

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, July 20, 2006 at the Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, Illinois. President Toalson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asked the Secretary, Commissioner Wene, to call the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Herricks, Toalson, Wene and Zehr. Commissioner Green was absent with notice.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Herricks moved that the commissioners occupy the following offices for the next year: Mr. Toalson, President; Mr. Herricks, Vice President; Mr. Zehr, Treasurer; Ms. Wene, Secretary; and Ms. Green, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – CSX TRAIL STATUS REPORT

Champaign County Design and Conservation (CCDC) Foundation representatives Tim Bartlett and Jerry Soesbe gave an update on the CSX Trail progress. The following arose from the discussion:

- What is the process at this point? CCDC hopes to purchase the trail property and then determine joint ownership and management responsibilities.
- Where is CCDC in this process? CCDC would like to begin dialogue with the District regarding the involvement level in the project.
- Has the trail been discussed in the Big, Small, All meetings? It has and is one of the steering committee's top priorities.
- Senator Durbin has earmarked \$400,000.00 for the acquisition of the land and therefore time is of the essence.
- The recreation as well as economic and development potential was reviewed and determined to be a positive for both Champaign County as well as Vermillion County.
- The Board strongly agreed that the District should be the government body involved in the CSX Trail.

Commissioner Herricks moved to appoint Executive Director Jerry Pagac and Planning Director Sally Prunty to serve as the District representatives on a committee with the CCDC to work out an agreement for the CSX Trail. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

There were no additions or corrections to the following sets of minutes: Regular Meeting minutes of June 15, 2006; Special Meeting minutes of June 29, 2006; and Special Meeting minutes of June 30, 2006. Commissioner Wene moved for approval. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wene moved for approval of the following sets of Executive Session minutes: May 18, 2006 and June 15, 2006. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Commissioner Zehr moved that the Board approve payment of checks #76425 through #76832 dated June 10, 2006 through July 14, 2006, including wire transfers for payment of FED/FICA/state & sales taxes for a total of \$427,454.03 excepting from that void check #75195. Commissioner Wene seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zehr gave the Treasurer's Report for June 2006. The outstanding bonds were \$194,000. As of June 30, 2006, the investments of the District totaled \$3,716,713.44 with ending cash available totaling \$69,039.92. Income for the month totaled \$860,448.30 and expenses totaled \$312,862.61. Commissioner Zehr moved for approval of the Treasurer's Report for June 2006. Commissioner Wene seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE AUDIENCE; REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

None

REPORT OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES

None

REPORT OF THE STAFF

Executive Director Jerry Pagac said the District's former Discovery Van had been sold using eBay. He said it had been a positive experience and the District would research further surplus sales using this method. Director Pagac gave an update on the museum annex project, acknowledging Foundation member Tom Harrington Jr., whose engineering firm provided advice on the Geothermal-HVAC system bid proposals.

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REPORT OF THE STAFF (cont.)

Natural Resources Director Dan Olson announced the District had received the NACO 5-Star Grant in the amount of \$9,700.00.

Director of Golf Dave Torrens said Morton Buildings, Inc. had repaired the golf course maintenance building which was still under warranty.

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. Hartwell C. Howard Golf Course; 11. Lake of the Woods/River Bend Forest Preserves; 12. Middle Fork River Forest Preserve and 13. Homer Lake Forest Preserve. Commissioner Wene 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.

REPORT OF THE CCFPD FOUNDATION BOARD

Foundation Board President Eric Robeson said work was in progress on the contribution process, a Foundation Strategic Plan and annual mailing. Mr. Robeson said the scholarship recipients had been determined. Mr. Robeson spoke about the upcoming CCFPD Foundation Mindy Harrington Memorial Golf Scramble on Friday, September 8, 2006 and said the next Foundation meeting would be at 7:30 a.m. at Jim Gould Restaurant, Champaign on September 14th.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

None

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Herricks said additional funding sources for the USGS Salt Fork River Gaging station had been found, therefore lowering the amount requested of the District. He said official notification would be received shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facilities Committee

None

B. Personnel Committee

None

C. District Roadwork (PN)

Commissioner Herricks moved to award the contract for the Lake of the Woods and River Bend Roads Project to Illiana Construction Company in the amount of \$160,636.00. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

D. East Central Illinois Master Naturalist Program Presentation (NR)

The following summarizes Natural Resources Director Dan Olson's presentation on the program:

- What is the Master Naturalist Program? A program to educate and train a corps of volunteers to provide support in the conservation management and interpretation of natural resources.
- What is involved in completion of the program? A total of 70 hours of instruction and 40 hours of volunteer service.
- Who are the main sponsors of the program? U of I Extension, CCFPD and Urbana Park District; and there is an upcoming meeting that is meant to recruit additional sponsors.
- When does the program begin? September 2006.

Natural Resources Director Olson explained the District's involvement and noted a grant had been received for class materials. He explained that the program was in the development stage, but will be starting soon.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herricks made the motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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