

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Lake of the Woods Pavilion, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois
Thursday, October 15, 2020

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 15, 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 – None

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

District employees in attendance were recognized for years of service at the District: Jim Blythe, 5-years; Michael Dale, 5-years; Larry DeVore, 15-years; Chris Edmondson, 15-years; and Stacey Clementz, 15-years. Commissioners thanked them for their years of service to the District.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 17, 2020
- B. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Hays 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 the group had met on October 7. Brooke Starks, of the Meyer Capel law firm, spoke to the group about estate planning and some actions it could take to increase planned gifts to the Foundation. The group also discussed the referendum effort and the need for a future finance committee. The Foundation is working to add 3-4 new members, noting that the application will soon be available on the District website.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays advised that the CAC had also met recently, and that their discussion centered on support efforts of the referendum. Hays noted the group has become known as the yard sign brigade! Hays also reported that CAC members have been very busy visiting preserves and talking to patrons about the referendum. In doing so, they have received considerable positive feedback about the preserves and the District. Lastly, Hays said the group is also seeking to fill two open positions, and that member packets are available on the website for interested applicants.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Work underway on the peninsula boat launch
- Recent Koi sales
- Volunteers and YES committee work on the referendum
- Eagle Scout projects
- Golf course play, course conditions, and volunteer efforts
- Museum and Interpretive Center staff for programming
- Construction of the new large artifact facility at the museum
- Botanical Gardens seasonal decorations
- Staff work on the recent welcoming week events
- Seed collection days

Commissioners confirmed information about two grants - an ITEP grant and a CURE grant for COVID-related purchases. Commissioner Herakovich thanked staff for information shared on volunteer background check procedures. Commissioners thanked Goodman for his work with the golf committee, staff for working on the recent IPARKS insurance application, and for continuing to develop partnerships with local organizations to expand services and leverage additional resources.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Referendum Updates

Wuellner reviewed current endorsements, including the News-Gazette and the Farm Bureau, and noted she and other staff have been attending the board meetings of smaller Champaign County municipalities to share information about the referendum and all that the District offers.

B. Announcements

Mike Daab noted that the District had been awarded a 3:1 matching stewardship grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation that will be used for restoration work at Buffalo Trace. Commissioners asked about the grant deadline, to which staff noted we have 18 months beginning November 1, 2020.

PRESENTATION

Golf Manager Chris Edmondson, Golf Pro David Sebestik, and Golf Superintendent Joie Torres provided an update about the golf course pass sale plans, a summary of the current year, and an update on course conditions. They plan to offer a new two-year golf pass promotion for the 2021 and 2022 seasons with some slight modifications from the last two-year pass. Commissioners thanked golf staff for their work on promotions, improved course conditions, bringing more young people to the course, taking ownership in the course through their work, and their willingness to try out new ideas. Commissioners also asked staff if any negatives came from the pass promotion they ran in 2019. Staff noted that some regular golfers had difficulty adjusting to the course being more crowded, but those complaints were short-lived. Staff also said

that, although COVID restrictions were a challenge, play has been smooth and the public is now used to the routine.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the payment of \$253,302.65 in disbursements dated September 18, 2020 through October 15, 2020. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. Treasures Report - September

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the September 2020 Treasurer’s report. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance 2020-02 Tentative Tax Levy

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve Ordinance 2020-02, the Annual Tentative Tax Levy for 2020 taxes due in 2021. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Resolution 2020-11, Personnel Policy 2-11: On-Call Duty & E. Resolution 2020-12, Personnel Policy 6-5; Alcohol and Drug Use

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Resolution 2020-11 establishing Section 2-11, and Resolution 2020-12 revising section 6-5 of the Districts Personnel Policy Manual. Commissioner Hays seconded. HR Generalist Dara Edgington noted that the on-call policy may need to be tweaked after it has been tested for a while. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

F. Resolution 2020-13, camping Fees for 2021

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Resolution 2020-13 authorizing the Middle Fork campground fee schedule for 2021. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners commended staff for bringing back non-electric sites and rates. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

G. Resolution 2020-14, Golf Fees for 2021

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2020-14, golf fees for 2021. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

H. John Deere Z997R Mower Purchase for Homer Lake

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve the purchase of one (1) new 2020 John Deere Z997R mower from AHW in Urbana, Illinois pursuant to the Illinois State Purchasing

Contract 4018512 for the price of Sixteen Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$16,200.60). Commissioner Herakovich seconded. Commissioners noted the lower pricing offered through the state bid. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

I. 2020 Compensation Plan

Herakovich stated the compensation committee has put much thought and time into the document presented in the packet. Commissioners thanked Herakovich and the committee for all of their work. In response to Commissioner Goodman’s question about a salary survey, Edgington noted the committee is reviewing quotes for a new survey. Commissioner Livesay commended the options that the committee is reviewing, but indicated she would not support a weekend pay premium. Edgington noted that the weekend premium would be mainly for maintenance positions that are at the lower pay grade and have been difficult to fill. Herakovich noted she would like to discuss these options in greater detail at the December Study Session.

J. Naming Proposal – Rankin Collections Care Center

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board authorize the renaming of the Large Artifact Storage wing of the Museum of the Grand Prairie, upon completion of construction, to the Rankin Collections Care Center. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. Wuellner noted that the family has donated artifacts and volunteer hours over the years in addition to the large bequest we received from Stan Rankin. In approving the recommendation, Commissioners noted that restrictions on naming lands or buildings after businesses should be greater than those for private individuals. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

K. IAPD Conference Credentials

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the attached Credentials Certificate designating Commissioner Livesay as delegate and Wuellner as 1st alternate to the Illinois Association of Park District Annual Business Meeting to be held at the annual conference on Saturday, January 30, 2021. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herakovich made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:20 pm. Livesay 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