

Village of Peoria Heights  
Board of Trustees  
April 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone stood for a moment of silence and the Pledge to the Flag.

Upon calling roll, the following Trustees were present: Sarah DeVore, Jeff Goett, Elizabeth Khazzam, Mark Gauf, Matthew Wigginton, and Brandon Wisenburg. Others present included Mayor Michael Phelan, Village Administrator and Chief of Police Dustin Sutton, Village Clerk Stephanie Turner, and Village Counsel Attorney Mark Walton.

Trustee Gauf made a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on April 4, 2023. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes 6-0.

Mayor Phelan opened the meeting to public comment.

Ms. Mary Beth Nebel, owner of I Know You Like a Book, invited the Board to the Peoria Heights High School for a book launch party for a book of poetry written by the local students on April 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Ms. Nebel noted the project was a joint one between the Peoria Heights Art Collaborative and the Peoria Heights High School. The first year was right after COVID, and the poems were beautiful. She showed a sample of the current year's book noting it was also well done. She explained the process for creating the book, including a selection process, and expressed excitement for continuing the project going forward.

Mr. Mark Bean, representative of Peoria Heights Lions' Club, came forward to invite the Board to the Peoria Heights Earth Day Garden Party on April 22, 2022 at 11:30 am. Mr. Bean noted that the Peoria Lion's Club was looking to expand its influence in the district.

Superintendent of Public Works, Mr. Chris Chandler, announced new gravel had been installed at the dog park, and Public Works was making repairs to the fountain there.

Hearing no additional public comment, Mayor Phelan closed the meeting to public comments and moved on to old business. Hearing none, the Board moved on to new business.

Trustee Khazzam made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-1704: an Ordinance Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a BDD No. 1 Redevelopment Agreement by and between the Village of Peoria Heights and Bust'd Brewing Company, LLC. Trustee Gauf seconded the motion. Trustee Khazzam explained the request was for exterior improvements including signage. The owners were present for comments. Trustee Wigginton thanked staff for the set up of the agreement and expressing it should be a model going forward. Ordinance 2023-1704 was approved by a vote of 6-0.

Trustee Wisenburg made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-06: a Resolution Approving Proposal from National Fitness Campaign for Equipment for Outdoor Fitness Court. Trustee Wigginton seconded the motion. Trustee Wisenburg noted he hadn't had a chance to discuss the resolution with the majority of the Board. He explained the Village had been approached by a group that aims to bring fitness courts to communities. The cost of the equipment was \$155,000 which was reduced by \$50,000

from a grant. The labor to install was \$27,000 with the concrete padding for it around \$35,000. Trustee Wisenburg referenced additional costs for other improvements including fencing. The total costs were \$147,000, including the decrease of grant funding, with an additional allowance over that for site improvements. Trustee Khazzam explained her concern that the Board didn't have enough time or information to make a decision at present. She noted it was a great initiative while saying it might not be the best use for the funds at the moment. She expressed support for improving the parks. Trustee Gauf expressed his agreement with Trustee Khazzam on her points including that the parks were in need of improvement, but it might not be the best use of funds at the current time. Trustee Gauf noted the community had a lot of maintenance that had been neglected, not through the fault of the current Board, thus the Village is very behind on maintenance issues. He noted the Village would be taking on another item to maintain if it built the equipment. He expressed that \$147,000 would go a long way to repairing curbs and gutters. He asked if the item was specifically budgeted and if the money had been set aside. Trustee Khazzam noted it wasn't. Trustee Wisenburg mentioned the surplus in FY 22-23. Trustee Gauf noted he wasn't in favor of outlaying that amount of money when there was so much infrastructure that needs to be improved. Trustee DeVore asked about maintenance costs. Director of Community Development Wayne Aldrich noted there were improvement costs as well as signage, wraps, and other costs. Trustee DeVore asked about materials, and Director Aldrich noted it was primarily metal and rubber. Mayor Phelan noted there had been conversations about fund raising. Director Aldrich agreed and mentioned the company offers advice for opportunities. Trustee Wigginton asked if the grant was tied to that specific park or if the Village could do a more cost efficient project. Director Aldrich stated it was tied to the specific park. Mayor Phelan asked Trustee Wisenburg for a motion to defer to allow the Board more time to discuss the item. Trustee Wisenburg moved to defer approval of Resolution 2023-06. Trustee DeVore seconded the motion to defer. The Board voted 6-0 to defer Resolution 2023-06.

