

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Commissioners present: Breen, Brooks, Hogan, and Ludwig.

Commissioner absent: Cravatta.

Staff present: Brunner, Gerke, Hayenga, Heesaker, Henkel, McCammond,
Murray, Tucker, and Wolf.

Guests present: Tom Tristano and Rob Ezerins, Williams Design/Build.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Director Tucker recommended switching Agenda Item 11B and 11D. President Breen noted that the Election of Secretary Pro Tem be added to the agenda.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

BROOKS NOMINATED AND LUDWIG SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF COMMISSIONER HOGAN AS SECRETARY PRO TEM. HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, AND BREEN – YES.

HOGAN MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2012. LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, BREEN – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND HOGAN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2012. BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2012
PAGE 2

President Breen reminded the board to complete the online Open Meetings Act training that is required by 2013.

Commissioner Brooks reported that the Byron School District in conjunction with the City of Byron has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to increase options for children to safely walk and bicycle to school. The “Safe Routes to Schools Grant” will be used to extend the Tower-Mill Road recreational path.

President Breen opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports: Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:11-7:22 pm; Richie Wolf, Education Department-7:22-7:31 pm-He told the board about the road kill bobcat that the District received. He stated that it is one of the first documented in a long time. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:31-7:35 pm; Steve Murray, Golf Course Operations-7:35-7:38 pm-Planning to open the course around March 17th. Cheryl Heesaker, Stone Quarry Recreation Park Department-7:38-7:40 pm-She informed the board that they are discontinuing Midnight Madness until summer. Attendance at the event has dropped due to the opening of a teen dance club in Davis Junction.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO DESTROY THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AUDIO TAPE RECORDING OF AUGUST 16, 2010. CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

The board discussed at length the future usage of Stone Quarry Recreation Park. Director Tucker reviewed some of the schemes presented by Williams Design/Build that

were on display. Some of the schemes proposed continued, but limited, operation of Stone Quarry Recreation Park. Some of the schemes included adding a new maintenance facility near the park while keeping the park open with appropriate fencing. Some of the schemes proposed discontinuing the current operation of the park.

President Breen asked about keeping the park open with a maintenance facility nearby. Director Tucker noted that if we keep it open, the Restoration/Maintenance Department would be located nearby. If Golf Maintenance is relocated to that area then the park would need to be closed. Having two completely different operations at the same location was discussed at length.

Discussion of the equipment followed. Since some of the amenities were purchased using grant funds, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has been contacted regarding those amenities. Director Tucker stated that the DNR says that the amenities only have to be operated through their useful life.

Commissioner Brooks asked which amenities were purchased with grant funds and have to stay or be relocated? Director Tucker stated that the basketball courts, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, playground, splash pad, and some other miscellaneous items like benches and trash cans would need to stay or be relocated.

Commissioner Brooks questioned keeping the building itself open and available to the public. How many groups would use only the building if it was available? Cheryl, Stone Quarry Park Manager, stated that most groups who use the party room, also use the amenities in the park. There is very limited “building-only” usage.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2012
PAGE 4

After discussing the many options to keep the park open, Commissioner Brooks commented that she was on the board when the park was built and opened. She has seen the many attempts to produce revenue at the facility. Even though it's difficult, her opinion was to either keep the park open as it is or not at all. The board generally agreed.

Discussion of moving the amenities continued. President Breen noted that the splash pad is not environmentally friendly. Commissioner Ludwig suggested actually moving the playground and splash pad to another park. Director Tucker stated that these items are concreted into the ground and beginning to rust so they can't be moved. The cost of replacing/repairing these items was discussed.

Commissioner Ludwig asked about a timeline of events at Stone Quarry? Cheryl stated that there are no rentals or events scheduled after Labor Day in September.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO ABANDON OPERATIONS AT STONE QUARRY RECREATION PARK LOCATED AT 6845 GERMAN CHURCH ROAD, BYRON, ILLINOIS, AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2012. HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, AND BREEN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE MINIATURE GOLF COURSE AND SKATE PARK EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2012. LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2012
PAGE 5

At this time, President Breen opened the floor to Williams Design/Build to discuss the future use of the Stone Quarry Park area as a maintenance facility. Since the board decided to abandon operations, several of the schemes weren't an option. Tom Tristano of Williams Design/Build reviewed the remaining options with the board.

Commissioner Brooks questioned the staff regarding their opinion of keeping the two maintenance departments together or separating them. Matt Henkel, Golf Maintenance Superintendent, stated that it didn't really matter either way to him. He noted the safety issue of staff crossing the road in the early morning hours while it's still dark if Golf Maintenance was located at the Stone Quarry area. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Superintendent, stated that he would like for the Golf Maintenance Department and the Restoration Department to be separated since their functions are so different. Don Hayenga, Capital Maintenance Worker, stated that he would prefer to keep the departments together at one site. Steve Murray, Golf Operations Superintendent, stated that it's a good idea to utilize the buildings that are located at Stone Quarry so he likes the idea of separate departments. Equipment sharing was discussed. Both departments would still be able to share most equipment.

Rob Ezerins and Tom reviewed the schemes with the board and staff. Discussion of the usage of the buildings and the property at both locations were discussed. Schemes 5 and 7 were discussed at length. Director Tucker noted that the District's staff will be able to do some of the construction work to keep the costs down. He also noted that scheme 7 does not include a new shelter and playground.

LUDWIG MOVED AND HOGAN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE MAINTENANCE FACILITY SCHEME 7 NOT TO EXCEED \$2.6M AS PRESENTED BY WILLIAMS DESIGN/BUILD. BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

Commissioner Brooks addressed Cheryl and noted that the closing of Stone Quarry Recreation Park was no reflection on the job she has done at the park. Commissioner Brooks and the board commended her on doing a good job.

BROOKS MOVED AND HOGAN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE DISTRICT’S SICK LEAVE POLICY TO ALLOW PART-TIME STAFF TO USE ACCRUED SICK LEAVE FOR PERSONAL ILLNESS OR THE ILLNESS OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER. CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

HOGAN MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE POLICY REGARDING ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE DISTRICT’S PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND IPADS. HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, AND BREEN – YES.

HOGAN MOVED AND BROOKS SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:01 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(1) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYEMENT, COMPENSATON, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING – FEBRUARY 27, 2012
PAGE 7

HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY, UNDER SECTION 2(C)(5) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF THE DISTRICT, AND UNDER SECTION 2(C)(11) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF PENDING, OR PROBABLE AND IMMINENT, LITIGATION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT. LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND HOGAN SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:34 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. BROOKS – YES, CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND HOGAN SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:35 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. CRAVATTA – ABSENT, HOGAN – YES, LUDWIG – YES, BROOKS – YES, AND BREEN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor Hogan, Secretary Pro Tem
Board of Commissioners

TH/mg