

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

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Lake House, Crystal Lake Park, Urbana Park District, 206 W Park, Urbana, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at the Lake House, Crystal Lake Park, Urbana Park District, 206 W Park, Urbana, Illinois Commissioner Livesay called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Kerins and Livesay. Commissioners Goodman and Herakovich were absent with notice. It was also noted Commissioner Hays gave notice he would be late arriving. Hays arrived at 6:28 pm.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – Due to Commissioner Hays’ late arrival and lacking a quorum until he arrived, Commissioners Livesay and Kerins modified the agenda to discuss non-action agenda items: V. Commissioners Report, VI. Executive Directors Report, and item IX. A. Farm Lease. When Commissioner Hays arrived, they resumed the order of the agenda and addressed action items for approval.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 17, 2019
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on January 17, 2019
- C. Monthly Staff Reports

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

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION – At its February meeting, Commissioner Livesay stated that the Foundation selected officers for 2019, noting that they elected to continue with the 2018 slate. The Foundation also approved sponsorship of District education programs, 2019 Freedom Fest sponsorship, a new donor software purchase, and the purchase of an art piece for the garden using funds from the Roseann Noel endowment. Livesay noted that Dan Noel had stated his mother’s particular fondness for this art piece.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Commissioner Hays noted that the committee had not met since the last regular Board meeting, but the Outreach subcommittee did meet briefly and would be developing a schedule of events shortly.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kerins acknowledged all the activity within the District, noting the KRT and recent approval of the OSLAD grant, but giving special recognition to many other items on the staff report, including natural resources work, golf pass sales, and educational programs.

Commissioner Livesay commended education and golf staff for their outreach work, the finance department for the outstanding audit award, and the many staff members who represent the District at regional trainings. She cited natural resources staff’s recent drone training for prairie restoration work as one example.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS contd.

Commissioner Hays, Commissioner Goodman, and Executive Director Wuellner recently met with members of the Village of Mahomet administration and State Senator Chapin Rose about projects on which the Village and the District could collaborate. Hays noted Rose encouraged the District and the Village to research joint projects including the potential for a dog park at Lake of the Woods. Hays stated after that meeting, members of the Village and District staff met about a collaborative approach to developing the Sangamon River water trail, noting that the District will be assisting with development of interpretive signage at a launch site in Mahomet. Hays also mentioned the possibility of using the Lincoln Heritage Water Trail name for this section of Sangamon River, noting that the Lincoln Heritage name is recognized by the IDNR and the community. Hays suggested holding a Study Session on the dog park issue, to which Wuellner noted she would reach out to the other Commissioners to see if a majority would be willing to discuss the issue at a future Study Session. Kerins and Livesay indicated their willingness.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- A. **Announcements:** Executive Director Wuellner introduced Jennifer Wick, currently the part-time Education Program Specialist at the Homer Lake Interpretive Center. Wuellner noted that her position was one of the positions that would increase to full-time as approved in the 2019 Budget. Wick would begin full time on February 27. Wuellner also reported the annual staff reports were completed and paper copies were distributed to the Board, and also noted the recent Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the District's Annual Financial report for FY 2017.

Commissioners thanked staff for their 2018 accomplishments, and also commended Finance Director Baker on the Financial Reporting award.

- B. **Community Engagement Report:** Wuellner stated, in addition to the written report that was included in the packet, she had recently spoken with Brook McDonald from The Conservation Foundation about his experience on similar community engagement efforts. Wuellner noted that any funds needed for community engagement work would not come District revenues. Wuellner also stated she talk to the Foundation about options for upcoming expenses, as she would like for funds to come from investment income or donors giving directly to this effort, not from non-dedicated donor funds.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Disbursements for Approval**

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve the payment of \$186,106.71 in disbursements dated January 18, 2019 through February 18, 2019. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. January Treasurer's Report

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

C. Purchase of Middle Fork Utility Tractor

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the purchase of a 2019 John Deere 4052R Compact Utility Tractor for Forty Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Thirty One Dollars, and Thirty Seven Cents (\$44,831.37) through AHW, LLC (Urbana, Illinois).

Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Purchase of Middle Fork Finish Mower

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve the purchase of a 2019 John Deere Z997R Finish Mower for Seventeen Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four Dollars, and Forty Nine Cents (\$17,774.49) through AHW, LLC (Urbana, Illinois). Commissioner Hays seconded. Commissioners asked what type of warranty the mower had. Staff responded it would have a one year warranty, which is normal for this type of equipment. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

E. Purchase of Golf Course Fairway Mower

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the purchase of a 2019 Jacobsen LF510 Fairway Mower for Forty Nine Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty One dollars, and Zero Cents (\$49,331.00) through Burriss Equipment (Joliet, Illinois). This price is available through Sourcewell cooperative purchasing (formerly National Joint Purchasing Alliance) Program. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Staff stated the pricing change was due to a change of options that staff decided were needed after the original estimate was made, however funds available from earlier purchase savings will offset the increased price of this piece of equipment. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION

A. Lease of Land for USDA Programs

Commissioners asked staff about the location of CRP land on District property, and if land is tillable or in production. Natural Resources Director, Mike Daab, noted the locations of existing CRP land and stated that we may have additional areas that would qualify for CRP. Commissioner Livesay questioned our readiness for tracking time and inputs for land management. Staff noted that the District's current timekeeping system will simplify timekeeping and allow them to track hours in the field.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

NEW BUSINESS

F. Release of Executive Session Minutes – No Action

G. **Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Executive Session Minutes** – No Action

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 6:53pm. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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