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 5:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2025 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 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, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Jenny Swanson, Mary Harden, Mike Friberg, Spencer Wilson, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, and Alicia Woodworth.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brandon Crull and Derek Amerman of Peoria Area Water Wizards (PAWW)

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

4. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of July 23, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the July 23, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. 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).

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. Revised Commitment to DEIA Document Review

Trustee Sierra, Chair of the DEIA Committee, presented the proposed revisions to the Park District's Commitment to D.E.I.A. document. The primary modification consolidates the original Pillars 2 and 4 (internal workforce development and broader community workforce support) into a single workforce development pillar, resulting in three pillars total. Other pillars—diversifying vendors and promoting equitable access to parks, facilities, and programs—remain unchanged.

Trustee Slover raised concerns about the specific wording of several strategies, noting terms such as "actively increase" could be perceived as ambiguous or prescriptive, and emphasized his preference for wording that reflects encouragement rather than mandated outcomes. He also referenced city and county language around placement goals, suggesting that additional clarifying language could help ensure balance and avoid misinterpretation.

Trustee Sierra responded that the revised document aligns with the Park District's strategic pillars, reduces redundancy, and reflects modernized practices. He emphasized that the annual DEIA Action Plan and supporting metrics provide quantifiable measures, and that the Park

District continues to lead in workforce and vendor diversification among local government entities.

After discussion, Trustees indicated a preference for additional review; however, the consensus of the Committee was to move the revised document forward, with the following vote for consensus:

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO SUBMIT the Revised DEIA Document to the Full Board for Approval. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant - Aye, Montez – Aye, Sierra – Aye, Silver - Aye, Slover - Abstain, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Abstain; 0 Nays).

5.B. Conduct Ordinance Draft Revisions

Executive Director Cahill stated that after discussion with the Peoria Park District Board of Trustees and legal counsel, staff recommends ratification of the provided conduct ordinance amendments which provides for the addition of two new ordinances related to the unlawful concealing of identity and permitted items, searches, and inspections. The ordinance also addresses outdated language related to restroom access. The primary updates included:

Restroom Policy – Outdated language requiring children above age five to use gender-specific restrooms has been revised to align with current law, including the Equitable Restroom Act.

Clarification of Search Authority – Language was added to formally authorize search procedures at special events (e.g., bag checks, use of metal detectors) consistent with practices at other public venues. The revisions do not expand police authority but align the ordinance with existing constitutional standards for reasonable searches.

Trustees raised questions regarding standard operating procedures (SOPs) to guide implementation. Staff and Attorney Day confirmed that SOPs are in place and will be updated alongside the ordinance to ensure constitutional compliance, with additional oversight from Park District legal counsel and PDRMA.

Trustees discussed examples such as the use of hoodies and masks in facilities and the need for clear exceptions (e.g., medical conditions). Staff emphasized that officer training and SOPs will provide necessary guardrails to apply the ordinance fairly.

Trustee Montez opposed the changes in the conduct ordinance based on the need address an increase of crime in our parks as stated by board trustees and staff, stating that he believes there has been no data supplied as requested in previous meetings to back up this need for the change.

After discussion, Trustee Sierra stated that he has several revisions he would like to be included in the new conduct ordinances. He stated he will submit them to Secretary Woodworth for resubmission to the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee on 8.27.25 and the Board on 8.27.25 for first read, and Board approval on 9.10.25.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. Peoria Grown Update

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.

To meet Peoria Grown's timeline for submission of its application to receive the state funds, staff has placed the draft MOU on both the Strategy and Regular Board agendas to support approval at tonight's meetings.

6.B. PAWW Recognition

Note: This item was offered at the beginning of the meeting at which time Brandon Crull and Derek Amerman of Peoria Area Water Wizards (PAWW) spoke with Trustees.

At the request of President Johnson, representatives of the Peoria Area Water Wizards (PAWW), President Brandon Crull and Head Coach Derek Amerman, attended the meeting to share reflections on their partnership with the Park District and the future of aquatic programming in the community.

Appreciation for Partnership – PAWW leaders thanked the Park District staff and Trustees for their support during their tenure at Central Park Pool, emphasizing the strength of the working relationship. Trustees reciprocated appreciation for PAWW's commitment to youth development and aquatic safety.

Community Impact – Discussion highlighted PAWW's programming, which included swim lessons, lifeguard certification programs, and outreach to underserved youth. Several graduates of PAWW's lifeguard training have gone on to work for the Park District. PAWW also received a USA Swimming grant to expand free and reduced-cost lessons.

Concerns About Pool Access – PAWW leaders stressed that the closure of Central Pool represents a significant loss for the swimming community, including Peoria High School, Peoria Notre Dame, and Dunlap swimmers who utilized the facility. They noted the importance of maintaining access to local pools for IHSA competitions and regional swim meets.

Future Collaboration – PAWW expressed openness to continuing partnerships with the Park District, including exploring opportunities for expanded community swim lessons, subsidized access, and outreach modeled after national efforts such as those led by Olympian Cullen Jones.

Trustee Acknowledgments – Trustees shared personal connections to PAWW, noting their children's positive experiences in the program, and praised PAWW's contributions to community health, safety, and recreation.

PAWW invited Trustees and staff to attend their upcoming celebration and time trials at Central Pool on August 23.

Due to time constraints, at 6:29 pm Trustee Harant MOVED TO RECESS the meeting, to reconvene after the Regular Board meeting adjourns. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill 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).

At 7:15 pm Trustee Slover MOVED TO RECONVENE the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. 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).

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Please see item 6.B. above. No additional citizen requests to address the Board were received.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None at this time.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:41 pm, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill 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).

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary