

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

Thursday, November 14, 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, November 14, 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 6:02 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 – 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 her comments.

PRAIRIE CYCLE CLUB CHECK PRESENTATION - Kurt Bobsin and Andrea Stack, representing the Prairie Cycle Club, presented the Board with a donation for the KRT, noting the monies were raised during 2019 biking events the club held. Commissioners thanked the Prairie Cycle Club for the donation, and for continuing to be a supporter of the KRT.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – Executive Director Wuellner asked that the Community Engagement Report, under the Executive Director Report, be moved after Executive Session, as staff had seen the presentation earlier and this would allow them to leave.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Wuellner noted that at the last meeting the group discussed the 2020 Foundation Budget, memorial bench program pricing, the purchase of the Sun King sculpture that is located on the KRT, the shared Administrative Assistant position, the upcoming fundraiser that was to be held at Sleepy Creek, and restrictions that are placed on CRP land that the group now oversees. Livesay noted the robust work the group does with fundraising.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Wuellner noted the group are currently interviewing three candidates for the three open positions on the committee and will hopefully have recommendations for approval at the December Board meeting.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Goodman commended staff on filling the Deputy Director position, the appearance of District facilities and grounds, congratulated golf staff on the turnaround of course conditions since last year, and noted how great it is to see staff representing the District at so many events outside the District.

Commissioner Hays commented on the new footbridges at Buffalo Trace. Staff noted the bridges are being constructed by volunteers that do other volunteer work such as invasives removal at Buffalo Trace. Hays also inquired about staff report items including the railroad ties quote for the KRT and the strategic plan public input meetings. Hays also noted, with regard to the Sustainability Committee report, that the District should be the leaders in sustainable matters. Hays also commented that he would like the District to have policies regarding sustainability practices. Staff noted that the railroad ties would be removed and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner, and that public input meetings are held to demonstrate transparency of District initiatives.

Commissioner Livesay noted her appreciation for the recent grant award for Interpretive Center planning. Livesay thanked District Grants Coordinator, Jarrod Scheunemann for his work on acquiring the grant.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Announcements: Wuellner spoke of the recent news about capital bill funding for the Lake of the Woods spillway. The funding was included in the bill by Senator Chapin Rose and Representative Dan Caulkins. Wuellner also reported that she, Lisa Sprinkle, and Dara Edgington had just attended the Legal Symposium sponsored by IPRA and had received much useful information – about FOIA rules, the new marijuana legislation, and other pending legislation.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Golf Manager Chris Edmondson, Golf Pro David Sebestik, and Golf Superintendent, Joie Torres gave an overview of the golf course. The greens, after last year's bad conditions, have come back to look the best they have in many years. Also, rounds of play are on goal to reach 30,000 this year, and youth involvement via in-school, after-school, and camp programming has dramatically increased. The new Golf Course volunteer committee has drastically increased ideas and volunteer help at the course. Gordon Salm, the volunteer committee chair, noted the committee has ten members including the Board liaison, Commissioner Goodman, and is a

STAFF PRESENTATION cont'd.

chartered committee through the Board of Commissioners. Salm noted the diversity of the group which includes individuals that play in men's/women's league, long time players and new to golfing players. Salm also commented on the monthly newsletter sent out to keep the committee abreast of what is going on with the course. Commissioners thanked the staff and the Golf Committee for their work.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Budget Update

John Baker reviewed the proposed 2020 budget material that was supplied in the Board packet. Commissioners asked for confirmation that the increased 2020 payroll was higher due to the 27 payrolls. Staff confirmed that was one reason, and it was also a reflection of the minimum wage hike.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the payment of \$149,952.29 in disbursements dated October 18, 2019 through November 14, 2019. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. October Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve the October 2019 Treasurers Report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Baker noted the report reflects the delay in receiving property taxes. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance 2019-01 Annual Final Tax Levy

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve Ordinance 2019-01, the Annual Final Tax Levy for 2019 taxes due in 2020. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Ordinance 2019-02 Annual Tentative Budget & Appropriation for 2020

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

E. Resolution 2019-05, Sale of Surplus Equipment

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-05 allowing staff to sell District surplus items on eBay as per the provided list. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

F. Resolution 2019-06, Golf Pass Sales for 2020

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-06, Golf Season Pass Sales for 2020. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

G. Resolution 2019-07, Capital Projects 2020 Budget

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-07 Capital Projects Budget for 2020. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Wuellner noted this and the next item, Capital Equipment 2020 Budget, are intended to allow for staff to begin the process of purchasing/ordering for 2020 beginning of the year needs and to take advantage of any year-end pricing discounts. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

H. Resolution 2019-08, Capital Equipment 2020 Budget

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve Resolution 2019-08 Capital Equipment for 2020. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

I. 2020 Compensation Plan – Employer Contributions Comparison

Commissioner Goodman made a motion that the Board confirm its support for increasing dependent insurance coverage from \$0/month to \$144/month, given the additional information provided in the attached memo. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Wuellner noted this was presented last month and it was requested that staff get additional information, which HR Generalist, Dara Edgington, has now provided. Commissioners thanked Ms. Edgington for her work. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

J. Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant Approval

Commissioner Goodman made a motion to approve and authorize the acceptance of a land acquisitions grant award from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) toward the purchase and restoration of a parcel that is contiguous to existing District lands, in an amount not to exceed \$86,000. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kerins moved at 7:29 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, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed and Regular Session was re-opened at 8:41 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. **Community Engagement**: Due to the late hour, it was noted that this information would be shared later.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:42 pm. Goodman seconded. 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