

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

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Via Zoom meetings (www.zoom.com)

Meeting ID: 455 609 156

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 16, 2020 via Zoom.com due to Illinois Governor Executive Order 2020-10. Commissioner Livesay called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 19, 2020
- B. Minutes of Study Session on March 19, 2020
- C. Minutes of Executive Session on March 19, 2020
- D. 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 the group had met together prior to the COVID-19 Executive Order. Livesay noted the group had a good discussion on how COVID-19 and a downturn in employment and the economy might affect fundraising. Livesay noted that they had discussed the planned Community Engagement initiative, to which the Foundation board expressed that the Board of Commissioners was right to wait 30-45 days before making any decision on timing. In regard to fundraising, the group is looking at different ways to engage with donors, including one on one via email, follow-up phone calls, and other ideas including virtual happy hours or virtual coffee breaks.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays reported that the committee will meet May 6 via virtual conferencing. Hays also noted group members met with the community engagement committee and were taking an active role in that effort. The CAC also discussed how it might do public outreach with most events and gatherings cancelled for the foreseeable future. More will be discussed on this at the May meeting.

Regular Meeting

April 16, 2020

Page 3 of 3

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners were highly complementary of staff for their work during the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, Commissioners Kerins and Herakovich noted the use of District social media accounts to creatively convey our mission while on-site programs are halted. Commissioner Goodman thanked the golf staff for their flexibility awaiting the final state ruling on whether courses could stay open. Commissioner Hays noted the increased number of visitors at the preserves, and that he is pleased we are able to provide everyone a place to get out in nature.

Commissioner Goodman asked if we were experiencing people walking the golf course while it was closed. Executive Director Wuellner indicated that the golf staff had seen an increase in this type of use and that it posed a safety concern since maintenance and upkeep of the course is ongoing. Goodman also asked if removing the garbage cans was causing a litter problem, to which Doug Sanders noted this was done to reduce the number of surfaces touched by both staff and the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and that so far it was not causing a problem.

Other Commissioner comments included:

- Thank you and good luck to Jarrod Scheunemann who is leaving the District after two years as grants coordinator
- Appreciation for the new boat launch going in at Lake of the Woods
- Congratulations to David Sebestik for his Youth Player Development Award
- Congratulations to Doug Sanders for his CPRP recertification
- Compliments on the upgrades to the golf course clubhouse locker rooms

Commissioner Livesay asked if the horseback rider on the KRT had been identified and notified that equestrian use of the trail was not allowed. Wuellner noted that she had not but that the News-Gazette "Mailbag" column had also carried the story so hopefully the word had reached her.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

A. Announcements: Wuellner noted thanks to all staff for their dedication and creativity during this pandemic, adding that safety of staff and visitors is a high priority for all. Wuellner stated that operations staff are using friendly reminders to encourage the public not to congregate, and thanked the Village of Mahomet for lending the District two large solar-powered highway-sized signs to put at the entrances to remind people to social distance and wear masks.

B. Families First Coronavirus Response:

Dara Edgington, HR Generalist, noted she has been and will continue monitoring the HR guidance provided through the Families First CARES Act. Edgington advised currently two staff members are using FFCR. Commissioner Herakovich confirmed the stipulations for FMLA in regard to FFCR.

Regular Meeting

April 16, 2020

Page 3 of 3

C. Financial Update – COVID-19 Impact on District Operations

John Baker, Finance/Business Director, gave an overview of the document included in the board packet that outlined revenue losses we anticipate from the COVID shutdown for the remainder of the spring and into summer. Baker noted he had recently spoken with the county about a proposal to delay issuing property tax bills to county residents. Wuellner noted she would like the District to send a letter from the Board requesting that tax bills go out on time. Wuellner noted other local municipalities are doing the same. The Board agreed. Baker noted that the golf course closure results in a substantial loss of revenue but also noted that vendor bills appear to be delayed in this first month under the Illinois' stay-at-home order. Thus, when things open back up, revenues will be hit harder as bill processing catches up.

D. Community Engagement – Wuellner noted the group will be meeting on Monday on Zoom.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Goodman moved to approve the payment of \$229,103.39 in disbursements dated March 20, 2020 through April 16, 2020. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. 2021 Proposed Facility Rental Rates

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the 2021 fees for rental facilities as proposed. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

C. Carle Foundation Settlement Agreement

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve the settlement agreement with Carle Foundation providing for partial repayment of property taxes for tax years 2005-2011, and authorize the Executive Director to execute said agreement. Commissioner Herakovich 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 Kerins made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:53 pm. Goodman 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