

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, June 20, 2019
Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, June 20, 2019 at the Salt Fork Center, Homer Lake Forest Preserve, Homer, Illinois. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Hays, Herakovich, and Kerins. Commissioner Goodman was absent with notice, and it was noted Commissioner Livesay would be arriving late, as she was on official Commissioner business. Commissioner Livesay arrived at 7:10 pm.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Hope Wheeler, CPA Principal, with CliftonLarsonAllen, the District's contracted audit provider, gave a visual presentation and overview of the District's recently completed 2018 financial audit. Commissioner Herakovich inquired if the District should establish a policy governing interfund transfers or loans from one account to another during the year. Ms. Wheeler recommended a policy with set limits for staff, and higher limits needing Board approval, would be best practice. Commissioners thanked Ms. Wheeler for the presentation.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 23, 2019
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on May 23, 2019
- C. Minutes of Study Session on May 30, 2019
- D. Monthly Staff Reports

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

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION

FPPF President, Dan Noel, thanked Homer Lake staff for the dinner that was served prior to the meeting, and also introduced fellow foundation member, Bob Espeseth. Noel named current members and noted two new members had been added over the last year: Peg Bush and Jennifer Vallowe. Noel gave an overview of the foundation's work over the last year, including: fundraising for the Botanical Garden pond renovation, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve Dark Sky designation, the KRT including raising funds through the Illinois Marathon, the Summer Concert Series, CU Bike month, and the Community Used Bike Sale. Noel also noted upcoming events include the planned rededication of the Botanical Garden pond and waterfall, as well as

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FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION cont'd

fundraising efforts for Willow Pond and the Homer Lake Interpretive Center. He stated that new donor management software had been purchased and thanked District Administrative Assistant, Megan McCoy, for her efforts in transferring the data to the new system. Noel also noted that foundation member, Bob Espeseth, had been named Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year in 2018 by the Illinois Association of Park Districts.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE –

CAC Chair, Roger Digges, introduced members present including: Eileen Borgia, Kayla Boparai, Fred Bunting, Bill Ford, Kristian Hopkins, Dick Harris, and Greg Walburg. Digges also noted members Marianne Lippi and Jeanine Russell were unable to attend as they were representing the District at the Working Women's Expo in Champaign/Urbana. Digges noted over the past year the group has been very busy with over 140 hours of outreach attending farmers markets in Urbana and other towns, local celebrations, events and fairs, and worked closely with staff on the recent Dark Sky Park initiative. Digges noted the CAC had added several new members this past year, due to a change in its bylaws. Adding new members allows the CAC to reach more of the community and attend a greater number of events on behalf of the District. Digges thanked District Marketing Coordinator, Lisa Sprinkle, for her outreach to solicit new members, and indicated that new members bring new insight to the committee. Lastly, Digges noted that the work of the CAC's Tomlinson Cemetery subcommittee had just begun.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

All commissioners thanked the Homer Lake staff for providing dinner for the board and staff members ahead of the meeting.

Commissioner Herakovich commended staff on the creation of an IT committee and the Dark Sky Park dedication event. She was glad to see the District's participation in the USDA parasitic wasp project at Lake of the Woods, and noted that she had seen District videos on the public access channel. She recognized the work of the Golf Course Committee, and the recent funding to the District, noting special thanks to Senator Scott Bennett and Representative Carol Ammons.

Commissioner Hays thanked both the CAC and foundation for their work. Hays also noted the great turn out for the Dark Sky Park dedication, and thanked Jarrod Scheunemann for his grant submittal for an accessible boat launch at Lake of the Woods. He commended staff for their background work on dog parks prior to the recent study session and thanked the Compensation Committee for their work assessing the impact of the minimum wage hike.

Commissioner Livesay echoed the Dark Sky event appreciation, thanked staff for working together on cleanup duties after the Middle Fork storm. Livesay also commended Jon Hasselbring and staff for their work on the pond and waterfall, and John Baker and the finance staff for their work on the 2018 audit and the 2017 CAFR award.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS cont'd

Commissioner Kerins echoed his appreciation for staff's work on the dog park study session, the compensation committee, the construction staff for their work on the Botanical Garden pond and waterfall project, and noted he has personally received favorable feedback on the Lake of the Woods Golf Course conditions this season compared to last year, so thanked golf staff for their efforts.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- A. **Announcements:** Wuellner recognized Homer Lake staff, as well as John Baker and finance staff for their work on the 2018 District audit. She noted the additional grant information that was supplied to the commissioners in memo form that night and asked for any feedback. Wuellner also reminded everyone about the upcoming guided hike to be held at Point Pleasant on June 29, and noted a volunteer appreciation event has been scheduled for October 3 at Homer Lake.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Disbursements for Approval**

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the payment of \$173,637.25 in disbursements dated May 24, 2019 through June 20, 2019. Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. **May Treasurer's Report**

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

C. **2018 District Audit**

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board accept the 2018 District Audit. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners thanked staff for their work on the audit process. With regard to the District receiving the 2017 CAFR, Commissioner Herakovich noted that only 5% of agencies are able to achieve that distinction, and so offered her congratulations to John Baker and District staff for their work on audit preparation and the follow up work on policies. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

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NEW BUSINESS cont'd

D. Request to Acquire Collections

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the request to acquire items, including the Riegel, Rawdin, Apfelstadt, Williamson, and Rokke offers, for inclusion in the Museum's Permanent Collection. Commissioner Hays seconded. Commissioners thanked staff and the advisory committee for their thorough review of the items' value to the collection, and thanked staff for bringing some of the items this evening for closer inspection. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

STAFF PRESENTATION

Planning Director Jon Hasselbring and Construction Manager Mike Fry gave a visual presentation on the Lake of the Woods Botanical Garden pond and waterfall renovation project. The program showed the different stages of construction, with the last slide showing the waterfall now working! Staff noted that they will now begin work on sidewalk and landscaping, before the pond can be re-opened to the public. Commissioners thanked the Construction staff for their expertise and dedication to the project. Fry noted there were many other departments involved in the work including; Natural Resources, Lake of the Woods, Middle Fork, and Homer Lake operations departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hays moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 8:10 pm. Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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