

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 27, 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, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Jennifer Swanson, Mike Friberg, Tammy Johnson, Max Lakes, Yoginee Nawale, Kristi Shoemaker, Spencer Wilson, Attorney Kevin Day, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:32 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 August 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the August 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried on the following roll call vote: Trustees Harant - Aye, Montez - Aye, Sierra – Aye, Silver - Aye, Vice President Hill - Aye, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 7 Ayes; 0 Abstain; 0 Nays).

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill invited Peoria Zoo Director Max Lakes to provide a report regarding animal care updates.

Mr. Lakes explained that a new giraffe feeder was included on the evening’s consent docket. The feeder will replace a previous wooden feeder that was damaged when a giraffe pulled it apart. The new design is more durable and includes two hooks that can be raised up to 24–25 feet in height, which is critical for supporting the natural feeding behaviors and physical health of the Zoo’s giraffes.

He noted that the Zoo currently houses three giraffes—Emmy, Vivian, and Fitz—with a breeding recommendation in place that may expand the herd. As Fitz grows, he is expected to reach nearly

20 feet tall, and giraffes require the ability to extend their necks and use their tongues to forage at elevated heights to maintain proper muscle development.

The new feeder also incorporates a shade structure and will be accompanied by interpretive signage and video, enhancing the educational experience for Zoo guests. Additionally, Zoo staff are working with the Park District's horticulture team to develop a browse program, including a browse freezer to preserve cut tree limbs for year-round feeding.

The Board expressed appreciation for the update, and Executive Director Cahill thanked Mr. Lakes for his presentation.

7.B. Chief of Police

In Interim Chief Eddlemon's absence, Executive Director Cahill and Matt Freeman provided the July 2025 police report and addressed trustee questions. *Please see Attachment A.*

Clarifications were given regarding terminology in the report, including "soft guns" (plastic pellet/BB-style guns) and "OV" (ordinance violation). Trustees discussed how non-crime reports now provide better documentation of activity, such as abandoned vehicles or found property incidents, that may not have been previously included. July was reported as a busy month for the department, which is consistent with seasonal trends and higher staffing levels compared to June.

President Johnson requested that, in the future, if the Chief is unavailable, another officer working in the field be present to respond directly to operational questions. Executive Director Cahill assured the Board that she and Chief Eddlemon remain in regular communication and that staff are well-informed, but committed to honoring the request for officer representation at future meetings.

It was also noted that a recent gathering at Manual High School had limited police presence due to the short notice of the event.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. Finance Committee – Approval of Accounts Payable

The Finance Committee Presents the Accounts Payable to the Full Board for Approval

Trustee and Finance Committee Chair Slover stated that the Finance Committee has examined the bills and moves that the President and the Secretary be authorized to issue orders on the Treasurer for the several amounts. 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).

8.B. Planning Committee – Minutes of July 9, 2025 Meeting

The Planning Committee Presents the Approved Minutes of the July 9, 2025 Meeting

Vice President and Planning Committee Chair Hill presented the approved minutes of the July 9, 2025 Planning Committee meeting.

8.C. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Committee – Minutes of June 17, 2025 and July 15, 2025 Meetings

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Accessibility Committee presents the approved minutes of the June 17, 2025 and July 15, 2025 Meetings

Trustee and DEIA Committee Chair Sierra presented the approved minutes of the June 17, 2025 and July 15, 2025 DEIA Committee meetings.

During discussion, Trustee Slover noted he has prepared a proposal related to language within the DEIA pillars document and Procurement Policy. He explained that his intent is to balance District DEIA requirements with community expectations and to clarify how internal and external goals are addressed within the pillars' framework. Trustee Sierra emphasized that the appropriate next step is for the proposal to be reviewed first by the DEIA Committee before any Board consideration.

Trustee Sierra clarified the distinction between the DEIA Commitment document and the Procurement Policy, noting that Trustee Slover's concerns primarily relate to procurement language previously adopted by the Board. Trustee Sierra reiterated that the concerns Trustee Slover has are individual concerns expressed by Trustee Slover and not the consensus of the full Board.

Trustee Slover acknowledged this, adding that he has incorporated feedback from Trustee Harant into his draft and looks forward to further discussion in committee.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Conduct Ordinance Amendments

First Read

The first reading of proposed amendments to the Conduct Ordinance was presented for Board consideration. Trustees noted that the item had been scheduled for discussion at a prior meeting but was not reached on that agenda.

During deliberation, there was not consensus among trustees to proceed directly with a first reading at this time. Trustee Montez raised questions regarding whether the current draft language might require further revision and whether discussion in committee would be the more appropriate next step. Trustees clarified the distinction between deferring the first reading to a later Board meeting versus referring the subject matter back to committee for additional review.

After clarification, Trustee Montez MOVED TO REFER the Conduct Ordinance Amendments to the next Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting for further discussion and possible revision prior to resubmission to the full Board for first read and 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 - 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 recreational amenities in 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 was no intention 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.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Certification of the Acquisition History and Certification form OS/DOC-2A in order to apply for the OSLAD Development Grant Application for Chartwell Park Improvements. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover 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. Peoria Grown Lease Agreement

Executive Director Cahill stated that as discussed at the August 13, 2025 Board meeting, the next step in finalizing the District's relationship with Peoria Grown for the long-term use of Trewyn Pavilion to serve as a wellness and nutrition hub in south Peoria is the execution of a long-term lease for the use of that facility by Peoria Grown to support their use of Trewyn Pavilion to facilitate its Market 309 produce market, which will be able to expand under this new agreement. As such, staff recommends approval and execution of the Lease Agreement with Peoria Grown.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Peoria Grown Lease Agreement. 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 - Abstain, and President Johnson - Aye. (Results: 6 Ayes; 1 Abstain; 0 Nays).

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

10.A. Bid - Peoria Zoo Giraffe Shade/Feeding Structure

10.B. Bid – RiverPlex Whirlpool Deck Repairs

10.C. Bid – RiverFront Path Replacement

10.D. Bid – Rock Island Greenway Culvert Replacement

10.E. Quote – Grandview Drive Service Building Repairs

10.F. Purchase of Two Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicles per Sourcewell Contract

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 10.A. through 10.F. 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).

11. PENDING BUSINESS

11.A. Revised Commitment to DEIA Document

Motion to Defer to DEIA Committee for Further Review and Discussion

Trustee Sierra reminded the Board that, at the Strategy Committee meeting held two weeks prior, the Committee voted to forward a revised DEIA Commitment document to the full Board for review and approval. For context, the revision consolidated Pillar Two (internal workforce focus) and Pillar Four (community workforce support) into a single pillar, streamlining the framework and modernizing the structure being developed by the committee. It was noted, however, that recent federal executive orders necessitate further review before Board adoption.

Accordingly, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO DEFER the Revised Commitment to DEIA Document back to the DEIA Committee for Further Review and Discussion. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover 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).

12. COMMUNICATIONS

12.A. HISRA July 2025 Impact Report

HISRA's July 2025 Impact Report was presented to the Full Board for review.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Sierra offered condolences on behalf of the Board and the District to the family of Datikka "Tika" Peebles, a dedicated member of the NAACP executive board and strong supporter of Park District community outreach initiatives, including the Power Lunch program. Ms. Peebles passed away unexpectedly earlier in the week.

Trustee Sierra also commented on recent incidents of violence in the South Side of Peoria, emphasizing the importance of intentional language when referencing the community and noting that these events highlight the challenges faced by many constituents. He thanked District staff for their responsiveness and support during these difficult times and encouraged continued active engagement to help address community needs.

Trustee Harant shared information regarding the work of Cody Birley, an occupational therapist and founder of Prairieland Adaptive, who is organizing an Adaptive Recreation Expo on September 27 at Bradley's Markin Center. The event will feature demonstrations of adaptive recreational opportunities, including basketball and pickleball. Trustee Harant expressed appreciation for Mr. Birley's efforts to expand inclusive programming and support for individuals with disabilities.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Refer the proposed Conduct Ordinance Amendments to the next Strategy Committee for further review.
2. Trustee Slover will provide his draft edits related to the DEIA documents will to be circulated to the Board for review.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 pm Vice President Hill 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=vzlwfBBVmMk>

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary