the City of Peoria. These were later approved by phone poll on May 12, and ratified at the May 28, 2025 Board meeting. Due to the urgency expressed by the City, these documents included language crafted by the District’s legal counsel, but not yet reviewed by the City of Peoria. The City of Peoria’s legal team did not accept the signed documents with language proposed by the District. Negotiations between the City and District legal teams in the months since have finally produced a compromise acceptable to both the City and District legal teams. As such, staff recommends executing the revised temporary easement and supporting documents for the City of Peoria’s Sheridan Road Drainage Improvement Project in Safety Town.

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the City of Peoria Easement for Bicycle Safety Town. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.E. City of Peoria Easement - Charter Oak Park**

Mike Friberg stated that at the Board meeting on April 23, 2025 staff presented recommendations to execute several permanent and temporary easements in favor of the City of Peoria. These were later approved by phone poll on May 12, and ratified at the May 28, 2025 Board meeting. Due to the urgency expressed by the City, these documents included language crafted by the District's legal counsel, but not yet reviewed by the City of Peoria. The City of Peoria's legal team did not accept the signed documents with language proposed by the District. Negotiations between the City and District legal teams in the months since have finally produced a compromise acceptable to both the City and District legal teams. As such, staff recommends executing the revised permanent easements, temporary easements, and supporting documents for the City of Peoria's Site 6252 Project in Charter Oak Park.

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the City of Peoria Easement for Charter Oak Park. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.F. ICMG Contractual Service Agreement Extension**

Executive Director Cahill stated that since April 2025, the District has contracted with ICMG to provide support for the District's Police Department while the District conducts a search for a permanent Chief. Mike Eddlemon has been embedded in our Park Police office since April. In his contractual role, he is serving as the administrative leader of the department, working directly with Superintendent Matt Freeman and myself to coordinate police and security activities. He has worked to build relationships with officers currently on our force and stabilized our scheduling and staff capacity. He has collected data regarding the types and frequency of police calls and has made recommendations for modification of scheduling to maximize our responsiveness. At present, we do not have viable candidates for the permanent role and Mr. Eddlemon has efficiently led our efforts to address concerns raised by the Board about monitoring of our parks. As we are in the middle of our work to implement approved recommendations, it is the recommendation of staff that Mr. Eddlemon's current contract through ICMG, which provides for full-time support of our police force and strategic supports for the same at a rate of \$9000, be extended for at least two more months through October 2025, under the same terms as previously approved.

In response to President Johnson's request, Executive Director Cahill provided an update regarding the recruitment efforts for the District's Chief of Police position. Despite posting the position on multiple national employment boards, there have been no viable candidates since early July. Recruitment efforts are currently paused while the District conducts a strategic analysis of police operations in preparation for the 2026 budget process. A revised job description is expected to be proposed effective January 1, 2026, with the intent to align the role with updated organizational and operational needs.

During discussion, Trustees inquired about the timeline for recruitment and staffing. Cahill emphasized that Chief Eddlemon, serving under contract through ICMG, has been instrumental in strengthening District police operations, building collaboration with city police, and expanding officer training opportunities. His leadership has resulted in the department reaching full staffing for the first time in two years.

Trustees expressed support for ensuring continuity of police leadership during this transitional period. Cahill recommended extending Chief Eddlemon's contract to maintain stability, complete ongoing initiatives, and implement his recommendations before resuming the recruitment process under a revised job description.

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the ICMG Contractual Service Agreement Extension through October 2025. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**9.G. Peoria Grown MOU**

Executive Director Cahill stated that In November 2022, Peoria Park District Board of Trustees approved a Memorandum of Understanding and lease agreement with Peoria Grown to support their use of Trewyn Pavilion to facilitate its Market 309 produce market, which currently operates on Sundays. As part of the State of Illinois 2026 annual budget, Peoria Grown received the opportunity to access a \$200,000 grant to support its operations and they, along with Park District staff and Trustee Sierra, met in July 2025 to assess the viability of meeting the terms of the state grant to support the parties' shared goals for support of a wellness hub in 61605. One requirement of the grant is the District's commitment to collaborate for at least 10 years if any capital improvements are made using state dollars. Staff believes that this is an excellent use of the lower level of the Trewyn Pavilion, which has not been used since Early Head Start ended its use in 2024. Based on the discussions had, staff has developed the attached Memorandum of Understanding for review and consideration by the Board. With the ratification of the terms therein, staff will next work with Peoria Grown to finalize the terms of an annual lease with options for renewal that would extend Peoria Grown use through 2036.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Peoria Grown Memorandum of Understanding. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Abstain, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**10.A. Bid – Endres Playground**

**10.B. Bid – Giant Oak Park Fence**

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 10.A. and 10.B. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant -Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra - Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

**11. PENDING BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

None at this time.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Montez complimented Park District crews and staff for the improved appearance of entrances, flower beds, and grounds at various facilities, including Bradley Park, Grandview, RiverPlex, Columbia Park, the Noble Center, and the Playhouse. Trustee Montez noted the effort required to maintain landscaping through late summer and commended staff, specifically Jake and Ryan, for their outstanding work.

Trustee Harant expressed appreciation for recent efforts to increase public transparency and community outreach, citing the success of the Chartwell Park public input and the Committee's outreach to pickleball and tennis groups. Trustee Harant acknowledged the challenges of engaging communities without organized groups but emphasized the importance of continuing these outreach efforts to ensure public voices are heard in planning and programming decisions.

**14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

None noted at this time.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:13 pm Trustee Slover MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried by unanimous aye of those present.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7G94DTwBoxM>

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary