

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

Thursday, April 18, 2019

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, Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner Livesay called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – David Monk, representing Heartland Pathways, spoke regarding preserving native vegetation along remnant prairie trails. He asked the District to consider reducing the width of the Kickapoo Rail Trail as it heads east from St. Joseph into the more rural portions of Champaign and Vermilion Counties.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 21, 2019
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on March 21, 2019
- C. Minutes of Special Meeting on March 25, 2019
- D. Minutes of Special Meeting on March 28, 2019
- E. Minutes of Special Meeting on March 30, 2019
- F. Monthly Staff Reports

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

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION – Commissioner Livesay stated the group will be meeting on April 23.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Commissioner Hays noted the group did not meet this past month, but subcommittee members have been meeting and more dates have been added to the outreach calendar. Hays also commended staff on adding event dates to the Volgistics volunteer site.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kerins commended all staff for their work, specifically NR staff on spring prescribed burns, golf staff on meeting higher demand for rounds, HR for attending job fairs, and the District for using dark sky-compliant fixtures for all outdoor lighting needs.

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Commissioner Hays commended the museum staff for programming, commented on the upcoming June 1 dark sky event, the garden pond/waterfall renovations, and the FPF 'Time for Trees' Initiative with the Arbor Day Foundation.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS contd.

Commissioner Goodman noted the impressive number of grants being submitted and was pleased to receive the trail counter information. He thanked staff for setting up the Board visioning session, noting it had been very useful. Goodman also noted that the golf committee expressed its appreciation for the equipment and support they have received from the District, and they pledged that volunteer support will continue at the course.

Commissioner Livesay commented on youth volunteer initiatives she had recently observed offered by Urbana Park District, noting this type of program could offer youth an opportunity to learn about the District at a young age. Livesay also asked about golf course play numbers. Staff noted that we are getting a high volume of rounds on playable days. Livesay also noted her interest in the District's participation in the Emerald Ash Borer biological control program, and would like to hear about results when we have them.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- A. **Community Engagement:** No additions to the written report that was supplied in Board packet.
- B. **Announcements:** Executive Director, Mary Ellen Wuellner, advised she had just received word that the Friends Foundation was accepted to join EarthShare Illinois and would be included with other EarthShare members in the University of Illinois' giving campaign from now on.

Jarrod Scheunemann, Grants Coordinator, noted that Pat Cain, Public Programs and Visitor Services Coordinator, had been able to secure sponsorships for all of the summer concert series programs.

Commissioners asked Scheunemann the status of museum grants that had been frozen during the prior years' state budget issues. Scheunemann noted the 2014 grant had to be resubmitted. It has been approved and we are now waiting for receipt of a fully executed contract. Release of the 2012 grant is dependent on those funds being included in this year's state budget and the District has not received any recent updates.

OLD BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the payment of \$381,889.79 in disbursements dated March 22, 2019 through April 18, 2019. Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. March Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Hays moved approval of the March Treasurer’s report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Commissioners asked the reason for 2019 personal property tax collection shortage that was identified. Wuellner explained that budget estimates are based on prior years’ actual amounts but that it is not uncommon for the amount to fluctuate by this amount each year. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2018 Trail Counts

Jon Hasselbring, Planning Director, gave an overview of the traffic and trail count data that was supplied in the Board packet. Hasselbring also commented that staff is still working on better locating the counters so that accurate information is being collected and that external factors do not skew the results. Hasselbring noted both trail and vehicle counters are used, with trail counters using infrared technology and vehicle counters using microelectronic design technology. Commissioners thanked Hasselbring for collecting the data and noted appreciation for the charts and graphs that show the hourly, daily, and monthly activity. Although the data is not perfect, it does help establish baseline use of the trails and sites.

B. USDA Emerald Ash Borer Biological Control Program

As Mike Daab, NR Director, was not in attendance, Wuellner noted if the commissioners needed any further information other than what was supplied in the Board packet, she would be able to have Daab forward information to them. Livesay noted appreciation for staff work on the report and their involvement with the USDA on this endeavor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kerins moved at 6:45pm 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. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Commissioner Livesay reopened the regular meeting at 7:14 pm.

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NEW BUSINESS

C. Vision Retreat Synopsis

Director Wuellner shared a document with the commissioners that reviewed their recent Visioning/Strategic Planning sessions. Those present agreed upon a working vision statement of: “Protecting Nature. Creating Connections.” Wuellner indicated she would now go back to staff and work on filling in more detail. Commissioners thanked Wuellner for her report, and the time spent arranging the sessions.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 7:33 pm. Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: 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