Trustee DeVore made a motion to approve the FY 2023-204 Budget for the Village of Peoria Heights and Peoria Heights Public Library. Trustee Khazzam seconded the motion. Trustee DeVore noted nothing had changed from the last meeting. The budget was as it should be expected. The FY 2023-2024 Budget was approved 6-0.

Trustee Goett made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Trustee Gauf seconded the motion. There were no questions on the bills. The Board voted 6-0 to approve payment of the bills.

Clerk Turner read the Treasurer's Report. As of the end of March, there was \$7,365,610.77 in the Village controlled accounts and \$2,122,545.18 in the Water controlled accounts. Trustee Wigginton made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, and Trustee DeVore seconded. The Treasurer's report was approved 6-0.

Mayor Phelan asked for miscellaneous business. Director Aldrich shared the Village had received a DCEO grant for tourism and festivals which was a joint project with the Peoria Heights Chamber of Commerce. The grant will help pay for some events that have already been held as well as coming festivals. Director Aldrich also announced the Village has applied for water main replacement on Galena Road as part of Congressional appropriations. The project would be concurrent with the State of Illinois reconstruction of Route 29. Senator Durbin's office has expressed interest in the request as well as Congressman Sorensen. Congressman Sorensen announced he'd recommend the project for funding. Director Aldrich noted the conversations were very positive, but it was a long process to receive funding.

Trustee Wisenburg stated the Board needed to do something about speeding. He complimented the Peoria Heights Police Department on their work running radar but the burden couldn't be on the PHPD to be everywhere at once. He suggested the Village get pricing for portable speed bumps. Trustee Khazzam agreed to work Trustee Wisenburg and the Public Works Department to find more information and a solution. Superintendent Chandler suggested there were stretches of road which might benefit from additional stop signs. The Board debated the efficacy of stop signs. Chief Sutton noted the Board had previously discussed areas that might receive stop signs and suggested the Board revisit that topic. He noted the PHPD juggles a high call volume as well as traffic enforcement. The PHPD does have a dedicated traffic car, unlike a lot of small communities, but Chief Sutton noted it was an ongoing issue. Chief Sutton agreed to get more information on portable speed humps but suggested starting with stop signs. Mayor Phelan asked Trustee Khazzam and Trustee Wisenburg to work with Chief Sutton and Public Works. Trustee Wigginton requested Trustee Khazzam and Trustee Wisenburg speak to Fire Chief Thompson as well to consider the fire apparatus and possible damage to the roads.

Trustee Khazzam invited residents to the Peoria Heights Earth Day Garden Party on April 22, 2023 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. The event is a collaboration of many local associations to celebrate Earth Day.

Chief Sutton asked Superintendent Chandler to speak about pocket parks. Superintendent Chandler announced the Village had purchased several smaller swing sets which could be placed in green areas the Village owns. He noted there were several possible areas in Longshore subdivision which would benefit from the equipment as well as placing another set by the dog park. He noted the equipment wasn't elaborate but would be placed with some benches.

Trustee Wisenburg asked if there was any update from the Williams Brothers about the properties they'd purchased. Chief Sutton noted he didn't have an update. Director Aldrich noted he believed they still intend to build, but it might be time to put more details in writing. Mayor Phelan asked Director Aldrich to report back at a future meeting.

Trustee Goett made a motion to adjourn, and Trustee Gauf seconded the motion. The Board of Trustees voted 6-0 to adjourn at 6:20 pm.

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Michael Phelan, Mayor

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Stephanie Turner, Village Clerk