

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, June 18, 2009
Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 18, 2009 at the Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois. President Wene called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked the Secretary, Commissioner 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 to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 21, 2009. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. Commissioner Toalson moved to approve the Executive Session Meeting minutes of May 21, 2009. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Commissioner Zehr moved that the Board approve payment of checks #88600 through #89027 dated May 16, 2009 through June 12, 2009, excluding void checks #87483, 88764, 88342, 88358, 88709, and 88710 including a wire transfer for payment of FED/FICA/state & sales taxes for a total of \$497,416.42. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zehr gave the Treasurer's Report for May 2009. Commissioner Zehr moved to accept the report. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken.

Finance Director John Baker stated, in regard to the 2008 District Audit, that he would like to request a special meeting prior to the July Board Meeting to review the preliminary audit report with the Board. All commissioners agreed that would work with their schedules.

AUDIENCE REMARKS/INPUT- None

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS/INPUT

Commissioner Wene thanked staff members involved with preparation of the CAC dinner, and thanked CAC members for their dedication to the District.

Commissioner Molano-Flores commented she had visited Lake of the Woods Preserve, noting it was very busy, and said she was given a tour of River Bend by Executive Director Pagac, and now today, she was able to tour Homer Lake.

Commissioner Herricks stated it is always a delight to visit the District's Environmental Education Center at Homer Lake, commenting on the diversity of birds that can be seen from the viewing area. Commissioner Herricks also expressed gratitude for the Homer Lake improvements that have been completed over the last year.

Commissioner Toalson also commented on how clean and well maintained the Homer Lake Preserve grounds are kept.

Commissioner Wene commented this would be Commissioner Zehr's last meeting on the CCFPD Board of Commissioners, after serving a 5 ½ year term. Commissioner Zehr stated he has enjoyed all connections with the current Board members and also acknowledged former commissioners, staff and legal counsel.

STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Pagac praised Commissioner Zehr's contributions on the Board, saying he has been a great asset and his support of the District was appreciated. Director Pagac complimented staff at all the sites for the great job of keeping up with mowing after large quantities of rain. He also reported the Middle Fork Campground had recently changed over to a new electronic reservation system and had switched to a new campsite numbering system. Lastly, he reported he had attended a Special Park District Forum in Lake County, and had received good information.

STAFF REPORTS (cont.)

Middle Fork Site Superintendent Matt Kuntz stated the new electronic campsite reservation system is in place and has been received well by staff. He added it is user-friendly and is already saving time. Commissioner Molano-Flores asked if there was a back-up plan. Mr. Kuntz stated they are still keeping a paper journal of all reservations, but the reservation software company also keeps updated electronic information available, and can send via fax if needed.

Museum Director Cheryl Kennedy commented Commissioner Zehr will be missed by the Lincoln Exhibits Committee and she hoped he will still stay connected with the group. Commissioner Wene confirmed the August 29th dedication date of the courthouse exhibit. Ms. Kennedy added the dedication will include the courthouse clock tower renovation dedication and DAR memorial as well. She said brochures on the exhibit will be handed out at the dedication.

Commissioner Zehr commented on the large number of school children the District reaches with its programs.

Executive Director Pagac stated the golf course recently had its biggest outing with more than 290 golfers. Finance Director Baker stated the month of June has been good for golf revenue.

Executive Director Pagac commented on the upcoming Freedom Fest event. He thanked staff and volunteers for handling this major event, noting they have done this many years, and have done a wonderful job.

CCFPD FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT – Director Pagac stated the next meeting is to be held July 9th. He stated the committee is working on a fundraising event that they hope to hold in July.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – Brian DeMuynck, CAC Chair, thanked the Board and staff for the dinner and tour. He said the committee had been busy with outreach in the community, and they are looking at options for next year. Commissioner Herricks thanked the CAC members for their efforts and also commented on potential ways for obtaining new members. Commissioner Wene stated a possible way to find qualified, interested individuals might be through the Extension Service and also the Master Naturalist Program.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Wind Energy System

Executive Director Pagac, in regard to the proposed purchase of a windspire to be installed at the Early American Museum/Botanical Garden location, stated he would like to hold off on the purchase until more testing on the windspire design is completed. Commissioner Herricks moved to defer the purchase of a Wind Energy System to the CCFPD Facilities Committee. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Commissioner Zehr stated the concept is a good idea and fits with the District's mission, and he hopes the purchase will happen in the future. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facilities Committee – None

B. Personnel Committee – None

C. Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance #09-2

Commissioner Herricks moved the Board approve Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance #09-2, the Prevailing Wage Act, as required by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

D. County's Greenway & Trails Design Guidelines

Commissioner Toalson moved to accept the Champaign County Greenways and Trails Design Guidelines. Commissioner Herricks seconded. Commissioner Toalson asked if the District would be able to design signs that would be on District property. Planning Director Sally Prunty confirmed that was the case, noting the guidelines are just recommendations for standardization. Executive Director Pagac stated the District will have flexibility in the design process, but will use unity of signs in all preserves. Commissioner Herricks commented that with a project such as this, guidelines are needed and are always helpful. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

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E. OSLAD Grant Application Authorization

Commissioner Zehr moved the Board approve the Resolution of Authorization as part of the OSLAD grant application for the development of the Sangamon River Forest Preserve. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Zehr made a motion at 8:08 p.m. to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically sections 2(c)(21) for discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06 and 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. 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 Pagac and Legal Counsel Deering were also present.

Commissioner Herricks made a motion at 8:24 p.m. to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Toalson moved the following sets of Executive Session minutes be released: February 15, 2007; March 15, 2007; June 21, 2007; July 19, 2007; August 16, 2007; September 20, 2007; November 15, 2007; March 20, 2008; August 21, 2008; November 13, 2008; and March 19, 2009. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Herricks moved that the salary of the Executive Director be set at \$102,500.00 effective July 1, 2009. Commissioner Toalson seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zehr made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Molano-Flores seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Robert Toalson, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District