

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

Thursday, August 15, 2019

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 15, 2019 at the Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner Livesay called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Bobbie Herakovich was also in attendance.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – David Monk, representing Heartland Pathways, spoke regarding the width of the Kickapoo Rail Trail as it heads east from St. Joseph into the more rural portions of Champaign and Vermilion Counties, noting his desire to have it narrower for protection of the prairie remnants.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 16, 2019

B. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Kerins moved approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Livesay reported that at the foundation's last meeting the following business took place: Jarrod Scheunemann was appointed a voting member as one of the two staff representatives, the foundation again sponsored the New American Welcome Center's Welcoming Week, the upcoming Sleepy Creek fundraiser to be held November 15th, the September 12th Botanical Garden Waterfall/Pond dedication, and a recent meeting that Will Timmons, Mary Ellen Wuellner and Jarrod Scheunemann had with Carle to discuss potential support of the accessibility improvements to the Lake of the Woods peninsula.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Hays reported the group is still continually promoting the District at countywide events, the Tomlinson Cemetery subcommittee is documenting historic records, and the CAC will wait until December for nomination of new members to fill two vacant seats.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Goodman commended staff for putting together the extensive list of capital needs across the District, investigating the use of cloud computing, preparing for the upcoming garden event, and working with the Golf Committee on the recent adopt a hole initiative.

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Commissioner Comments contd.

Commissioner Hays concurred with staff's recent decision not to proceed with the boat access grant and congratulated staff for the current health insurance pricing reviews. He encouraged staff to hold more programs like the beginners canoe class that took place recently at Homer Lake, and suggested that kayaks could assist at the upcoming triathlon at Lake of the Woods. Hays also noted concern about how the January 1 law legalizing recreational marijuana would affect use at the preserves. Wuellner noted that IAPD has stated that the law prohibits its use in public places. And lastly, Hays shared info on upcoming USRC events including a Sangamon River cleanup and a mussel survey.

Commissioner Kerins echoed his approval of the following: cloud computing investigation, garden pond and waterfall renovations, condition of the golf course and the increased amount of play, community outreach efforts on the part of several departments. Kerins also asked staff if a benefits projection was available, to which staff noted that premium numbers will not be available for several weeks.

Commissioner Livesay reported she had recently attended an event at one of the Lake of the Woods pavilions and noted the favorable comments she heard about the facility. Livesay also commended staff for their dedication to wildlife care in regard to the injured owl that was found on District property. She thanked staff for encouraging more youth to become volunteers, and noted the bunker renovations and the touch-a-truck event recently held at Middle Fork.

Ms. Herakovich echoed the comments of other Commissioners and commended staff on the many projects both completed and ongoing. She also noted that the Compensation Committee is currently working on reviewing and revising the employee performance evaluation process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Community Engagement: Wuellner noted Dale Morrisey will be attending the meeting on September 23 with the CE staff group to share his experiences with public engagement.

B. Announcements

Wuellner noted she had recently attended a meeting of the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts and learned that the annual Legal Symposium, coming up in November, will focus on how the legalization of marijuana law may impact both the hiring process and the park and recreation industry in general. She noted that Cook County's forest preserves will be going smoke free in 2021. Wuellner also noted this would be Planning Director, Jon Hasselbring's, last meeting, as he has taken a position with the UI. She thanked him for his service to the District and noted his impact can be seen from the garden to the Kickapoo Rail Trail. On behalf of the staff, she wished him all the best.

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OLD BUSINESS

A. Selection of Officers

Hays moved Commissioner Goodman for the office of Treasurer with Kerins seconding. Goodman moved Commissioner Livesay for the office of President, with Kerins seconding. Hays moved Commissioner Kerins for the office of Secretary, with a second from Kerins. Kerins moved Commissioner Hays for the office of Assistant Treasurer/Secretary. Hays seconded.

Commissioner Kerins moved the slate of officers as stated: Livesay, President; Goodman, Treasurer; Kerins, Secretary; Hays, Assistant Treasurer/Secretary. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the payment of \$146,618.89 in disbursements dated July 16, 2019 through August 15, 2019. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. July Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the July 2019 Treasurers Report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2019-03 KRT Design Engineering Proposal (ITEP Amenities)

Commissioner Hays moved the Board adopt Resolution 2019-03 approving a design engineering agreement for amenities on the Kickapoo Rail Trail, from Main Street in Urbana to Seventh Street in St. Joseph, in an amount not to exceed \$31,455.64. This agreement will cover design engineering costs. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Wuellner noted this work is for engineering on design of placement of parking, signage, and rest nodes. Goodman asked how we qualify entities for the bidding process. Wuellner noted they are reviewed on their expertise and experience in similar jobs. Ms. Herakovich asked why not just keep with the same engineer for all of the KRT work. Wuellner noted that we may lose our competitiveness with other firms, and other firms may lose interest in working with the District for other applications. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Budget Update

Baker reviewed the list of capital projects that was shared with the Commissioners and noted that a proposed list of projects to be included in next year’s budget will be forthcoming.

Commissioners thanked staff for their work on the document, and noted how useful it is to have

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the overall list of capital needs. Commissioners also confirmed with staff that the electrical work at Middle Fork campground was completed and asked about granting options for the Homer Lake Interpretive Center, the cost of the Lake of the Woods spillway repairs, and the replacement of storm damaged shelters at Middle Fork.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kerins moved at 7:04pm to convene to Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically section 2 (c) 1 The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, 2 (c) 5 The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired, and 2 (c) 11 Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Executive Session was opened at 8:07 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 8:07 pm. Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Andrew Kerins, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District