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 4:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 HELD AT THE BONNIE NOBLE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 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 (in at 4:20 PM)
Note: (v) = Attended meeting virtually

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Trustee Ron Silver

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Emily Cahill, Matt Freeman, Becky Fredrickson, Scott Loftus, Karrie Ross, Chief Aaron Watkins, Mike Friberg, Angela Bland, Courtney Johnson, Cody Smock, Greg Walker, Kristi Shoemaker, Attorney Kevin Day, Attorney Justin Gunn (in at 4:58 PM), and Alicia Woodworth

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Montez called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM. President Johnson arrived at 4:20 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

3. MOTION TO PERMIT TRUSTEE TO ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY

Trustee Slover requested to attend the meeting electronically due to personal illness. Trustee Sierra 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. MINUTES

4.A. Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Trustee Sierra MOVED TO APPROVE the minutes of the September 9, 2026 Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. POLICY/PROCESS UPDATES

5.A. RFQ for Legal Services

Executive Director Cahill reported that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for legal services had been finalized and published on the District website. Staff advised that proposals are due October 20, 2026. A standardized scoring tool will be developed from the RFQ requirements and presented at the next Strategy meeting so all reviewers use consistent criteria. The Board will also determine which trustees will score proposals and participate in interviews. Staff anticipates reviewing the proposals at the October 28 Strategy meeting and scheduling interviews in November; trustees will be contacted regarding November scheduling conflicts.

5.B. PlayHouse Naming Opportunity

Executive Director Cahill presented the requested modification to the naming associated with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity contribution to the Peoria PlayHouse project. With no further concerns raised, the item was forwarded to the Regular Board meeting for consideration and approval.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.A. 2027 Budget Discussion - RiverPlex

Staff presented a 2026 RiverPlex review and 2027 budget outlook. Through July, average total membership was up approximately 5% year over year and facility visits were up 1.1%, while traditional paid membership was down 1.6% and new contracts were down 19%. Staff explained that growth in medical, Silver Sneakers, joint YMCA and scholarship participation has changed the membership mix. Discussion focused on balancing retention and growth of full-paying memberships with broader community participation.

The proposed 2027 RiverPlex budget totals approximately $3.26 million. Staff noted strong membership revenue, continued efforts to reduce reliance on tax support, and 2026 expense pressures from utilities, scholarships and personnel. The 2027 proposal includes efficiencies in part-time payroll while maintaining strategic facility investments. Trustees discussed the OSF Mission Grant, scholarship participation and the RiverPlex scholarship cap, Silver Sneakers reimbursements, and the importance of membership revenue to the facility's financial health.

Staff also reviewed member survey feedback and 2027 priorities, including member retention, new-member acquisition, facility and equipment maintenance, programming and community engagement.

6.B. 2027 Budget Discussion - Golf

Staff presented the Golf Division's 2027 projected budget. The proposed budget reflects $490,044 in tax support and 121,000 projected rounds. Staff reported that Golf Learning Center performance has not met the original FY2026 pro forma, while member rounds are currently outpacing daily greens-fee rounds approximately 63% to 37%. The proposed 2027 location results include a projected surplus at the Golf Learning Center and projected deficits at Newman, Madison and Kellogg.

Discussion included projected water costs, with $305,000 budgeted for the Kellogg campus, $96,400 for Madison and $6,000 for Newman; staffing and seasonal labor needs; and proposed golf fee changes. Staff described the first system-wide golf price increase in two seasons and reviewed membership value, Golf Learning Center pricing, daily-fee versus membership utilization, and opportunities to better coordinate the golf and food-service experience.

Trustees discussed customer service and staff training as key priorities across the golf operation. Staff stated that customer-service expectations are being reinforced with golf professionals and other staff and that accountability and consistency will remain an operational focus.

6.C. 2027 Budget Discussion – Police/Security

Staff and Chief Watkins presented the proposed 2027 Police and Security budgets, emphasizing park safety. Focus areas include technology, staffing and coordination, policy and process, rentals, and community engagement/activation. The proposal consolidates Police and Security functions within the Police Fund, rebuilds the full-time workforce, adjusts salary ranges to improve competitiveness, and provides for three full-time hires in 2027 - two police officers and one security employee.

The proposed 2027 Police/Security budget includes approximately $29,000 in revenue and $1.336 million in expenses, for approximately $1.307 million in operating support. Staff noted that operating support has increased approximately 71% from 2025 to 2027. Grant applications are being pursued, but potential grant revenue is not included in the proposed budget unless awarded.

Trustees discussed the appropriate mix of sworn officers and security staff, competitive starting wages, PTI training, employee retention, recruitment standards, succession planning, community-policing skills and the importance of officers being able to work effectively with youth and diverse park users. Chief Watkins stated that the goal is to hire candidates who fit the Park District's community-policing model and to develop existing personnel for future leadership. Trustees expressed support for the increased focus and resources devoted to park safety.

6.D. Continuous Improvements Update on Facility Security & Emergency Preparedness

Staff presented a proposed professional security assessment for the RiverPlex, Proctor Recreation Center and the Bonnie W. Noble Administration Building. The consultant's written assessment will identify and prioritize security improvements and help staff determine related budget needs. The contract is within the Executive Director's signing authority, and staff expects the three assessments to be completed by the end of 2026.

Trustees asked about including outdoor locations, particularly Glen Oak Park. Staff explained that outdoor assessments are more seasonally dependent and that the consultant's 2026 availability favored beginning with indoor facilities. If the initial work product is satisfactory, staff may pursue outdoor assessments in spring/summer 2027. Staff noted that the Liability Fund contains contract funding that could potentially support additional assessments, and trustees encouraged consideration of outdoor park assessments in the 2027 budget.

6.E. Review of Fees and Charges

Staff referenced the 2027 Fees and Charges presentation previously reviewed by the Programming Committee and the accompanying rationale document. Staff explained that proposed fees were reviewed individually based on public benefit and access, cost and service intensity, market and demand, and exclusive or specialized use rather than applying a uniform percentage increase. Because of the limited time remaining before the Regular Board meeting, Vice President Montez indicated he had several questions, particularly regarding programming and membership increases. Staff agreed to meet with him, document the discussion and share the information with the full Board so any material budget impacts can be addressed before the 2027 budget is finalized.

7. PENDING BUSINESS

None.

At 6:22 PM Trustee Harant MOVED TO RECESS the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting, to be reconvened after tonight's Regular Board meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 7:12 PM Trustee Harant MOVED TO RECONVENE the Strategy Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8. CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.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

At 7:14 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO CONVENE 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. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

At 8:34 PM, Trustee Sierra MOVED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

9.B. Legal Counsel Direction to Proceed with Petition in Circuit Court

Trustee Harant moved that designees of the Board of Trustees, in adherence with the Open Meetings Act, conduct public outreach to stakeholders, including the Detweiller Marina Trust, with the purpose of developing and adopting a management and ownership structure of the Detweiller Marina and Playground property, that will ensure that it will remain intact, open for public use, and be financially stable. Motion seconded by Trustee Sierra and passed as follows: Trustee Harant – Aye; Trustee Hill – Aye; Trustee Sierra – Aye; Trustee Silver – Absent; Trustee Slover – Nay; Vice President Montez – Nay; President Johnson – Aye. Results: 4 – Aye; 2 – Nay; 0 – Abstain

10. ACTION STEPS REVIEW

None noted.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:36 PM, Trustee Harant MOVED TO ADJOURN. Motion seconded by Trustee Hill and carried unanimously on roll call vote.

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Respectfully Submitted by Alicia Woodworth
Executive Assistant and Board Secretary