

**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, SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Mike Eddlemon, Mike Friberg, Tammy Johnson, Yoginee Nawale, Kristi Shoemaker, Spencer Wilson, Attorney Justin Gunn, Miles Howley, and Alicia Woodworth

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Johnson presided and called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken, and all Trustees were present.

**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**

A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. MINUTES**

**5.A. Approval of Minutes of the August 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting**

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the Minutes of the August 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

**6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

None at this time.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**7.A. Executive Director**

Executive Director Cahill provided updates on fall events and distributed the Explore More newsletter. This consolidated membership newsletter will be mailed three times annually and also available electronically. She noted the launch of the Explore More Membership, offering joint access to the Zoo, PlayHouse, Forest Park Nature Center, and Luthy Botanical Garden. Five memberships were sold within hours of launch. Trustees commended staff, particularly Jenny Swanson, and facility leaders, for their work on this initiative.

Executive Director Cahill shared updates on fall event planning. Zootober will begin October 9, 2025, with member and staff night planned for that date.

Chief Eddlemon reported the hiring of two additional full-time officers, bringing the department to three full-time officers. He highlighted the new Memorandum of Understanding with the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS), providing access to over 900 agencies statewide for mutual aid, surplus equipment, grants, and free officer training. Annual cost is \$60, with mutual aid deployment costs typically covered through state or FEMA reimbursement. He also reported that PPD officers now have real-time access to ShotSpotter data through the City of Peoria, enhancing situational awareness and facility safety planning.

Discussion followed regarding officer training pathways, ongoing requirements, and the potential for sponsoring cadets at PTI. Trustees noted the competitive police market and past retention challenges. Chief Eddlemon explained the current focus on hiring certified officers, but affirmed the department's commitment to building a 'learning department' with ongoing training in specialized areas such as autism awareness, human trafficking, drone operation, and legal updates. Executive Director Cahill confirmed that restructuring of the Chief of Police/Public Safety leadership role will be presented to the Board at the September Strategy Ad Hoc meeting.

**7.B. Superintendent of Planning, Design & Construction**

Becky Fredrickson provided the August 2025 Project Report, noting significant construction activity. No questions were raised by Trustees.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**8.A. Planning Committee – Memorial Bench at Robinson Park**

As presented to the Planning Committee, 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. (see map on following page). 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.

Trustee Slover MOVED TO APPROVE the Memorial Bench at Robinson Park. Motion seconded by Trustee Silver and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**9.A. Conduct Ordinance Amendment**

*First Read*

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**9.B. Forest Park Nature Center South Preservation Dedication**

Kristi Shoemaker announced that the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission voted on September 9, 2025 to dedicate an additional 14-acre parcel at Forest Park South as a Nature Preserve. Trustees congratulated staff on this milestone. Staff explained that Nature Preserve designation provides the highest level of protection, permanently restricting development while allowing ecological management. This addition resolves a prior inholding and strengthens ecological continuity.

**9.C. Peoria Area Performing Arts School, LLC (PAPAS) Lease Agreement**

Mike Friberg stated that PAPAS, a local performing arts school, has rented space within Lakeview Recreation Center since 2024. PAPAS and the Park District wish to continue the relationship. The new lease has been updated to bring insurance and indemnification language current. It also increases the rent payment by 2.7%, from last year, which is consistent with the published CPI rate. Other than these items, the proposed lease remains essentially unchanged. The lease term is for one year. As such, staff recommends executing the one-year lease agreement with PAPAS for use of a portion of the Lakeview Recreation Center.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the PAPAS Lease Agreement. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

**9.D. RiverPlex/YMCA Agreement Renewal 2026**

Scott Loftus stated that in 2022, the Peoria Park District's RiverPlex Recreation and Wellness Center entered into a dual access agreement with the Greater Peoria Area YMCA. Due to the positive response from the community, both organizations wish to continue the agreement in 2026 with only a few modifications. These include revised dates, an updated billing rate for the YMCA's Finance Director, and adjusted membership rates reflecting the May 2025 increase. The proposed agreement has been reviewed and approved by the YMCA Board of Directors. As such, staff recommends approval of the updated Dual Access Agreement with the Greater Peoria Area YMCA.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the PAPAS Lease Agreement. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

**10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS**

**10.A. Purchase of Keiser M3i Studio Indoor Bicycles**

**10.B. Bid – Luthy Boiler Replacement**

**10.C. Bid – Camp Wokanda Roadway Chip & Seal**

**10.D. Quote – GLC Club Bag Holders**

**10.E. Purchase of Two Generac LED Portable Light Towers per Sourcewell Contract**

Trustee Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent Items 10.A. through 10.E. Motion seconded by Vice President Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

**11. PENDING BUSINESS**

Trustee Sierra reported that the Peoria Public School Board directed its Superintendent to begin discussions with PPD regarding acquisition of Central Pool. Several swimmers attended the School Board meeting to show support. Further discussion will continue.

**12. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Sierra reported that the September DEIA Committee meeting will be cancelled to allow staff and committee leads to work on significant action items. Updates will be shared at the next full committee

meeting. He also reported that the City of Peoria convened the first stakeholder meeting on regionalizing procurement efforts, with Executive Director Cahill representing PPD.

**14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW**

No additional action steps were identified.

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:04 pm Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK71jdMkb9E>

---

Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth  
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary