

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 23, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE W. NOBLE CENTER FOR PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION, 1125 WEST LAKE AVENUE, PEORIA, IL

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Trustees Joyce Harant, Reagan Leslie Hill, Alexander Sierra, Mark Slover (v), Vice President Steve Montez, and President Robert Johnson
Note: (v) = Attended meeting virtually

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Ron Silver

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Brianna Cobb, Nick Conrad, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Shalesse Pie, Karrie Ross, Willie Howe, Chief Aaron Watkins, Attorneys Kevin Day and Justin Gunn, 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

Roll call was taken.

3. CALL FOR MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

Trustee Slover requested to attend the meeting electronically due to personal illness. Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Trustee Slover attend the meeting due to personal illness. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

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 July 22, 2026 and August 26, 2026 Regular Board Meetings

Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the July 22, 2026 Regular Board meeting.

Trustee Sierra noted that approval of the July 22 minutes had previously been deferred on two occasions to allow for revisions requested by Trustee Hill. Trustee Sierra asked Trustee Hill whether she had reviewed the revised minutes and whether the revisions addressed the concerns she had previously raised. Trustee Hill stated that she had not yet reviewed the revised minutes and, therefore, planned to abstain from the vote.

Motion seconded by Trustee Slover and carried by the following vote: Trustee Harant – Aye; Trustee Hill – Abstain; Trustee Sierra – Aye; Trustee Slover – Aye; Vice President Montez – Aye; President Johnson – Aye. Results: 5 – Aye; 1 - Abstain; 0 – Nay.

5.B. Approval of Minutes of the September 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the September 9, 2026 Regular Board meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

J. Gruber presented a piece of public art created collaboratively by seven visitors to Detweiller Park Marina. She described contributions depicting activities and features associated with the site, including sailboats, a canoe, a motorboat, a bicycle, a sandcastle, and fish. Ms. Gruber characterized the experience of creating the

artwork with visitors as a positive community moment and expressed appreciation that the Park District continued to consider the future of Detweiller Park and the marina and that the property had not been sold.

Julie Dodge, a Peoria resident and Master Naturalist, spoke about the environmental value of the riverfront property and the importance of conserving its trees and wildlife habitat. She reported counting 83 perimeter trees adjacent to industrial property, 18 mature shade trees on the industrial side of the Rock Island Greenway Trail, and 17 mature shade trees within the Goose Loop Trail that she believed could be at risk of removal. She stated that the trees provide habitat for birds and a buffer from nearby industrial noise, and noted that the area is regularly used by local birders and supports wildlife including cedar waxwings, eagles, and osprey. Ms. Dodge expressed hope that the Park District would continue to examine the matter before decisions affecting the property are made.

Blair Gambill spoke regarding Detweiller Marina and the surrounding property, stating that his interest initially centered on preserving the marina, boating access, playground, and recreational value of the site but had expanded as he learned more about its history. He discussed the relationship among the Detweiller properties and the Detweiller Trust and asserted that the marina area has significant historical connections to the early settlement of Peoria. He also discussed historical information he had received concerning Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, including his assertion that du Sable lived, married, raised a family, and owned land in the area before later relocating to Chicago. Mr. Gambill stated that he believed these historical associations could give the site significant educational and tourism value and encouraged the Board to fully consider the property's history when making decisions about its future.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.A. Executive Director

Executive Director Cahill reported that the Board had been provided with the August 2026 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Report and Impact Report. She offered to answer any questions regarding the reports. There were no questions from the Board.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.A. DEIA Committee – Approved Minutes of August 19, 2026 Meeting

Trustee Hill reported that the approved minutes of the August 19, 2026 DEIA Committee meeting were before the Board for review and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

8.B. Programming Committee - Approved Minutes of August 20, 2026 Meeting

Trustee Sierra reported that the approved minutes of the August 19, 2026 DEIA Committee meeting were before the Board for review and offered to answer any questions. There were no questions from the Board.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.A. Junior League of Peoria Lease Agreement Renewal

Scott Loftus reported that the Junior League of Peoria has rented space within Lakeview Recreation Center since 2024 and that both parties wished to continue the relationship. The proposed agreement provides for a three-year lease term, with normal increases in the rental rate based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In response to a Board question, staff noted that the previous arrangement had consisted of a series of one-year agreements and confirmed that there were no other substantive changes to the lease.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Junior League of Peoria Lease Agreement Renewal. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.B. 22VA Lease Agreement Renewal

Mike Friberg reported that the lease extension with 22 Veteran Artists (22VA) concerns its use of the Detweiller Riverside building. The Board had previously approved an agreement in July 2026; however, following that approval, 22VA requested modifications and the agreement was never fully executed.

Mr. Friberg explained that the primary change was 22VA's request to occupy the building year-round. The revised agreement establishes a seasonal term from May through November at the regular rental rate and a storage term from December through April at a reduced rental rate. During the winter months, the building has electricity and is maintained at a low temperature above freezing, but water service is turned off. Mr. Friberg explained that 22VA primarily intends to use the building for storage during that period, although members will have access to the space. The lease extension runs through April 30, 2027.

In response to Board questions regarding winter utilities, Executive Director Cahill explained that the revised arrangement was developed in response to 22VA's request and that limited access to water can be provided. She also reported that staff is exploring potential grant funding to support the installation of a year-round water source; however, such an improvement would represent a significant capital investment relative to the building's current level of use. She stated that 22VA was satisfied with the revised arrangement. Staff further explained that the April 2027 expiration date reflects an extension of the existing lease and that a new agreement would be negotiated thereafter.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the 22VA Lease Agreement Renewal. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.C. RiverPlex/YMCA Joint Membership Agreement Renewal

Scott Loftus recommended approval of the 2027 Dual Access Agreement between the RiverPlex and YMCA. He reported that revisions to the agreement included updated dates, an updated billing rate for the YMCA Finance Director, and a reduction in the insurance amount based upon advice received by the District. In response to a Board question, staff confirmed that the agreement is considered and approved annually.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE the RiverPlex/YMCA Joint Membership Agreement Renewal. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.D. Fox and Rte 91 Parcel and Meinen Field Resolution Reversion of Title to Park District

Mike Friberg provided background regarding the land exchange between the Peoria Park District and Bradley University involving Meinen Field and an approximately 80-acre parcel known as the Fox and Route 91 parcel. Staff explained that the parties originally agreed to the exchange in 2004.

Mr. Friberg further explained that the process had been complicated by state bonds used in 1991 by the Park District and Peoria Chiefs, through the Civic Center Authority, to develop Meinen Field. Although those bonds have now been paid, the related encumbrance must be cleared from the property's title before the land transfer can be completed. Adoption of the Resolution of Reversion of Title would allow the process to proceed, including verification by the Civic Center Authority that the bonds have been retired.

Vice President Montez MOVED TO ADOPT the Resolution of Reversion of Title for the Meinen Field Property. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.E. Fox and Rte 91 Parcel and Meinen Field Authorization to Complete Exchange and Closing

Following approval of the Resolution of Reversion of Title, Mike Friberg explained that authorization was also needed to complete the property exchange with Bradley University. Executive Director Cahill, or her designee, would be authorized to attend the closing, execute the property deed exchange and other necessary closing instruments, and facilitate recording of the deeds. Mr. Friberg noted that completion of these steps would finalize the land transfer contemplated by the Park District and Bradley University in 2004.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO AUTHORIZE the Executive Director or her Designee to Execute the Property Deed Exchange and Other Closing Instruments. Motion seconded by Trustee Harant and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.F. Revised Pre-Travel Authorization for Trustees to Attend the 2026 NRPA Conference in Philadelphia, PA September 29-October 1, 2026

Secretary Woodworth explained that the original pre-travel authorization had been submitted in May, when airfare costs were lower, necessitating the revised authorization.

Trustee Hill MOVED TO APPROVE the Revised Pre-Travel Authorization for Trustees to Attend the 2026 NRPA Conference in Philadelphia, PA September 29-October 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Vice President Montez and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9.G. PlayHouse Naming Opportunity

Executive Director Cahill reported that pursuant to the Park District's current naming policy, approval was requested for proposed donor recognition opportunities associated with financial contributions supporting capital improvements currently underway at the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum.

During discussion, the Board asked whether the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity would receive signage or recognition comparable to other contributors. Executive Director Cahill confirmed that it would and explained that given the size of the State's contribution, the recognition was considered comparable to that provided for other gifts. Staff noted that the funding helped make the scope of the improvements possible.

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the Donor Recognition Opportunities at the Peoria PlayHouse. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10. CALENDAR OF CONSENT ITEMS

10.A. Grain Products and Wood Shavings for Peoria Zoo

10.B. Bid – MLK Park Site Improvements

Vice President Montez requested item 10.B. be pulled for discussion.

Trustee Harant MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent item 10.A. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Vice President Montez asked for clarification regarding the scope of the improvements planned for the existing landscaped and flower bed areas near the shelter at MLK Park, including areas where portions of the concrete landscape edging were missing. Becky Fredrickson explained that the entire area would be renovated as part of the project. The new shelter will be located slightly west of the existing shelter, and the project will include additional concrete work and new sidewalks through the area. In response to a question regarding whether landscaped planter areas similar to those currently at the

site would remain, staff indicated that the renovated area was not expected to look the same as the existing layout, but that additional landscaping would likely be incorporated into the project.

Vice President Montez MOVED TO APPROVE Calendar of Consent item 10.B. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried by unanimous roll call vote.

11. PENDING BUSINESS

- 11.A. Approval of Motion to Convene into Closed Session Under Illinois Open Meetings Act Section 2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent**
The Board did not enter into closed session, as it was determined to be unnecessary.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Trustee Harant asked for clarification regarding the Strategy Meeting scheduled to follow the Regular Board Meeting, noting that members of the public were present and interested in the anticipated discussion regarding Detweiller Marina.

The Board and staff clarified that the Regular Board Meeting would not be recessed or reconvened following the Strategy Meeting. Instead, following adjournment of the Regular Board Meeting, the Board would return to the other meeting room and reconvene the Strategy Meeting as a public meeting. The Board would then consider a motion to enter into closed session during the Strategy Meeting. Members of the public would wait outside during the closed session and would be welcomed back into the meeting room when the Board returned to open session.

The Board confirmed that members of the public who wished to hear and participate in the Strategy Meeting discussion regarding Detweiller Marina could remain and return to the meeting room following the closed session.

14. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted.

15. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:04 PM Trustee Sierra MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously on voice vote.

Full discussion can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6XkEb9XMLQ>

Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary