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 27, 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, Nick Conrad, Becky Fredrickson, Matt Freeman, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Jenny Swanson, Mike Friberg, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorney Kevin Day, and Alicia Woodworth.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 5:34 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 August 13, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Sierra requested clarification that Peoria Park District's DEIA procurement goals are already aligned with City of Peoria, Peoria County, and Peoria Public Schools language. He requested the August 13, 2025 minutes be amended, stating that it was confirmed that the DEIA procurement goals do align with the City and the County. He thinks that's important to outline that on page one the second paragraph from the bottom, where it was stating that Trustee Slover has suggested that we realign our languages with the City and the County.

In addition, Trustee Sierra requested the August 13, 2025 minutes be amended. For clarification, in the second paragraph of page two, it currently states that "after discussion, trustees indicated a preference for additional review." Outside of Trustee Slover, he doesn't recall anyone else asking for additional discussion. As such, he wants to accurately reflect what the discussion actually entailed, which was Trustee Slover specifically asked for additional review, and no others.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the August 13, 2025 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting, as amended with the request of Trustee Sierra. 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).

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

Trustees briefly discussed policy concerns regarding ordinance revisions, including considerations around restroom language and security provisions.

Further information regarding security cameras and recent incidents was deferred to Closed Session.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. Peoria Grown Lease Agreement

Executive Director Cahill stated that as contemplated at the August 13, 2025 board meeting, the next step in finalizing our 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.

Executive Director Cahill reviewed updates to the lease with Peoria Grown:

- Rent terms were adjusted to phase in increases more gradually due to reliance on state grant funding.
- Final rent amount was capped slightly lower than Early Head Start precedent, with recognition of sustainability concerns.
- Utilities included; provision added that if utility costs increase by more than 10%, the lease will be revisited.
- Internet will remain district-provided, with Peoria Grown contributing to costs.

Trustees discussed the balance between market rate and social return on investment given Peoria Grown's impact at the park site.

No formal action was taken at this meeting; lease will appear on the Regular Board Meeting agenda later in the evening.

6.B. Letter of Support - Shawnee National Forest Classification of Special Management and Wilderness Areas

Executive Director Cahill stated that through Trustee Harant, staff was made aware of the opportunity to support Senator Dick Durbin's efforts to designate additional acreage in Shawnee National Forest as wilderness. Sen Durbin is seeking support for his bill. Downstate advocates have been working on this for quite a while and have asked for support from groups throughout the state.

Supervisor of Environmental and Interpretive Services Kristi Shoemaker shared as follows:

I think that any time we can support other agencies with having greater protection for natural areas, it is a good thing. The designation as Wilderness means that area is sufficiently large and has ecological integrity so as to where a hiker could experience an area "untouched by the hand of man" and would not encounter vehicles, machinery, etc. The Special Management Area is an interesting designation since it would allow for the use of tools to management which would be prohibited in Wilderness areas (chainsaws, ATV, power toolsonly hand tools and no technology are technically allowed in Wilderness), which

is especially important in the fight against invasive species. Those invasives which Southern Illinois folks are currently on the front lines combatting, have the potential to reach our area, especially with climate change. Anything we can do to help our Federal colleagues effectively manage these problem plants helps us in the long run.

As such, staff seeks consensus to allow for a letter to be sent in support of this effort. After brief discussion, unanimous consensus was given to send a letter in support of this effort.

6.C. PPD Aquatics Inventory

Executive Director Cahill stated that per the request of Trustee Montez and in support of the larger discussion currently underway regarding Central Park Pool, please see the comprehensive aquatics usage report. This document was compiled by Superintendent Scott Loftus, with the support of Aquatics Supervisor Hannah Johnson. Thanks to both of them for their efforts.

Key points discussed:

- Data on swim lesson participation at multiple sites was reviewed, including RiverPlex, Proctor Center campers, and Gwynn site lessons.
- Sunday pool usage historically showed very low demand; additional hours were not recommended outside budget planning.
- Trustees raised concerns about short pool seasons, northside access to aquatics, and balancing splash pads versus traditional pools.
- Trustees emphasized community engagement around aquatics should be expanded to demonstrate demand and inform strategic direction.

Discussion of pool operations and budget implications will continue during upcoming budget sessions and joint closed session with Peoria Public Schools.

Trustee Sierra suggested adding the topic of Aquatics to the Programming Committee's Talk About it Tuesday agenda.

6.D. Opportunity for Collaboration: IDNR Conservation Police

Executive Director Cahill stated that Land Manager Mike Friberg was contacted by IDNR Conservation Police and has worked to evaluate a potential opportunity to lease space to IDNR for these officers at a park location. Before proceeding, staff seeks consensus direction from the board on the opportunity.

Mike Friberg reported that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Conservation Police are seeking new office space. Options toured included Tawny Oaks House, Betty Ford House, and the former Police Office at Equipment Services. IDNR Conservation Police proposed a ten (10)-year lease for approximately 1,200 sq. ft. office space at Equipment Service for $1,000/month.

Trustees Discussed:

- Pros: revenue, closer collaboration with Conservation Police, added presence on northern properties.

- Cons: limited conditioned space at Equipment Service, potential scope creep, and concerns about a long-term lease.

After discussion, consensus was given that staff may continue negotiations of a lease agreement with IDNR Conservation Police, but explore a shorter five (5)-year lease rather than 10 years.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None at this time.

At 6:23 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO RECESS the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. 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 7:20 PM, Trustee Harant 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).

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.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, and, pursuant to Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.

At 7:22 PM, Trustee Silver MOVED TO CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION Pursuant to Section2(c)(6) Concerning the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body, and, pursuant to Section 2(c)(8) Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 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).

At 8:33 PM, President Johnson reconvened the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted at this time.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM, Vice President Hill MOVED TO ADJOURN. 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).

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary