

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

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

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

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at the Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, 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

Beth Chato, representing the Champaign County Audubon Society, gave a verbal report of the 2018 District Bird Count. Ms. Chato reported breeding bird counts for all preserves and presented the Board with a copy of the report. Ms. Chato also thanked the District for its bird habitat conservation endeavors. She also noted that in 2018 eagles have been included in the count at Middle Fork, Homer Lake, and Lake of the Woods, which indicates how far they have rebounded in numbers and locations. Commissioners thanked Ms. Chato for her work and the efforts of the local Audubon Society in tracking and reporting bird species sighted at the preserves each year.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 20, 2019
- B. Monthly Staff Reports

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

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION – Commissioner Livesay deferred the report to Executive Director Wuellner as Livesay was unable to attend the foundation meeting. Wuellner provided a summary, which included discussion of a Willow Pond fundraising direct mail initiative, a future fundraising effort for the Homer Lake Interpretive Center, and an update on District and Foundation grants.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Commissioner Hays noted the committee had not met since June but outreach subcommittee members have been very busy attending Farmers Markets in Urbana, Mahomet, and other communities, and attending local community events. The project subcommittee, working on a Tomlinson Cemetery project, has been working with Museum Curator, Mark Hanson, to organize and catalog the Tomlinson files kept by Elisabeth Hanson. Hays also noted that two new members stepped down from the CAC, one due to leaving the area and the other because of time constraints. The CAC will wait to fill the slots for 2020. Herakovich commended the outreach members that had been at the Urbana Farmers Market, as she had been there and said they were doing a great job promoting the District!

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Goodman commented on the donor recognition art piece for the KRT, commended staff for working with the volunteer youth work camp, and expressed appreciation for the numerous grant applications staff has prepared and submitted.

Commissioner Hays thanked staff for working on the grant application for the accessible canoe launch on the Sangamon River, asked about the wild parsnip injuries, and noted the visit to the museum by Representative Ammons was great to see.

Commissioner Kerins commended staff for the streamlined format of the staff reports, and thanked staff for their work on the District strategic plan, noting this was something that has been needed for a long time.

Commissioner Livesay thanked staff for providing a mid-year update on capital projects, asked staff about turf conditions at the golf course, which have greatly improved, and also noted the large number of grant submittals.

Herakovich thanked staff and volunteers for their work leading up to and at Freedom Fest, echoed praise to staff on the capital projects and grant reports, and inquired on status of the recent staff meeting with I-Parks. Finance Director, John Baker, noted the District is still comparing services offered between I-Parks and PDRMA. Herakovich also thanked the Commissioners for their contact with the Champaign County Board regarding her role as CCFPD Commissioner.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- A. **Announcements:** Wuellner reminded the Commissioners of the upcoming re-dedication of the Botanical Gardens Pond and Waterfall that will be held September 12th at 6 pm., and also presented Middle Fork staff with a plaque of the proclamation that was read by Senator Bennet at the dedication of Middle Fork as the state's first International Dark Sky Park.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Disbursements for Approval**

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the payment of \$262,951.99 in disbursements dated June 21, 2019 through July 16, 2019. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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B. June Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Hays moved approval of the June Treasurer's report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

STAFF PRESENTATION

A. 2020 Budget Update and Projections

Baker, and HR Generalist, Dara Edgington, gave a PowerPoint presentation on budget projections for 2020, focusing on operating costs including the impact of the state's new minimum-wage standards. Commissioners asked questions regarding property tax projections, camp store revenue tracking, healthcare costs and the possibility of joining a shared plan with another public entity, program-based budgeting, and the effect the new minimum wage rates are likely to have on the budget, salaries for new hires, and wage compression.

B. 2019 Capital Project Mid-Year Update

Jon Hasselbring, Planning and Operations Director, gave an overview of the current year's capital projects and the completion status of each.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Strategic Plan Draft 1.4 and Public Input to Date

Wuellner shared the current draft of the 2020 Strategic Plan and the public input collected to date. Commissioners discussed whether the current plan sufficiently addresses the District's goals for outdoor recreation. Commissioner Livesay polled board members who felt that the recreation objectives currently mentioned in the plan were adequate to cover that portion of our mission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 7:59 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