

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

Thursday, October 17, 2019

Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner Herakovich called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Kerins and Herakovich. Commissioners Hays and Livesay were absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jac Knoop spoke about the KRT location in relationship to his business, AMS Incorporated, in Ogden. Mr. Knoop noted his business is located on both sides of the proposed trail and he asked the District to allow his business access to cross the trail with equipment as needed, noting it would be approximately five times a month. Commissioners confirmed the type of equipment, the weight of the equipment, and what type of surface the equipment would need. Mr. Knoop noted the equipment was a fork truck with a 10,000 lbs. axle weight limit, and that the crushed gravel surface would be satisfactory. Mr. Knoop also stated the property has a restroom that would be available for public use. Commissioners thanked Mr. and Mrs. Knoop for coming to the meeting and noted they would share his comments with the other commissioners and would get information back to him at a later time.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 19, 2019
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on September 19, 2019
- C. 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

Executive Director Wuellner reported that at the last meeting the group discussed the 2020 Annual Appeal timeframe, noting this year it will focus on Willow Pond fundraising. Wuellner mentioned that the appeal is included in the last of the calendar year Leaflet newsletters and will also include information on the Lake of the Woods peninsula improvements, solar charging stations for the KRT and an update to the Interpretive Center planning. Also discussed; grant updates and the upcoming Sleepy Creek fundraising event.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Wuellner reported that Eileen Borgia was recognized, as it was her last meeting as a CAC member. Wuellner also noted the group will be looking for three new members this fall and hope to fill the openings by the end of the year so they may participate beginning with the January 2020 meeting. The group is also evaluating new outreach tools and has been working on the Tomlinson Cemetery materials.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Goodman commended staff on all the information provided in the staff reports, complimented the CAC on the number of events they attended on behalf of the District and noted thanks to an individual that had celebrated her 40th birthday by donating and helping plant 40 trees at the District. Goodman also inquired about tree removal at the golf course. Natural Resources Director Mike Daab commented that more trees are being planted to replace damaged and dying trees on the course. Goodman also mentioned that he enjoyed seeing the picture and info about the fish and snake food chain during a school program at the Museum of the Grand Prairie and he appreciated hearing that the school teacher brought her class to the museum to practice how to behave prior to going to a larger museum. Museum staff advised teachers do that often and staff is happy to have them visit! Goodman also inquired about the recent surface work done on part of the KRT. Homer Lake Site Superintendent Brian Taylor said the surface is holding up very nicely.

Commissioner Kerins echoed comments made about the shared photo and story of the fish and snake during a school program. Kerins also commented on the triathlon, noting the possible date change of the event to May and commented on the replacement shelters being installed within the District.

Commissioner Herakovich commented on the new roof being installed on Hensley Hall (Schoolhouse), staff attending the legal symposium, recent Sangamon River cleanup, and commended museum and education staff on their busy month of school programs.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Community Engagement: Wuellner noted no additional information other than what was included in the Board packet.

B. Museum of the Grand Prairie – Found Artifacts: Wuellner thanked Museum of the Grand Prairie curator Mark Hanson for his work on the memorandum, and for having some of the items available for observation for the Board this evening. Wuellner noted there was no need for Board approval, as these items are currently owned by the District, but now they will be part of the collection. Commissioners present thanked Hanson and noted excitement of seeing the bison skull as well as fundraising materials from the 50s.

C. Announcements: No additional announcements were noted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Budget Update

Baker reviewed the material that was supplied in the Board packet, adding user fees were not included, as they had been approved last year for a two-year time period, and that golf passes are still under last year's two-year pass rates, so will not be reviewed until fall of 2020.

Commissioners inquired about the reclassification of bonds. Baker noted the accounting change was directed by the District auditors. Other commissioner comments included clarification on capital and land acquisition grants, new position requests, and employee HRA use being down.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the payment of \$210,431.95 in disbursements dated September 20, 2019 through October 17, 2019. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Kerins and Herakovich. Motion carried.

B. September Treasurer's Report

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

C. Ordinance 2019-01 Annual Tentative Tax Levy

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Ordinance 2019-01, the Annual Tentative Tax Levy for 2019 Taxes due in 2020. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Finance Director Baker noted a 20% increase of funding in anticipation of a potential hospital tax exempt ruling.

Commissioners thanked Baker for being proactive regarding the matter. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Kerins and Herakovich. Motion carried.

D. 2020 Compensation Plan

Commissioner Goodman moved approval of the 2020 compensation plan which includes a proposed compensation pool of approximately \$207,508. Commissioner Kerins seconded. HR Generalist, Dara Edgington, noted she had viewed webinars on the minimum wage changes, and other entities are also proceeding with similar wage strategies as the proposed plan.

Commissioners also commented on the addition of tipped staff and inquired if staff in those positions would be able to make minimum wage. Edgington noted if they do not earn minimum wage, the District makes up the difference to stay within legal guidelines. Commissioner Kerins stated his appreciation for the committee proposing a contribution toward spouse/dependent insurance coverage. Commissioners thanked Edgington and the committee for their work. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Kerins and Herakovich. Motion carried.

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E. Rezoning River Bend from (R3) Residential to (FP) Forest Preserve

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a Request for Zoning Amendment to the Village of Mahomet to rezone River Bend Forest Preserve from Multi-Family Residential (R3) to Forest Preserve (FP). Commissioner Kerins seconded.

Wuellner noted there is no charge to the District for having this done, as the Village of Mahomet requested and will cover costs of the zoning correction. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

F. IAPD/IPRA Conference Credentials

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the Credentials Certificate designating a District representative to serve as a delegate to the Illinois Association of Park District's Annual Business Meeting. Commissioner Kerins agreed to serve as delegate with Goodman as first alternate, and Wuellner as second alternate. Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Herakovich and Kerins. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kerins moved at 7:10 pm to convene to Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically section 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. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Herakovich and Kerins. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed and Regular Session was re-opened at 7:34 pm.

Other

Wuellner noted upon return to Regular Session that she was approached by a staff member confirming the action taken on Agenda Item D 2020 Compensation Plan was preliminary approval of the plan, not the final approval, as not all staff have been able to review.

Commissioners confirmed that the motion was for preliminary approval of the compensation committee's recommendations, and that the information should be shared with all staff prior to the final budget approval.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 7:39 pm. Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Kerins and Herakovich. Motion carried.

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