

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 4:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 AT THE BONNIE NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 W. LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice President and Chair Reagan Leslie Hill, Trustee Ron Silver, and Executive Director Emily Cahill

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Jenny Swanson, Spencer Wilson, Kristi Shoemaker, Mary Harden, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Hill called the meeting to order at 4:32 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 Minutes of July 9, 2025 Planning Committee Meeting

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the July 9, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Vice President Hill – Aye, Trustee Silver – Aye, Executive Director Cahill – Aye.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. OSLAD Grant Application – Chartwell Park Improvements

Mary Harden provided an overview of a proposed OSLAD (Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development) grant application for improvements at Chartwell Park. The OSLAD application requires that development projects on previously acquired land must certify that they were acquired using certain processes, that they were acquired before 1971, or that there were no intentions or plans to apply for OSLAD grant assistance. As such, staff recommends certifying the Acquisition History and Certification form OS/DOC-2A in order to apply for the OSLAD development grant.

- Grant Overview: District will apply in September 2025 for \$600,000 in OSLAD funding. This round would be 100% funded (no local match). Letters of support have already been received from neighbors following public engagement.

- Public Input: A community meeting held the prior week drew approximately 20–30 attendees with strong interest and constructive feedback on uses and amenities.
- Site Context: Chartwell Park totals ~25 acres with an approximately 16-acre wooded interior and developed acreage at the north (~5 acres) and south (~4 acres). The park functions primarily as a neighborhood, pedestrian-oriented site with three walk-in access points and street parking; adding vehicular parking is not proposed.
- Proposed Scope (focus on the north half):
 - Replace the 1997 sand-surfaced playground with a new playground on unitary/rubber safety surfacing; swings to be retained per maintenance feedback and neighbor input.
 - Add a small shelter (~20' x 24') adjacent to the playground (capacity ~4 picnic tables).
 - Pathway rehabilitation and alignment: replace deteriorated sections, create a loop walk of ~¼–⅓ mile for walkers; adjust alignment to protect a prominent tree and to increase buffer from east-edge neighbors (with trimming/vegetation screening as needed).
 - Native plantings: introduce short native wildflower meadows (<~3–3.5 ft) in select low/runoff areas to improve habitat, reduce mowing emissions, and aid stormwater infiltration.
 - Woodland edge restoration: remove invasive species (e.g., autumn olive/Russian olive, bush honeysuckle) to open views and improve ecological health and passive access.
 - Maintain the large open turf for informal/pickup play; no striped courts/diamonds are contemplated within this neighborhood park typology.
- Access/Parking: The park will remain a walk-in neighborhood park; no additional parking is proposed. Existing north-side constraints were noted; south-side street access remains available.

The Planning Committee gave consensus support to proceed with the OSLAD application as outlined.

5.B. Bradley Park Sculpture Update

Executive Director Cahill noted that progress is being made, with wax work underway at the foundry for the statue project. Foundation work has been authorized and required insurance received. Installation is targeted around late September early October, subject to coordination. The placement will be at the former Columbus statue site. Staff will update as scheduling is finalized.

5.C. Glen Oak Park Basketball Court Placement Discussion

Becky Fredrickson stated that staff requested trustee direction on siting a proposed basketball court at Glen Oak Park, funded from over-reserve resources for Glen Oak improvements. Two feasible locations were discussed:

- Southern location along Prospect (near open green space; farther from tennis/pickleball).
- Northern location near existing pickleball/tennis courts (benefit of proximity to existing lighting and activity hubs).

Trustees discussed the following key considerations:

Operations & Congestion: Northern location could increase congestion around tennis/pickleball and parking; southern location offers space and potential for future expansion.

Neighborhood Interface & Policing: Southern area is more open/visible for patrol; amphitheater/lagoon area (earlier considered) was ruled out due to conflicts with performances, fishing, noise, and nearby residents.

Playground Proximity: Ensure adequate separation/buffering between any court near the new playground to limit teen loitering within the play area; landscaping and layout can mitigate.

Lighting: Northern location could leverage existing lights for evening play; adding new lighting at a southern location would entail additional cost.

Trustee Harant acknowledged that nearby Glen Oak School courts has history of hoops removed due to policing/after-hours concerns. President Johnson emphasized the Park District's role to lead with public recreation and not rely on school facilities.

Youth Access & Activity: Trustees stressed the importance of accessible recreation on the East Bluff to promote positive youth activity and reduce undesirable behaviors in the park.

Executive Director Cahill provided context to the conversation stating that the addition of basketball courts at Glen Oak Park started as a legislator's state allocation of grant dollars to support the park. In the inventory presented to the community for improvement, discussed was an accessible playground and restroom, shelter, modifications to the amphitheater, and adding basketball courts. This is a part of the strategic process that was put into place then, and is already funded and in the over reserves.

President Johnson stated that he has had conversations with Dr. Kherat at PPS concerning basketball courts at Glen Oak School. They are there, but they're not being

used and have no nets on them. The courts were being used by people (not students) and interfered with the school during the day.

Trustees expressed preference for the southern location, citing space, visibility, and reduced conflicts with pickleball/tennis.

Noted merits of the northern location were the existing lighting infrastructure.

Direction/Next Steps: Staff to (1) advance siting refinement for the southern location while (2) preparing a comparison that addresses lighting needs/costs, playground separation/buffering, landscaping, security/policing considerations, and estimated project costs and timeline for both options. Staff will return with a recommended site and cost summary for Board consideration.

6. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.A. Approval to Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) Concerning the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body.

At 5:14 PM, Trustee Silver MOVED TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION Pursuant to Section 2(c)(6) for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. Motion second by Executive Director Cahill and carried unanimously by roll call vote as follows: Vice President Hill – Aye, Trustee Silver – Aye, Executive Director Cahill – Aye.

At 5:29 PM, Vice President Hill reconvened the Planning Committee meeting.

8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

See Direction/Next Steps in 5.C. above.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 5:31 pm, Trustee Silver MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting. Motion second by Executive Director Cahill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary