

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 21, 2021, 6:00 pm
Headquarters, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

Via Zoom meetings (www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 841 0004 0630

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021 via Zoom due to the Illinois Governor’s Executive Order 2020-10. Commissioner Goodman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were in attendance by both audio and video: 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 September 16, 2021
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on September 16, 2021
- C. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Commissioner Livesay reported the group had recently met and discussion included; Grants, expenditures, fund gap for Willow Pond, use of a fundraising consultant, Giving Tuesday, 2022 goals, and two upcoming fundraisers; including Painting the Bridge, and the upcoming Vermilion County fundraiser at Sleep Creek for the KRT.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays noted the group also had recently met and was able to review the information on the District salary study, gearing up for being able to do more in person public outreach, and will be working with staff on the user survey feedback.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Botanical garden seasonal Spooky Trail
- Budget work

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- DEI work
- Volunteer appreciation water bottle
- Lake of the Woods kayak launch
- Interpretive Center new snake enclosure
- Stidham Woods bike trail improvements
- KRT construction work/signs amenities
- Willow Pond funding
- District security camera needs
- Golf and camping trends
- Monarch migration

All commissioners commended staff on the wonderful appearance of all preserves and recent programming initiatives.

Commissioner Goodman asked what the timeline for work on the KRT Champaign County completion. District Planner, Bridgette Moen, advised it would be element driven, but roughly around 5 months.

Livesay inquired on mitigation funding. Deputy Director, Mike Daab, responded it is within the timeline given.

Staff Reports/Discussion Items

A. Announcements – Pearson stated how helpful and welcoming staff have been.

B. Comprehensive Plan Update – Moen shared a presentation and gave an overview of the plan information. Moen advised work is currently under way on data collection, and also waiting on 2020 census information to be released.

Commissioner questions included; would our area be restricted due to agriculture tillable acres, could a copy of the presentation be shared, and are trails accounted for in acreage. Moen noted trails are included in acreage, would verify tillable acreage, and will be glad to share the document. Commissioners commended Moen on the document and presentation.

C. Third Quarter Program Budget Report

Baker shared information regarding the third quarter program budget that was included in the Board packet. Commissioner Hays asked for clarification in project funding in regard to the kayak launch. Baker responded that capital projects are classified per department for salary breakdown. Hays also asked for clarification foundation numbers. Pearson noted the amount is shared staff hours.

Pearson asked Kerins to share information regarding a DEI graduate fellowship. Kerins advised as talked about it in previous years was the possibility of using a fellowship in regard to DEI.

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Kerins advised he had spoken with colleague that had worked with a fellowship participant in their program and it had been a great collaboration for both the employee and the participant. Kerins explained this would not be an internship, or be a person to lead the District DEI, but an individual that would be from an underserved population, that would work closely with District staff to gain park/forest preserve experience over a one to two-year time period. Kerins went on to explain that such fellowships are often used for those individuals that may already have their masters work completed. Commissioners asked staff to develop a job description outline and bring back to them for comments. Commissioners also noted areas to include; goals of the program, educational opportunities, measurable outcomes. Pearson stated she has experience with such programs, so will work with Edgington on a document.

D. 2022-2023 Fees Review

Baker explained the two main changes to be noted included the removal of damage deposits from facility rentals and an additional charge for certain golf outings.

E. Golf Carts Purchase Discussion

Baker reviewed information regarding the document that was included in the packet, and requested comments. Baker noted the proposal will be brought back next month for approval. Livesay expressed her desire to have cart use tested on the course, as previous years with battery carts, there had been problems.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Herakovich moved to approve the payment of \$361,966.20 in disbursements dated September 17, 2021 through October 21, 2021. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. Treasurers Report - September

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the September 2021 Treasurer’s report. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

C. Ordinance 2021-01 Tentative Tax Levy

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve Ordinance 2021-01, the Annual Tentative Tax Levy for 2021 Taxes due in 2022. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Finance Director, John Baker, noted he had been in contact with the County regarding; EAV rates and property tax appeals. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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D. IPRA/IAPD Conference Credentials

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the attached Credentials Certificate designating Commissioner Kerins as delegate and Pearson as 1st alternate, Livesay as 2nd alternate, and Goodman as 3rd alternate to the Illinois Association of Park District Annual Business Meeting to be held at the annual conference on Saturday, January 29, 2023.

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

E. KRT Temporary Easement Request

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a temporary construction easement with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to utilize land south of the Kickapoo Rail Trail near Route 150 and 2650E for a Route 150 drainage improvement project contingent upon review and approval by counsel. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

F. Compensation & Classification Study Approval

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the classification plan and compensation table as attached proposed by GovHR USA for implantation in 2022, and support Scenario 3 as attached; and discussed at the September meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded.

Commissioners thanked Edgington and the Committee for their work. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

OTHER – Baker noted there would not be a meeting as noted in the event calendar on November 2, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hays made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:37 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