MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 11:00 AM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 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, Nick Conrad, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Scott Loftus, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Friberg, Ryne Schafer, Angela Martiens, and Alicia Woodworth

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the tennis and pickleball communities.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Sierra called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

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

On the advice of legal counsel, Executive Director Cahill MOVED TO SUSPEND the District's public engagement rules for this meeting to permit interactive discussion with members of the public. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT COMMITTEE MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

No request to attend meeting electronically was received.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2026 PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE MEETING

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the July 15, 2026 Programming Committee Meeting. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING OSLAD GRANT APPLICATION AT BRADLEY PARK

Staff reviewed the District's proposed $1.2 million OSLAD grant application for improvements at Bradley Park, consisting of a potential $600,000 Illinois Department of Natural Resources grant and a $600,000 District match. Proposed improvements include rebuilding and relocating the tennis courts within the project area, replacing the playground, and renovating the restroom to improve accessibility. Staff also described how the court relocation could preserve options for future parking improvements and explained that OSLAD funding is subject to specific eligible-use requirements and long-term restrictions on the grant area.

Paul Mathis and Kevin Miller of the tennis community expressed support for improving tennis facilities but raised concerns regarding public safety and the likelihood that tennis players would use Bradley Park and Glen Oak Park following recent incidents. They encouraged the District to consider future tennis and pickleball improvements at Timothy J. Cassidy Park, Donovan Park, and Charter Oak Park;

youth tennis programming; separation between tennis and pickleball courts where feasible; benches between tennis courts; fundraising opportunities; and potential USTA grant assistance. Staff noted that crack repair work at Cassidy Park was already under contract and that Bradley Park continues to host high school teams, District lessons, the Jack Sweeney youth tennis program, and regular public play.

Kelly Eckert, a Peoria pickleball ambassador, discussed heavy use of Charter Oak Park, damage to portable pickleball nets, reduced use of Glen Oak Park following a recent shooting, and interest in possible future expansion at Cassidy Park and Charter Oak. In response to questions about the selection of Bradley Park, Trustee Sierra and Executive Director Cahill explained that Bradley Park had been identified as the grant site based on the applicable criteria and because previously committed capital funds for needed Bradley Park court improvements could serve as the required grant match. Feedback regarding other locations would be retained for future capital planning.

Trustee Sierra stated that all public feedback would be captured in the District's public-input tracking dashboard and reiterated that public safety concerns were being heard and remained a District priority. He advised that an additional opportunity for public input on the OSLAD proposal would be available at the next Regular Board Meeting.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE

None at this time.

7. PROCESS/POLICY UPDATES

7.A. Applicability of Open Meetings Act To Talk About it Tuesday

Trustee Sierra summarized the question previously submitted to legal counsel regarding whether Talk About It Tuesday (TAIT) sessions are subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Committee reviewed counsel's guidance that TAIT must be treated as an OMA meeting when two or more Programming Committee members are present or plan to attend and public business is discussed; in that circumstance, notice, agenda, minutes, and other OMA requirements apply.

Trustee Harant stated that she was comfortable continuing TAIT as a Committee function if the minutes could identify attendance and summarize the issues and public input reflected in the tracking document, rather than attempting to capture the full back-and-forth dialogue. She indicated that, if that approach were not workable, TAIT could instead become a staff-led function. Executive Director Cahill discussed the practical implications of committee membership and quorum requirements and noted that minutes may appropriately summarize public input and reference an attachment or tracking document when the session is primarily informational and does not involve Committee deliberation.

The Committee agreed that TAIT may continue as a Programming Committee function with appropriate OMA compliance and summary-style minutes documenting the public input received, while substantive deliberation regarding how to respond to that input would occur at the regular Committee meeting. The Committee also agreed to prioritize a policy or procedural update formalizing the process for future committees.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.A. Updated Progress Report for Tennis and Pickleball

Staff presented the updated Talk About It Tracking – Pickleball/Tennis report. Completed items included trimming the oak tree over the pickleball courts; providing brooms; reviewing access to adjacent courts during lessons; exploring vending at the Franciscan Recreation Complex (FRC); raising basketball hoops for indoor play; replacing court rollers at Bradley Park; adding court numbers and paddle racks at Glen Oak; clarifying pickleball rules and court-use guidelines; addressing the Central Illinois Pickleball Club's Sunday court request; installing end-of-court barriers and player benches at Charter Oak; and placing a portable restroom near the Glen Oak pickleball courts. Court lighting at Glen Oak and lighting concerns at the RiverPlex remained in progress, while discounted rental rates for charity/community events and windscreens remained under review.

Members of the pickleball community provided feedback regarding the durability of the Charter Oak ball barriers, damaged portable nets, trash and inappropriate use of court equipment, possible signage or cameras, and opportunities for closer social-media coordination to promote Sunday open play. Participants also discussed differences in player use between Charter Oak and Glen Oak, the effect of location and perceptions of safety, restroom conditions, discounted court rental rates, and the possibility of additional events and programming.

Trustee Harant noted that younger players appear to favor Charter Oak in part because of its northern location and suggested outreach to users to better understand concerns and expectations. Executive Director Cahill discussed the District's efforts to balance access, security, positive park use, and investment in longstanding community assets. She emphasized that increased positive activity can improve park safety and perception and said the District would continue exploring programming, partnerships, and resource allocation to support engagement. Trustee Sierra agreed that public perception is significant and emphasized the importance of communicating positive activity and investment occurring in District parks.

The Committee requested that the tracking dashboard continue to be updated and, when feasible, include costs or estimated District investment for completed items. Trustee Harant noted that cost information could also help clubs identify opportunities to participate financially. Trustee Sierra supported making that information publicly accessible, beginning with completed items if complete cost data are not yet available.

9. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed the remaining Talk About It Tuesday schedule. Rather than immediately scheduling another golf public-input session, the Committee supported updating the golf tracking document and distributing it to the golf community with an opportunity to provide additional feedback. Staff will determine from the response whether another public-input session is needed. The Committee also discussed diversifying TAIT topics in the 2027 calendar.

Trustee Sierra requested that at the conclusion of the year's TAIT sessions, participants who provided contact information receive a thank-you communication. Staff discussed combining a personalized thank-you with the 2027 schedule and reinforcing the message through social media.

Executive Director Cahill advised that the Committee's primary budget-related role at its September 16 meeting would be initial review of the 2027 fees and charges calendar and proposed changes. Staff will also provide the requested overview of camps. The Committee may be asked in September or October to review additional service-level questions before they proceed to the Strategy Committee. The Committee also discussed Golf Learning Center rates and potential discount strategies as part of the budget process.

9. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Staff will update the applicable public-input tracking dashboards;
2. Distribute the updated golf tracking information and solicit additional feedback
3. Develop a policy or procedural update for TAIT and OMA compliance
4. Prepare year-end thank-you communications for TAIT participants
5. Prepare the 2027 fees and charges materials and camp overview
6. Begin adding cost or investment information to completed tracking items when feasible.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:39 pm, Executive Director Cahill MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on a unanimous voice vote.

____

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary