

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

Thursday, December 19, 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, December 19, 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, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Susan Appel, representing PACA, spoke regarding the Hazen Bridge and PACA’s request to have the Champaign County Forest Preserve District receive donation of the bridge and adjacent land. Commissioners thanked Ms. Appel for attending.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - None

PRESENTATION

Dave McCann and Jon Welty-Peachey with the UI Office of Recreation and Park Resources presented the findings of a user survey that was conducted on the KRT on behalf of the District. Volunteers intercepted individual trail users to survey at different times of day and days of the week. The greatest percentage of users were cyclists. The survey showed a high percentage of local users, as the current length of the KRT is still fairly short and thus does not attract many people from out of town yet. There was an initial peak in use right after the trail opened but usage has now leveled off. Users commented that they would like to see more restroom facilities available and one person noted that the trail surface was not well-suited to road bikes and wheelchairs. McCann and Welty-Peachey also suggested creative ways to work with private businesses and villages/towns along the trail to be more welcoming to trail visitors, such as hosting events, adding bike racks, making their restrooms available, and increasing signage. While no work is underway, they recommended keeping users informed about future phasing and funding plans. Commissioners thanked McCann and Welty-Peachey for their work on the survey and for attending this meeting with the results.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Public Hearing on November 14, 2019
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 14, 2019
- C. Minutes of Executive Session on November 14, 2019
- D. Minutes of Study Session on December 5, 2019
- E. Minutes of Executive Session on December 5, 2019
- F. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Commissioner Livesay noted that, at the December Foundation meeting, members approved the 2020 Foundation budget, reviewed the results of the recent Sleepy Creek fundraising event, and were told of the new shared Administrative Assistant hire, Julia Guth, who will start working in January.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays reported that the group approved the new members at the December meeting and received updates on District projects. Hays also noted that a prescribed burn at Tomlinson Cemetery did not take place this fall, as weather conditions were not favorable. Hays also stated the group would like to work with staff on sustainability initiatives for the District.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Goodman commended staff on the appearance of Homer Lake and Lake of the Woods, and thanked Lake of the Woods staff on the holiday decorations throughout the preserve.

Commissioner Hays commended staff on the Strategic Plan. Hays also noted the recent volunteer work at Buffalo Trace trails including all the invasive plant removal. Hays suggested putting up signage to explain to the public what is being accomplished through the restoration efforts.

Commissioner Herakovich commended staff on the installation of the water fountain at Lake of the Woods maintenance shop that allows for water bottle filling. Herakovich also noted the amount of continuing education staff takes the time to attend, the recent awards that museum staff had received, new Homer Lake entrance signage, and District Sustainability Committee work. Herakovich also noted the Compensation Committee is currently working on a new format for personnel evaluations and thanked District staff for volunteering at the Optimist Club Christmas tree sale.

Commissioner Kerins also commended staff on the District Strategic Plan, sustainability initiatives, and for cooperative efforts to remove invasives alongside the residents that live next to the bike trail at Lake of the Woods. Kerins also applauded golf staff for their success in reprogramming the older golf simulator.

Commissioner Livesay echoed other board members' appreciation of the appearance of the preserves and on the completion of the strategic plan document.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Announcements: Wuellner noted that the following staff were recognized for their years of service at the recent all staff holiday event: Ed Hutchinson and Mike Fry for five years, and Matt Kuntz and Pam Leiter for 15 years with the District. Wuellner also noted District staff had

recently attended a joint training on privilege and equity with the Champaign and Urbana Park Districts, and thanked HR staff, Dara Edgington and Mary Beck, for their work arranging the event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the payment of \$223,690.48 in disbursements dated November 15, 2019 through December 19, 2019. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Hays confirmed funding for the Sun King payment. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. November Treasurer’s Report

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Commissioner Herakovich noted she prefers the word “subsidy” on the report instead of “deficit”. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance 2019-02 Annual Final Budget & Appropriation for 2020

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-02 the Annual Final Budget and Appropriation for the 2020 fiscal year. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Resolution 2019-09 Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2020

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Resolution 2019-09 the schedule of Regular Board Meetings from January through December of 2020. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

E. Resolution 2019-10 Surplus Golf Simulator

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve resolution 2019-10 declaring a golf simulator as surplus property and offering it for sale to the public. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

F. Resolution 2019-11 Capital Reserve

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Resolution 2019-11 for 2020 Capital Reserve Expenditures and Related Commitments. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

New Business cont'd.

G. Resolution 2019-12 Working Budget 2020

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve Resolution 2019-12 approving the 2020 District working budget. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. Wuellner noted this is a basic budget for approval so that staff can begin getting needed supplies and securing proposals for equipment and projects at the beginning of the year. Baker will use the Strategic Plan and program budget recommendations to guide the development of the final document, which will come to the Board for approval in March. Commissioners commended staff for working cooperatively on cuts that had to be made. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

H. 2020-2025 District Strategic Plan

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan. The plan will become effective January 1, 2020 and will provide the basis for the development of annual action plans and budgets. Commissioners noted the disappointment in not receiving more public input on the survey. Wuellner noted 90 survey responses have been received, and more are still being received. Wuellner advised the public comment will be evaluated and included in summary form as an attachment to the plan. Commissioners thanked staff for seeking as much public input as possible. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

I. Golf Course Bunker Renovation Project

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Larry Denton and Golf Course Construction and Renovation, LLC, of Taylor Ridge, IL, as the qualified contractor to provide labor for the renovation of ten bunkers on the Lake of the Woods 18-hole course at a cost of \$18,750.00. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

J. Waste Disposal Agreement

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve a three-year waste disposal agreement for an estimated cost of \$21,397.68 with Republic Services, Urbana, Illinois. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

K. CAC Appointments

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve the appointment of Fred Newport to a three-year term beginning in January 2020, Nancy Elliott to a two-year term (to fill a post vacated by Mona Ghadiri), and Steve Franke for a one-year term (to fill a spot vacated by Eileen Borgia), both terms also beginning in January of 2020. Commissioner Goodman seconded. CAC member, Marianne Lippi, was in attendance and gave an overview of the candidates. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kerins moved at 7:25 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 Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed and Regular Session was re-opened at 8:01 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hays made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:02 pm. Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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