

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE PLEASURE DRIVEWAY AND PARK DISTRICT OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS HELD AT 4:30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Mike Friberg, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Spencer Wilson, Greg Walker, Joe Christian, and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Hill called the meeting to order at 4:31 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 August 13, 2025 Planning Committee Meeting

Trustee Silver MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the August 13, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.A. Memorial Bench at Robinson Park

Joe Christian stated that staff received a request from Mr. Zhijun Cai to place a memorial bench at or near Robinson Park in memory of and on behalf of the family of Shuhai Hou who recently passed away. Mr. Hou was an avid hiker at Robinson Park, so Mr. Cai requested information on a memorial bench there. After inquiring with PPD Planning Dept Staff, several suitable locations were offered for Mr. Cai's consideration. Ultimately Mr. Cai and the family chose the location at the southwest corner of the parking lot to the south of Mossville Rd. This bench will be the larger iron memorial bench option which has a donation cost of \$6,000. The bench will also include a standardized plaque, with language agreed upon by the District and family.

As such, staff recommends approval of this request. Staff will ensure the bench and plaque matches the Memorial and Tribute guidelines. All expenses will be incurred by Mr. Zhijun Cai.

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Trustee Silver MOVED TO PROVIDE CONSENSUS to Move this Item to Full Board for Approval. Motion seconded by Executive Director Cahill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

6. PENDING BUSINESS

None at this time.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Hill discussed the implications of the National Historic Preservation Act for District planning projects, noting that staff should remain aware of compliance requirements when undertaking projects that may involve historically significant properties or resources. She encouraged continued monitoring of federal and state preservation guidelines to ensure alignment and avoid potential delays.

Trustee Harant reported that the City of Peoria has continued discussions on the proposed amphitheater project. She emphasized the importance of the Park District's role in ensuring that the facility complements existing District programming and venues, avoids duplication of services, and prioritizes community access. Harant noted that ongoing collaboration with the City will be essential, particularly around shared costs, parking, and programming partnerships.

8. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

1. Staff to monitor federal and state guidance related to the National Historic Preservation Act and provide updates to the Committee as relevant.
2. Staff to coordinate with the City of Peoria on the amphitheater project to ensure alignment with District planning efforts and community needs.
3. The Robinson Park memorial bench request will be advanced to the full Board for consideration and approval.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:59 pm, Trustee Silver MOVED TO ADJOURN the meeting. Motion second by Vice President Hill and carried on unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary