

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, August 19, 2004
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, August 19, 2004 at the Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. President White called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked the Secretary, Commissioner Wene, to call the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Herricks, Toalson, Wene, White and Zehr.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

1. Presentation of Foundation Scholarships

Foundation Board Member Tony Endress presented a Foundation Scholarship to Shae Birkey. He announced the other two recipients were Ashley Peterson and Jayesh Samtani.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

There were no additions or corrections to the Regular Meeting or the Study Session Meeting minutes of July 15, 2004. Commissioner Wene moved for approval. Commissioner Toalson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Commissioner Herricks moved that the Board approve payment of checks #68882 through #69271 dated July 10, 2004 through August 13, 2004, including wire transfers for payment of FED/FICA/state, IMRF & sales taxes, excepting void check #69138 for a total of \$282,863.38. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herricks gave the Treasurer's Report for July 2004. The outstanding bonds were \$194,000. As of July 31, 2004, the investments of the District totaled \$2,652,184.55 with ending cash available totaling \$53,407.04. Income for the month totaled \$239,037.09 and expenses totaled \$380,276.81. Commissioner Wene moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2004. Commissioner Toalson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herricks reported on properties and assets of the District for FY 2003. Commissioner Zehr moved to accept the report. Commissioner Toalson seconded. The Board asked if donations were included and how the amounts listed were derived. Staff reported that donations were not included because the amounts were based on original costs. President White asked about the difference between the budgeted and actual amounts spent for grant expenditures. Staff said that because the Norton Property was not purchased, the actual amount is much lower than the budgeted amount. Motion carried unanimously.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

The commissioners complimented the Golf Course Maintenance Department on the recently achieved certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. They also congratulated Golf Professional David Huber for being nominated for a number of PGA Chapter Awards, including Professional of the Year.

Commissioner Herricks complimented the Museum Advisory Committee for their report as well as the service they provide to the District.

President White complimented staff on the positive responses received on the rental facility comment cards.

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REPORT OF THE STAFF

President White asked about the level of student involvement in the actual planning process at the District and the effect of professional liability. Commissioner Herricks emphasized the students were not participating in the engineering or design aspects but rather were giving staff and engineers a template on which to build.

Commissioner Wene asked if the participants of the 319 Grant workshops had completed an evaluation of the workshop. Natural Resources Director Dan Olson said they had and the results would be compiled soon.

Commissioner Toalson asked if group tours were included in the museum visitation numbers. Staff reported they were.

Public Information Director Andee Chestnut said that work was in progress with Foundation Member Eric Robeson on the production of Champaign County Forest Preserve District promotional spots, to be run on cable television. She said shooting would begin soon. President White asked if hits to the website were tracked. Staff said the hits could be documented.

President White acknowledged the comment card regarding the reduced mowing at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve and asked if the District had a written response available. President White said she would like to have something available for when members of the public comment to staff or Board members.

Golf Director Dave Torrens thanked the Board for the compliments on the Audubon Certification and noted that former Assistant Golf Superintendent Michael Heustis had been integral in that process. He further added that there were only 36 other courses in Illinois and 506 in the world with this status. Mr. Torrens welcomed Darrin Weasel to his new position as Assistant Golf Superintendent. Commissioner Toalson complimented the golf course relationship with the Girl Scouts as well as the Hook a Kid on Golf program.

Executive Director Gray spoke about the his recent activities, including: attending the Farm Bureau Legislative breakfast, a meeting with John Foreman of the News-Gazette, a meeting with Tom Harrington Jr. on Foundation Planning, a meeting with education staff regarding public programming, helping Don Humphrey with the application process for his Assistant Site Superintendent position, preparing Foundation information for Phil Bloomer of the News-Gazette, worked with museum staff on a solicitation friends letter and survey to go to summer program participants, and working with Mahomet Seymour Middle School on a revised cross country route. Commissioner Herricks complimented the District's hiring process, which has produced a top quality staff.

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

REPORT OF THE FOUNDATION BOARD

Deputy Director Plotner spoke about the Mindy Harrington Memorial Garden Dedication to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 8th, the CCFPD Foundation Mindy Harrington Memorial Golf Outing to be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, September 10th, the restructuring process of the Foundation Board, discussion of devising a way to honor recently deceased Foundation member, Chuck Flynn, as well as the upcoming District promotions.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Director Bert Gray said the action of the meeting was to recommend appointing Charles Arbuckle to the committee, which was to be discussed under New Business.

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OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Citizens Advisory Committee Appointment

Commissioner Wene moved the Board appoint Charles Arbuckle to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee to fill the three-year term of Jonathan Wachtel, 2003 to 2005. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Toalson made a motion at 7:05 p.m. to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically section 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, Toalson, White, Wene and Zehr. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herricks made a motion at 7:53 p.m. to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wene seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herricks made the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Wene seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Ruth Wene, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District