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Discover Peoria Announces Appointment of Roberta English to Board of Directors, East Peoria's Doug McCarty Elected to Officer Position

Peoria, IL- The Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Peoria) announces the appointment of **Roberta English, Executive Director of Wildlife Prairie Park as a new Discover Peoria Board Member.**

“Over the last year in my role as President and CEO of Discover Peoria I have had the opportunity to build a relationship with Roberta and see the incredible work she has led at Wildlife Prairie Park in such a short time. I have no doubt that she will help champion the Peoria area as a Discover Peoria board member,” said **J.D. Dalfonso, President/CEO of Discover Peoria.** “Wildlife Prairie Park is a great asset to the central Illinois community and strengthening this bond will not only benefit our organizations but the whole Peoria region.”

At the March 3 Board Meeting, the Discover Peoria Board officially voted in English to fill a vacant seat on the board. English was added for her tremendous dedication to one of Discover Peoria's major partners, Wildlife Prairie Park and the Peoria region.

“I have a passion for building a stronger community in Peoria, which is why I'm so excited about serving Discover Peoria's Board of Directors,” **said English.**

Wildlife Prairie Park is a 2000-acre zoological preserve, lodging and recreation center. English came to the Park with a focus on developing and strengthening relationships throughout the community and improving the Park's multiple revenue streams. English has a passion for creating workplaces with positive culture and diversity of thought, where employees are developed and able to reach their fullest potential.

English was formerly the Chief Operating Officer at Neighborhood House where she spent six years serving children and the elderly in Central Illinois. Prior to a career in nonprofits, she spent 10 years as a television reporter, anchor, and producer in Kansas City, Dayton, Fort Smith, Ark, Washington, D.C. and Chicago. English holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern University.

A proud Rotarian, English currently serves as a board director for the Business Political Action Committee of Central Illinois and the Greater Peoria Illinois Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

“I’m excited about this new appointment to our board,” said **Dan Kouri, Board Chairman of Discover Peoria**. “Our board’s job is to help support and facilitate Discover Peoria’s mission of making the Peoria area one of the most desired regions in the country for wholesome, memorable experiences and the appointment of Roberta will only propel that mission forward.”

In February, Jeff McLinden stepped down from the Discover Peoria Board of Directors and his role of Secretary/Treasurer. Discover Peoria is excited to announce that Doug McCarty, current Discover Peoria Board Member and a part of the Executive Committee has been elected to serve in the role of Secretary/Treasurer, effective immediately.

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