

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, April 19, 2007
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, April 19, 2007 at the Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, 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: Green, Herricks, Toalson, Wene and Zehr.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - None

REMOTE ATTENDANCE - None

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Board presented a Community Service Award to Bessie Griest in recognition of her continued dedication to the Early American Museum.

SECRETARY REPORT

There were no additions or corrections to the Regular Meeting minutes of March 15, 2007. Commissioner Wene moved for approval. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wene moved to accept the Executive Session Meeting minutes of March 15, 2007. Commissioner Herricks seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT

Commissioner Zehr moved that the Board approve payment of checks #79384 through #79747 dated March 9, 2007 through April 13, 2007 for a total amount of \$461,822.73 including wire transfers for payment of FED/FICA/state and sales taxes. Commissioner Green seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Commissioner Zehr gave the Treasurer's Report for March 2007. The outstanding bonds were \$194,000. As of March 31, 2007, the investments of the District totaled \$3,052,719.09 with ending cash available totaling \$40,788.29. Income for the month totaled \$115,422.98 and expenses totaled \$351,291.13. Commissioner Zehr moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2007. Commissioner Wene seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

AUDIENCE REMARKS AND/OR INPUT

Dixie Jackson complimented the District's Strategic Plan as well as the practice of presenting progress reports periodically at Board meetings. Ms. Jackson voiced concerns regarding priority placed on Horticultural Education considering the other existing similar community offerings as well as what she believed was minimal public input involved in the plan development.

COMMISSIONERS REMARKS AND/OR INPUT

The following are highlights. The Board:

- Complimented amount of good publicity received.
- Thanked staff for hard work done on the greenhouse removal and for the demonstration of the Bobcat Track Loader, noting its efficiency in invasives control as well as its potential for many other tasks.

BOARD COMMITTEES REPORTS

1. Facilities Committee

Commissioner Herricks moved the Board accept the Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2007. Commissioner Green seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried. Commissioner Herricks advised a number of Facilities Committee items would be addressed under New Business.

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BOARD COMMITTEES REPORTS (cont.)

2. Personnel Committee - None

3. Rules and Regulations Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee - None

STAFF REPORTS

The following are highlights:

- Executive Director Jerry Pagac expressed appreciation to the Lake of the Woods Operations Department for the efficient job done on the exotic tree removal on John Potts Arboretum Drive and to the Construction Department for a job well done on the removal of the greenhouse.
- Executive Director Pagac spoke about Community Foundation grant opportunities and announced that two District positions had been accepted as part of the work study program at the UI College of ACES. This will result in a reimbursement to the District for 40% of each salary.
- Golf course renovations were praised, including new cabinetry in the pro shop as well as the addition of senior tees on the course.
- Outhouse removal has come to a stop and will resume when replacement vault toilets are delivered.
- Andy Little was introduced as the new Middle Fork Assistant Site Superintendent and Adam Rex as the new Natural Resources Technician.
- The Trail Steward program has been successful and has created a number of new District friends. The importance of compiling contact information for people who have contact with the District was stressed by President Toalson.
- The District received the 2007 tax rates of 8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

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. 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 Green seconded. Motion carried unanimously. These reports are available in their entirety at District Headquarters and on the District website at www.ccfpd.org.

CCFPD FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT

Foundation Board President Eric Robeson gave a summary of recent activities: continued focus on District awareness in the community; informational television spots to run in late spring; research into cable access to provide longer format programming; Marketing Committee progress on the Healthy Preserves, Healthy People initiative; feasibility of a Development Director and planning for the Lincoln Exhibit Panel Dedication Reception at the Early American Museum on May 5, 2007.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Facilities Committee

1. Middle Fork Residence Renovation (MF)

Commissioner Herricks moved the Board approve the components and estimates on the renovation of the Middle Fork residence in an amount not to exceed \$92,500. Commissioner Green seconded. Commissioner Herricks said the project had been discussed at the Facilities Committee and advised this would be a blanket approval similar to the museum annex project with updates given to the Board regularly. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

2. Showerhouse Renovation (MF) – None

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NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

A. Facilities Committee

3. Wood Chipper Purchase (LW)

Commissioner Herricks moved the Board approve the purchase of one (1) new Vermeer BC1000xl drum-style brush chipper in the amount of \$23,400 from Vermeer Sales & Service of Central Illinois, Inc. in Eureka, Illinois. Commissioner Green seconded. Commissioner Herricks noted this had been presented to, and was recommended by, the Facilities Committee. President Toalson asked if this was a replacement purchase. Staff said it was not but rather in addition to the current wood chipper that would also continue to be used. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

4. Public Museum Operating Grant (EAM)

Museum Director Cheryl Kennedy gave an update on the project and noted the work would be completed by the end of May, and reimbursement for the project would be submitted sometime in June or July.

5. Golf Course Renovation (GC)

Commissioner Herricks highlighted safety benefits of future golf course renovations including rerouting entrance traffic which would lower vehicle, pedestrian and golf car interaction.

6. Material Storage Bins (LW)

Commissioner Herricks advised the material storage bins had been discussed at a number of Facilities Committee meetings and would be constructed by staff.

7. Vault Restrooms (MF, HL, LW)

Planning Director Sally Prunty said the vault restrooms were on order but a delivery date had not been confirmed.

B. Personnel Committee - None

C. Rules and Regulations Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee

Legal Counsel Matt Deering said legal review of the draft ordinance document was in progress, and it would be delivered to staff shortly.

D. Establish Price for Local Sale of Outhouses

Commissioner Wene moved the Board authorize staff to sell on eBay or by other means at a price that they determine. Commissioner Green seconded. Following discussion to establish a local the selling price, the Board decided the pricing was a staff decision A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

E. Freedom Fest Fireworks Contract

Commissioner Herricks moved the Board approve contracting with Melrose Pyrotechnics, Inc. for the purchase of \$6,000 in fireworks each year with no price increases for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

F. Dental Insurance

Commissioner Wene moved to approve The Kansas City Life Insurance Company as the District's dental insurance provider, effective May 1, 2006, at a monthly rate of \$22.80 per employee. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

G. Strategic Plan – Staff Update Presentation

Deputy Director Jan Plotner gave an overview of staff progress on the Strategic Plan and advised progress reports would be presented to the Board on a bi-annual basis.

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NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

H. Strategic Plan – Board Responsibilities Discussion

The discussion included Board involvement in corporate sponsorship development and the potential use of a not-for-profit consultant to provide technical assistance for alternative revenue production options.

OTHER BUSINESS

Executive Director Jerry Pagac presented the sign in honor of Don Humphrey which will be placed at the Middle Fork Waterfowl area. Dedication will be scheduled to coincide with the Board meeting at Middle Fork.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Wene made a motion at 8:10 p.m. to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically sections 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 and 2(c)(5) for discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body. Commissioner Zehr seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Green, Herricks, Toalson, Wene and Zehr. Motion carried. Executive Director Jerry Pagac was also present and exited at 8:32 p.m.

Commissioner Herricks made a motion at 9:00 p.m. to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Green seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zehr made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Green seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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