

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

Thursday, June 15, 2006

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

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 15, 2006 at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois. President Toalson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked the Secretary, Commissioner Wene, to call the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Green, Herricks, Toalson, Wene and Zehr.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Commissioner Wene said approval of the Executive Session minutes of May 18, 2006 would be deferred to the July agenda. President Toalson moved audience input up in the agenda.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE AUDIENCE

Suzanne Smith of the Salt Fork River Partners said preliminary planning had begun on the 9th annual Salt Fork River Cleanup. Ms. Smith spoke on behalf of Bob Holmes in support of continued District financial support of the Salt Fork River Gaging Station. President Toalson explained that the District had financially supported the station in the past but the District was not in favor of continuing sole financial support of the station.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

There were no additions or corrections to the following sets of minutes: Regular Meeting minutes of May 18, 2006 and Special Meeting minutes of May 31, 2006. Commissioner Wene moved for approval. Commissioner Green seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Commissioner Zehr moved that the Board approve payment of checks #76042 through #76424 dated May 13, 2006 through June 9, 2006, including a wire transfer for payment of FED/FICA/state & sales taxes for a total of \$354,349.34. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zehr gave the Treasurer's Report for May 2006. The outstanding bonds were \$194,000. As of May 31, 2006, the investments of the District totaled \$3,125,610.29 with ending cash available totaling \$112,557.38. Income for the month totaled \$695,377.57 and expenses totaled \$309,298.60. Commissioner Zehr moved for approval. Commissioner Wene seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE AUDIENCE

Beth Chato gave an overview of the 2006 Audubon Society Bird report. The Board thanked Ms. Chato and the Champaign County Audubon Society for all of their work.

REMARKS AND/OR INPUT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Green thanked staff for work done on the Smithsonian Institution's Between Fences Exhibit. The Board thanked staff for their work on the River Bend Forest Grand Opening. Commissioner Herricks complimented staff on the amount of media coverage the event received. Commissioner Zehr complimented the aesthetics of Homer Lake Forest Preserve.

REPORT OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES

None.

REPORT OF THE STAFF

Executive Director Jerry Pagac thanked the planning committee as well as all staff involved in the River Bend Forest Preserve Grand Opening. Director Pagac gave an update on the strategic plan process, noting development of a vision statement would be a focus at the next strategic plan meeting. He commended Natural Resources Specialist Jeremy Shafer for his dedication and the special skills he brings to his job which have saved the District money.

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REPORT OF THE STAFF (cont.)

Planning Director Sally Prunty gave a presentation on the golf course entrance project progress.

Public Information Director Andee Chestnut thanked the volunteers involved in the River Bend Grand Opening, specifically Charlie Arbuckle, Beth Chato, Bob Craft and Ann Prisland.

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 Herricks moved to accept the staff reports. Commissioner Green 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 feedback was coming in on the District's television spots which promoted the Summer Youth Series and the Smithsonian Institution's Between Fences Exhibit. Mr. Robeson said the next Foundation Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 13th at 7:30 a.m. at Jim Gould Restaurant, 1 Main Plaza, Champaign.

REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Citizens Advisory Committee member Richard Bishop said Dan Schneider would be going away on sabbatical leave and therefore there would be two vacancies. CAC member Ann Prisland gave an update on the Outreach Subcommittee activities.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facilities Committee

None.

B. Personnel Committee

1. Bylaws

Commissioner Wene moved to adopt the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Commissioner Zehr seconded. The bylaws were on the agenda at the May Board Meeting and have been reviewed by both the Personnel Committee as well as the full Board. Commissioner Wene thanked Legal Counsel Matt Deering for his input during the amendment process. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Policy

Commissioner Wene moved to accept the revision of the Personnel Policy Manual for full-time District employees including Section 9-1 Grievance Process and Procedure and Section 10-1 Separation of Employment. Commissioner Herricks seconded. The Personnel Policy was on the agenda at the May Board Meeting and had been reviewed by both the Personnel Committee as well as the full Board. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Acceptance of Audit

Commissioner Zehr moved to accept the 2005 audit document from Clifton Gunderson LLP. Commissioner Green seconded. President Toalson noted Clifton Gunderson LLP. Auditor Jeff Livesay answered questions at the May meeting. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

D. Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance #06-3

Commissioner Wene moved that the Board approve Prevailing Wage Rate Ordinance #06-3, the Prevailing Wage Act, as required by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

E. Resolution of Authorization of Grant

Executive Director Pagac asked that this item be deferred to consideration during the Executive Session.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Wene made a motion at 7:30 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)(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": Green, Herricks, Toalson, Wene and Zehr. Motion carried.

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

OPEN SESSION

Commissioner Wene moved that the following redacted Executive Session minutes be released: paragraph one and two of April 18, 2002 and paragraph four of May 19, 2005. Commissioner Green seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Herricks moved to approve continued negotiation for land acquisition by Executive Director Jerry Pagac and Legal Counsel Matt Deering for the land and on terms discussed in Executive Session and upon finalization of the appropriate contract on such terms execution of the contract would be by President Toalson. President Toalson advised he may be out of town and suggested the motion include Vice President Herricks. Commissioner Herricks amended the motion to include execution of the contract by either President Toalson or Vice President Herricks. Commissioner Wene seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

E. Resolution of Authorization of Grant

Commissioner Herricks moved to approve the signature of the Resolution of Authorization as part of the land acquisition grant application proposed by Executive Director Jerry Pagac. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zehr made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Green seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

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