

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 15, 2019

Commissioners present: Conry, Hogan, Ludwig, Patterson, and Vincer.

Commissioners absent: none.

Staff present: Brunner, Gerke, Henkel, Herman, McCammond, Schlupp, Taylor, and Tucker.

Guests present: Kris Baker and Chris Remhoff, citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

The Board agreed that Executive Session was not needed and could be deleted from the agenda.

CONRY MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, CONRY – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan opened the floor to Chris Remhoff, a citizen who requested to speak regarding the District's trails. He thanked the Board and staff for their efforts in acquiring property and managing and maintaining the trail systems on the properties. He is affiliated with the Rockford Roadrunners who have used the District's trails for their events like the Tiger 10-Miler. He thanked the Board for protecting open space. The Board thanked him for his comments.

PATTERSON MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2019.

PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – ABSTAIN, AND HOGAN – YES.

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The correspondence was noted and discussed briefly.

CONRY MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2019. VINCER – YES, CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

Shawn noted that we received a letter from Ogle County stating that the District could not abate the taxes. Director Tucker informed the board that Stu Whitt stated that the District should be able to lower taxes.

Shawn stated that the golf course did well this month. Commissioner Patterson asked about the gambling machines. Shawn stated that the machines brought in about \$2300 last year.

For the President's Report, President Hogan thanked Jeff and Frank for their service as board members.

President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services-7:17-7:35pm-He informed the board that the Perks land exchange has been postponed because it was discovered that there is another parcel number included in the properties so another appraisal has to be done and the paperwork needs to be revised. He reminded the board of the Byron Chamber dinner, and the District's Annual Dinner. He informed the board that Janet found some pottery fragments at the District's Barrick Oaks Homestead Preserve that estimated to be about 3000 years old. Sara Pfannkuche, a local archeologist, will be meeting with staff at the

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Barrick Preserve on April 19, 2019, to inspect the area where the pottery was found. He reminded the board of the Big Tree Event at Bald Hill on May 11, 2019. He informed the board that a District volunteer, Mike Austin, is selling wood from the District and donating the money to the Serenity House in Oregon. The board generally agreed that this is acceptable. He updated the board on the asphalt project. He noted that he is meeting with Dwight Bond regarding the Toptracer facility on April 16, 2019. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:35-7:44pm-He informed the board that summer camp is already pretty much full for the summer. Commissioner Vincer asked about expanding the program and offering more camps. Director Tucker stated that we would need to hire more staff and build a bigger facility. There were about 150 people at the fossil hunt held over the weekend. Discussion followed regarding the City of Byron uncovering some of the fossil areas in the quarry. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:44-7:59pm-Over 200 pints of maple syrup were bottled this season. He and his staff have been doing a lot of controlled burning. He reviewed photos with the board. President Hogan questioned the plan for the Mill Creek Preserve. Russ stated that if it gets drier, staff will plant. There are a lot of birds, river otters, turtles, and beavers living in there now. Greg cleaned out a sink hole on the main site and now it's become a pond with lots of frogs and other wildlife. Matt Henkel, Golf Operations-7:59-8:37pm-He reported that March was a good month. Exelon will sponsor the

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electric golf carts again. Andrew reported that the senior event went well. He updated the board on the PGA Junior League. Director Tucker noted that the Matt Johnson Scholarship Fund was setup to provide for the needs of children participating in District programs so if a child needs clubs, that could qualify. Andrew discussed leagues and staffing at the clubhouse. Lauren reported that Prime Time Audio Video has been getting things hooked up at the clubhouse. She has been scheduling bands to play over the summer. More discussion followed regarding merchandising in the proshop.

President Hogan noted that staff should be reviewing the Strategic Plan and meeting the goals put in place. Hiring a part-time marketing person for about 10 hours per week is one of the goals. President Hogan will meet with Director Tucker to discuss this goal.

Revising Commissioner benefits was discussed. Commissioner Ludwig proposed that the commissioners be required to pay 50% of the fees required to participate in programs and use facilities. He stated that it doesn't seem fair that the board asks the staff to make more revenue yet the commissioners are taking advantage of District programs and facilities. Commissioner Patterson would like to review the entire policy to see how it affects the bottom line. Commissioner Vincer stated that the staff benefits portion of this policy does not need to be

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reviewed at this time. Commissioner Conry suggested that the board wait until the new commissioners are on board to discuss this issue. The board generally agreed.

CONRY MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL LEASE AND OPTION AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDING, LLC FOR THE TOPTRACER PROJECT. CONRY – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:57 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, CONRY – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ludwig, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

JL/mg