



## **MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2026**

**9:00 A.M.**

### **TOURISM RESERVE FUND COMMITTEE MEETING**

**The Tourism Reserve Fund Committee Meeting** was held on April 10, 2026, at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, Illinois 61602. The TRF meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by City Manager Patrick Urich.

#### **1. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Patrick Urich, (Non-Voting); Bernice Gordon-Young, (Voting); Dan Kouri, (Voting)

**Others Present:** Robert Newton, Megan Scott, Bobbi Moreland, Gage Thompson, Angela Washington, Michelle King, Kelsie Barnhart

**Absent:** J.D. Dalfonso, Gregory Wilson, Marwin Spiller

#### **2. Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Dan Kouri and seconded by Council Member Bernice Gordon-Young to approve March 13, 2026, meeting minutes, all in favor, opposed by none, unanimous approval.

#### **3. Financial Report:**

Finance Manager Angela Washington provided the final overview report for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The last \$10,000 will go to the Peoria Historical Society and FIRST Robotics, \$5000 each, depleting all of the funds. There are two requests today. If the applications are approved, the Local fund balance will be at 53,333 and the Convention/Tourism Fund balance at \$30,218. There are no requests for Peoria Marketing Fund, the balance is \$654,028.

Dan Kouri motioned to receive and file, seconded by Council Member Bernice Gordon-Young, all in favor, opposed by none, unanimous approval.

#### **4. Items for Approval**

##### **Local Fund:**

##### **4a. 2026 Sculpture Walk Peoria – \$5,000**

Executive Director Megan Scott with Peoria Art Guild shared there are 8 sculptures in the sculpture walk and they will be rotated out this year at the end of May. The sculptures represent local Peoria artists as well as international artists. The event happens every two years with the sculptures on display for a two-year period. Hoping to expand by marketing to architectural firms and designers across the IL/MO. regions who are interested in purchasing large scale sculptures. Opening day is May 23. This is an outdoor public art exhibition located on Washington street. Features artists from all over the world. There will be food trucks and a coffee truck as well at the event. Anticipate over 2800 attendees.

A motion was made by Council Member Bernice Gordon-Young and seconded by Dan Kouri, all in favor, opposed by none, unanimous approval.

**Convention Fund:**

**4b. 2026 OVC Softball Championship - \$2,500**

Gage Thompson with Louisville Slugger Sports Complex spoke on the eight division softball teams that will compete in the 2026 Ohio Valley Conference Softball Championship. This event will be held May 6-9. It features the highest level of collegiate athletes competing for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Each of the 8 teams will have up to 32 individuals, meaning up to 256 players, coaches and support staff staying at the different Peoria hotels and eating in our restaurants during the event along with their family and friends. There will be a minimum draw of 2,500 attendees over the four-day period. This is the third year of this 5-year event. Broadcast on ESPN Plus. Along with brand awareness, it promotes Peoria tourism. This event keeps growing year over year.

A motion was made by Dan Kouri and seconded by Council Member Bernice Gordon-Young, all in favor, opposed by none, with unanimous approval.

5. **Discussion Items:** Kelsie Barnhart with Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau gave prior event reporting on Red, White and Boom, Christmas in the Village, Peoria Hair & Fashion Showcase, and MLK Luncheon.
6. **New Business:** None
7. **Public Comments:** None
8. **Next Scheduled Meeting:** Friday, May 8, 2026.
9. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Dan Kouri and seconded by Council Member Bernice Gordon-Young at 9:31 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously.