

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, May 20, 2004

Outdoor Recreation Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a **Regular Meeting**, Thursday, May 20, 2004 at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois. Vice President Toalson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked the Assistant Secretary, Commissioner Zehr, to call the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Herricks, Toalson and Zehr. President White and Commissioner Wene were absent (excused).

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

There were no additions or corrections to the Regular Meeting minutes of April 15, 2004. Commissioner Zehr moved for approval. Commissioner Herricks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Commissioner Herricks moved that the Board approve payment of checks #67678 through #68097 dated April 10, 2004 through May 14, 2004, including a wire transfer for payment of FED/FICA/state & sales taxes for a total of \$311,787.00 excepting from that void checks #67687 and #67252. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herricks gave the Treasurer's Report for April 2004. The outstanding bonds were \$194,000. As of April 30, 2004, the investments of the District totaled \$1,982,109.80 with ending cash available totaling \$21,728.21. Income for the month totaled \$155,739.95 and expenses totaled \$345,030.92.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dennis Wandell, President of the Salt Fork River Partners, voiced his opinions regarding recent change of name from the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve to Homer Lake Forest Preserve. He questioned the manner of the change and noted lack of public input. Vice President Toalson said it was announced during a public Board meeting. Dixie Jackson also questioned the method of the name change and questioned the lack of reference to the Salt Fork River in the District Newsletter. Vice President Toalson thanked the public for their comments.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

None

REPORT OF THE STAFF

Natural Resources Director Dan Olson announced the receipt of a Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District and USDA grant for Homer Lake Forest Preserve that would fund four workshop sessions over the course of two years.

Commissioner Herricks complimented the Homer Lake staff on the aesthetics of the preserve.

Executive Director Robert Gray gave a summary of his recent activities including attending a foundation board development workshop with Deputy Director Jan Plotner, meetings and studies on campground upgrades, meeting regarding Lake of the Woods neighbor storm water issues, strategizing with Museum Director Cheryl Kennedy on upcoming museum issues and recruiting volunteers for the boats on Sundays at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. Director Gray recognized Construction Supervisor Dan Carlier, who was to retire at the end of the month. He thanked him for his many years of service and advised he would be missed.

Regular Board Meeting

May 20, 2004

Page 2 of 3

REPORT OF THE STAFF (cont.)

In addition to written reports included in the Board packets, staff provided activity summaries for the following departments: 1. Planning, Construction and Botanical Gardens; 2. Natural Resources and Forestry; 3. Environmental Education; 4. Early American Museum; 5. Public Relations; 6. Administration; 7. Volunteer; 8. Hartwell C. Howard Golf Course; 9. Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve; 10. Middle Fork River Forest Preserve and 11. 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.

CCFPD FOUNDATION BOARD

Deputy Director Jan Plotner said the Mindy Harrington Memorial Garden dedication date had been scheduled on September 8th and would take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She said the Foundation Brochure mailing had received a good response thus far.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Planning Director Sally Prunty said the River Bend Committee draft was completed and was going through a review process. She announced Jonathan Wachtel would be resigning from the committee because he was moving out of state.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ethics Ordinance #04-3

Commissioner Herricks moved to approve Ethics Ordinance #04-3 which restricts the ability of certain public officials, employees and appointees to solicit or accept gifts from any "prohibited source" and prohibits such persons from engaging in certain political activities. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Vice President Toalson asked if the ordinance would limit Board member participation were the District to go to referendum. Counsel Matt Deering said he would research this matter. Commissioner Herricks asked that this ordinance be put on the June agenda as a discussion item. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Herricks, Toalson and Zehr. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Board Workshop

June 17th was tentatively set as a date for a June Study Session to talk about direction for upcoming budget preparation and other general issues.

3. Greenway and Trails Plan

Commissioner Herricks moved to accept the 2004 Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Zehr made a motion at 7:15 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, Toalson and Zehr. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Herricks made a motion at 7:26 p.m. to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Zehr seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Herricks moved that the following minutes, or portion of minutes, be released: November 13, 2003 and December 18, 2003 Executive Session minutes should be released in their entirety and November 24, 2003 Executive Session minutes should only have the first paragraph released.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herricks made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Vern Zehr, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District

