MEMO

DATE: June 19, 2020

TO: Peoria Park District Board of Trustees

FROM: Emily G. Cahill, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Recommended Short-Term Closure of Glen Oak Amphitheatre

BACKGROUND:
As a result of the devastating impact of the COVID-19 crisis on District finances, staff estimates an anticipated deficit of $2 million in 2020.

In an effort to reduce the deficit to the fullest extent possible, District staff have worked to prioritize services based on the following short-term focus as defined by the Board of Trustees:

To have the greatest reach during this challenging time, our operational focus in the short-term will be to use our limited resources to ensure access without barriers to healthy and vibrant programming that is unique and that showcases our parks and trails where possible.

In line with that focus, District staff have identified the short-term closure of the Glen Oak Amphitheatre as an opportunity to mitigate the anticipated budget gap. With COVID restrictions, the reality of quality use of the Amphitheatre is limited at best. Cancellation now of the remainder of the 2020 season will allow us to ensure all possible cost-savings associated with the Amphitheatre.

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends the short-term closure of the Glen Oak Amphitheatre, which will result in minimum savings of $34,000 to the District in 2020. Staff further asks for approval to establish a working group comprised of District staff, trustees, and representatives of advocacy groups from Peoria Zoo and the Peoria PlayHouse Children’s Museum to continue discussions regarding reimagining of the Park and its amenities that began in December 2019.