

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, September 20, 2007
Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. President Wene called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and asked Secretary Toalson to call the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Herricks, Molano-Flores, Toalson, Wene and Zehr.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE - None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - None

SECRETARY REPORT

Commissioner Toalson moved for approval of the following sets of minutes: Regular Meeting minutes of August 16, 2007 and Special Meeting minutes of August 30, 2007. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Toalson moved for acceptance of the Executive Session minutes of August 16, 2007. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Commissioner Zehr moved that the Board approve payment of checks #81339 through #81859 dated August 11, 2007 through September 14, 2007, including wire transfers for payment of FED/FICA/state and sales taxes for a total amount of \$397,482.89 excepting from that void checks #78918, #79552, #81404 through #81408, and #81860 through #81866. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zehr gave the Treasurer's Report for August 2007. The outstanding bonds were \$97,000. As of August 31, 2007, the investments of the District totaled \$3,103,736.71 with ending cash available totaling \$68,269.99. Income for the month totaled \$585,061.79 and expenses totaled \$589,714.20. Commissioner Zehr moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for August 2007. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Audubon Society Bird Report

Beth Chato, Audubon Society, presented the annual 2006 Audubon Society Bird Report. The following are highlights of the report: 128 species found at Homer Lake; 131 species found at Lake of the Woods; 108 species found at Middle Fork; and 108 species found at River Bend. The Board thanked Beth Chato and the Audubon Society for all of their work.

AUDIENCE REMARKS AND/OR INPUT – None

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS AND/OR INPUT

The following are highlights. The Board:

- complimented the look of the freshly painted covered bridge.
- noticed the many changes at the golf course in reference to the renovation project.
- noted the impressive level of activity in the staff reports and thanked staff for all their hard work making the District what it is today.

STAFF REPORT

The following are highlights from the Report of the Staff:

- Lake of the Woods Site Superintendent Tom Pike and Lake of the Woods Operations were recognized for the outstanding job done on painting the covered bridge as well as replicating the original covered bridge signs.
- Prairie Adventures program was a success this year.
- Golf Course Tee Renovation project is in progress.
- Middle Fork residence has been ordered and projected move-in date is the end of the year.
- Interpretive signs designs have been completed and are in the final review process.
- John Baker was announced as the new District Director of Business, Finances and Human Resources, noting he was the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Budget Director and has a strong background in strategic planning and grant work. His start date is October 22, 2007.
- Construction of storage bins at Lake of the Woods are in progress.

STAFF REPORT (cont.)

- All staff involved in making the 2006 CCFPD Foundation Mindy Harrington Memorial Golf Outing and Canoe Trip a success were recognized.
- Noticeable effect the pine sawyer beetle has had at the preserves was discussed.
- Master Naturalist Program continues and the Board complimented the program as well as the amount of staff involvement.
- Accreditation officials will visit the museum on December 17th and would like to meet with the Board.
- The District has been benefiting from a lot of media coverage.
- Clean-up and paint job following the renovation at the pro shop residence was complimented.
- Jan Plotner, former Deputy Director, was recognized for continuing the help the District with the annual budget process and it was noted that her assistance was greatly appreciated.

In addition to written reports included in the Board packets, staff provided activity summaries for the following departments: 1. Planning; 2. Construction; 3. Natural Resources and Forestry; 4. Botanical Garden; 5. Early American Museum; 6. Environmental Education; 7. Public Relations; 8. Volunteers; 9. Administration; 10. Golf Course; 11. Lake of the Woods/River Bend Forest Preserves; 12. Middle Fork River Forest Preserve and 13. Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Commissioner Herricks moved to accept the staff reports. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. These reports are available in their entirety at District Headquarters and on the District website at www.ccfpd.org.

FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT

Executive Director Jerry Pagac read a summary of recent activities from Foundation President Eric Robeson: golf outing and canoe trip were a success and ideas are being discussed for 2008; long format informational video project nearing completion; and the annual mailing is in the works.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

B. Facilities Committee - None

C. Personnel Committee

1. Personnel Policy Revision Discussion – Sick Time

Commissioner Toalson said the Personnel Committee had met and would be making a recommendation at the October Board Meeting regarding purchasing guidelines and that another Personnel Committee Meeting would be scheduled to further discuss the Full-time Employee Sick Time policy.

D. Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee

1. Rules and Regulations Ordinance #07-4

Commissioner Toalson moved to approve and adopt the Rules and Regulations Ordinance #07-4. This ordinance has been reviewed by and was recommended by the Rules and Regulations Ad Hoc Committee and was on the August Regular Meeting agenda for commissioner and public review. Commissioner Herricks seconded. The following highlight the discussion:

- Have there been any comments regarding the change in the dog leash policy? No.
- How will all staff and public be enlightened about the changes? An informational pamphlet will be developed highlighting the changes and it will be distributed as well as sent out to media.
- What is the enforcement approach? Educational. Highlight safety and liability issues.
- What is the status on the dog park proposal at Lake of the Woods? A public meeting was held to spark interest in citizens leading the project in terms of fundraising, planning, etc. and there was not significant interest. In addition, Champaign Park District recently announced plans to build a dog park on the west side of Champaign.
- An area at Middle Fork is being researched for possible designation as a dog training area.
- Importance of a consistent response was discussed.

A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

E. Resolution for Financial Need

Commissioner Toalson moved to adopt the Resolution of Financial Need for 2008 in the amount of \$2,710,883.00. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Herricks, Molano-Flores, Toalson, Wene and Zehr. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

F. Sale of Surplus Property

Commissioner Herricks moved to approve a resolution allowing staff to sell District surplus items on eBay. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

G. Purchase of Prepaid Propane

Commissioner Toalson moved to approve the purchase of 9,513 gallons of propane for the 2007-08 heating season from Progressive Propane, Inc. at an amount of \$15,496.67. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. The Board asked where Progressive Propane, Inc. was located. Staff said it was in Sidney which is in Champaign County. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

H. Museum Collection Deaccession of Artifacts (MU)

Commissioner Zehr moved to approve the deaccession of the following items from the permanent collection: harrow; planter; big blue engine; mower; reaper; engines (2); corn sheller; stump puller; cultivator; carriage; and grain drill. Commissioner Toalson seconded. Museum Director Cheryl Kennedy advised deaccession of these artifacts was not for financial gain but rather to pass along to other educational locations. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

I. Claim Title and Deaccession Items Found in Collection (MU)

Commissioner Herricks moved to claim title to the following items found in the collection and to approve the removal of these items from the collection inventory: cables (2); burner/dryer; mower; hook and chain; hay hook; toothed blade; grain drills (2); cultivator; planter; corn sled; and grain rake. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Museum Director Cheryl Kennedy explained the benefit of claiming titles. The Board thanked the Museum Advisory Committee for its hard work. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

J. Collection Policy Revision (MU)

Commissioner Herricks moved to revise the following sentence in the Collection Policy under Deaccessioning and Disposing of Objects, to state "The amount from the sale of a collection shall be placed in a special account with the funds restricted for direct care for the museum's collections." Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Director Jerry Pagac said work was in progress on a policy to address volunteer usage of herbicide and it would be presented to the Board at the October meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Toalson made a motion at 7:42 p.m. to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically sections 2(c)(1) for discussion of the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee to determine its validity and 2(c)(5) for discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Herricks, Molano-Flores, Toalson, Wene and Zehr. Motion carried. Executive Director Jerry Pagac, Natural Resources Dan Olson and Legal Counsel Matt Deering were also present.

Commissioner Herricks made a motion at 8:22 p.m. to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Toalson seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION – None.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herricks made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.