

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Rotary Hill Shelter, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois
Thursday, August 20, 2020

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2020. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hays called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh Robertson of Mahomet, representing Carpenters Local 243 in Champaign, spoke regarding New Business Item *D. Museum of the Grand Prairie Large Artifact Storage Construction Bid*. Mr. Robertson asked the Board to postpone the vote until next month, and investigate the proposed winning bidder's qualifications and the residency of the firm's workers and likely subcontractors. Mr. Robertson also noted background qualifications of the other bidders. Commissioner Kerins thanked Mr. Robertson for attending and speaking at the meeting.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 16, 2020
- B. Minutes of Study Session on August 6, 2020
- C. Minutes of Special Meeting on August 6, 2020
- D. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Hays 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

Livesay noted the group recently met via Zoom. Livesay reported FPPF President, Will Timmons, is putting fundraising and donor goals together, and the group has also been working with the Yes! Committee on fundraising initiatives.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays noted the group had not met in the last month, but members have been very active in the efforts for the Forest Preserve referendum. Wuellner echoed Hays' thanks to the group for all that they are doing in regard to the referendum initiative.

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C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners noted the recent number of kayak users at Homer Lake, the amount of work being done on the OSLAD project at the peninsula at Lake of the Woods, the great amount of play at the golf course, and the health of the prairie at Sangamon River Forest Preserve.

Commissioners also commended staff for the virtual concert series at the museum, botanical gardens appearance, replacement shelters at Middle Fork for those damaged in last year's storms, hiring of the new Grants & Development Officer, environmental education virtual learning being offered, Homer Lake staff working jointly with the township on the Homer Lake sealcoating project, staff working on training videos, the CAC for their outreach work, dark sky report information, and all staff for their excellent work throughout the District.

Commissioners also thanked the YES Committee for its work and commended the YES website design.

Commissioner Hays asked Natural Resources staff about their herbicide practices, noting he would prefer they get away from using chemical applications including glyphosate. Peter Goodspeed, Natural Resource Director, noted they are not being widely used and that they continue to test the efficacy of new options that tout their environmental friendliness.

Commissioner Herakovich asked if the county has released all property tax payments. Baker noted they had not as of today.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Announcements: Wuellner noted Deputy Director, Mike Daab, had included trail counter info in the Board packet, confirming that preserve visitorship is up more than 50% from last spring to this spring, based on the data available to us. Daab introduced Bridgette Moen, the District's new Planning and Projects Coordinator. Wuellner also noted Rochelle Funderburg, District legal counsel, was in attendance this evening.

B. Community Engagement: Wuellner noted referendum updates included; the Champaign Chamber of Commerce would remain neutral on the issue, the League of Women Voters would include our issue in a meeting or webinar the first week of October, and the CAC continues to solicit letters of support to the editor of the News Gazette.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the payment of \$280,299.32 in disbursements dated July 17, 2020 through August 20, 2020. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins, and Livesay. Motion carried.

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B. Treasures Report - July

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the July 2020 Treasurers report. Commissioner Hays seconded. Baker noted the golf course has already surpassed its 2019 total August sales. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2020-07, Sale of District Surplus Goods

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve Resolution 2020-07 declaring certain District equipment as surplus and authorizing staff to sell surplus items on eBay. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Commissioners inquired what was done with goods if unable to sell. Staff responded that unsellable items are donated. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Museum of the Grand Prairie Large Artifact Storage Construction Bid

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the proposal for Large Artifact Storage (Materials and Installation) at the Museum of the Grand Prairie from Stealth Mode Construction Management, LLC for Four Hundred Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Six and 00/100 (\$413,766). Commissioner Herakovich seconded. Commissioner Herakovich stated that the Downstate Forest Preserve District statute clearly states that the lowest responsible bid must be approved as long as all bid requirements are met. She noted that government entities must do background references on the proposed bidder, which staff had done. Those references had been forwarded to the Board. During that process, nothing came to light as a concern in terms of poor workmanship, extensive change orders, or other problematic practices. Commissioner Hays noted his concerns after Mr. Robertson’s comments, voting for the proposal. Commissioners asked staff and legal counsel to look at possible use of project labor agreements for future use. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay; voted “no”: Hays. Motion carried.

E. Request to Acquire Collections

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board acquire the Skirvin, Chambers, Garvey, Snyder, Feinen, and Hanson offers outlined in the board memo for inclusion in the Museum’s Permanent Collection. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners commended staff and the advisory committee on their work in reviewing the proposed accessions. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2020 Budget Update

Baker gave a PowerPoint presentation showing budget projections, including income and revenues, staffing, capital projects, and capital equipment. Commissioners inquired about current staffing shortages, potential salary compression concerns for 2021, current CPI numbers, and the timeline for the final budget approval. Staff noted current shortages stemmed from the cancellation of programs and services due to COVID-19, particularly in the hiring of seasonal educators and seasonal site operations. In regard to possible compression issues due to the 2021

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2020 Budget Update cont'd.

minimum wage incremental adjustment, HR and the compensation committee have begun reviewing the 2021 information in light of how any increase to the lower paid positions will impact compression and will share more findings in the next few months. Baker noted that a working budget would be available for Board approval by year's end but the final document would not be completed until the January board meeting. Commissioner Kerins noted he would like to see the budget finalized by the year's end.

Commissioners thanked Baker for his work on the presentation and the information shared.

Commissioner Livesay noted that the information Baker shared shows the serious need for an increase in revenue and highlights the need for approval of the referendum in November.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:45 pm. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted "yes": Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Scott Hays, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District