

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
Thursday, March 19, 2015
Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie,
Mahomet, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting, Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner White called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Livesay called the roll. Roll was taken with the following commissioners present: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – Under Old Business, Agenda item A. **Trail/Pond Naming Opportunity** will be removed from this agenda and will be placed on the April 16, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – Executive Director Dan Olson presented Community Service Awards to Ann Panthen and Nancy Snellen for their volunteer work at the District. Both Ms. Panthen and Ms. Snellen thanked the Board and Staff for the award, and both commented that they enjoy volunteering with the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

SECRETARY REPORT

Commissioner Hult moved approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 19, 2015. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kerins moved approval of Executive Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2014, September 18, 2014, October 23, 2014, November 13, 2014, December 18, 2014, January 16, 2015 and February 19, 2015. Commissioner Hult seconded. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

DISBURSEMENT REPORT

Commissioner Kerins moved that the Board approve payment of \$167,607.25 in accounts payable disbursements dated February 20, 2015 through March 19, 2015. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Staff answered disbursement questions regarding Amazon, The Champaign Park District, Titleist, and purchases made for the Tomlinson cemetery. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Commissioner Hult moved acceptance of the February 2015 Treasurers Report. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried. Commissioners thanked staff for their work on the project report, stating the report is very helpful.

COMMISSIONERS’ REMARKS AND/OR INPUT

Commissioners commended staff on the recent museum exhibit opening, noting the caliber of their work is comparable to what the public would see at a national level. Commissioners also commended golf staff for their work on the course and the construction staff for their work on the snack bar remodel. Commissioner White also noted he had recently attended a leadership workshop and would share information that he received at the upcoming Commissioners retreat.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Staff Reports

Director Olson advised work on a District referendum will need to begin at least two years prior to the vote. Adding the work will include adopting a resolution, contracting an outside professional, creating a friends group and much more.

A board retreat will be held May 23, 2015 at 9am at Isaak Walton Cabin, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve.

Commissioners thanked staff for their work on the reports and also recognized the Natural Resources Department for their work throughout the District. Also acknowledged were the visitation numbers to the Interpretive Center and the amount of programming the Education Department does.

Commissioner Kerins moved acceptance of the March Staff Report. Commissioner Hult seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION BOARD REPORT

It was reported Eric Robeson, representing the Champaign-Urbana Public Art League, talked to the group about the proposed resolution to have a leased art sculpture placed in the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. It was also reported the group again voted to donate to the District for program sponsorship and the 2015 Freedom Fest. Staff also showed the commissioners decals and commemorative plaques that will be given to donors in recognition of their support to the Kickapoo Rail Trail.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

It was noted the group discussed the committees priorities for the year as per the District’s strategic plan, agreed to continue outreach at the Urbana Farmers Market. The CAC recently represented the District at the Sports and Outdoor Expo held in Champaign.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Trail/Pond Naming Opportunity** – Moved to the April Board Meeting Agenda

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution R-2015-001

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board adopt Resolution R-2015-001 opposing proposed cuts or sweeps to grant funds used to support activities, construction, and land acquisition at the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Commissioner Hult seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

B. Resolution R-2015-002

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve Resolution R-2015-002 allowing staff to sell District surplus items on eBay as per the attached list. Commissioner Hult seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

C. Restricted Fund-Kickapoo Rail Trail Habitat

Commissioner Hult moved the Board approve the dedication of \$76,300 to a new restricted fund for Kickapoo Rail Trail Habitat. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

D. Golf Course Mower Replacement

Commissioner Hult moved the Board approve the purchase of one (1) 2015 Toro 4000D Diesel 11 Foot out front mower at the State of Illinois bid price of \$55,271.60. This mower would be purchased from MTI Distributing Inc. in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota who has been awarded the State of Illinois contract for this mower. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

E. Headwater Invasive Plant Partnership MOU

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board enter into the Memorandum of Understanding for the Headwater Invasive Plant Partnership as per attached. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

F. Public Art League Lease Agreement

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board enter into a lease agreement with the Public Art League (PAL) for displaying art pieces in the Mabery Gelvin Botanical Garden. It was noted District staff will be responsible for the concrete base. Commissioner Hult seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Livesay made a motion at 6:57 p.m. to convene into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, specifically section 2 (c) 1 for the appointment, employment, compensation discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity and section 2 (c) 5 for the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Commissioner Hult seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

Commissioner White closed the Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

G. Executive Director’s Compensation

Commissioner Hult moved the Board approve a 5% increase in base pay for the Executive Director, retroactive to the January 9, 2015 payroll. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

H. Kickapoo Rail Trail Easement - No Action.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hult moved adjournment of the Regular Meeting at 7:45 pm. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hult, Kerins, Livesay and White. Motion carried.

Sarah Livesay, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District