

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2014

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

Commissioners absent: Breen.

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

Guests present: Kevin Wills, First Midstate Investments; John McGovern,
Recreation Accessibility Consultants.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

In Commissioner Breen's absence, Election of Secretary Pro Tem was added to the agenda. BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION ELECTING LUDWIG AS SECRETARY PRO TEM. BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan began the public hearing by opening the floor to Kevin Wills of First Midstate Investments, the District's bond counsel. He briefly explained the process and noted that the process is the same as last year. President Hogan opened the floor for comments from the commissioners. There were none. Then, he opened the floor for written or oral testimony from the public. Jeff Schad took the floor and read a statement regarding staff salaries, district housing for employees, purchasing land, and updating District policies. Another citizen asked if land purchased by the District is within the

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District boundaries. President Hogan informed him that the District has only purchased land that is located within the District's boundaries. There was no written testimony from the public.

President Hogan announced that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral or written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of bonds. President Hogan called for a motion to adjourn the public hearing.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:13 PM TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING. LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan opened the floor for public comment. Matt Schindler took the floor and read a statement regarding the board's consistency in disciplinary action for District employees.

President Hogan opened the floor to John McGovern of Recreation Accessibility Consultants to discuss the recent ADA audit performed at the District. He explained what they do and briefly reviewed the report presented to the staff regarding becoming compliant with ADA standards. He noted that there isn't a federal standard yet for trails, picnic areas, grills, etc. He stated that there are 12 site reports, a transition plan, and phasing suggestions in the audit. Also listed are the next steps for the District to take in becoming compliant. He thanked the board and departed the meeting.

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BROOKS MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2014. AUKER – YES, BREEN – YES, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

The correspondence was noted and discussed briefly.

BROOKS MOVED AND AUKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2014. BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan noted that state conference is in January and Michelle needs to know who will be attending. He then stated that the board needs to make policies regarding board commissioners listening to executive session audio tapes. The board discussed the length of time before the executive session minutes are reviewed. He informed the board that the policy needs to include the following rules: specific dates requested, the reason why the commissioner wants to listen to the tape, a majority vote by the board to approve the commissioner listening to the tape, and there should be one other board member and one staff member present as a safeguard in case the tape or file were to be damaged.

Commissioner Brooks suggested that the Executive Director be the staff member present along with another board member and the requesting board member when listening to the tape(s). She also questioned the intent of the commissioner requesting to listen to the tape and the information being leaked onto social media since that has

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happened recently. Commissioner Auker stated that other district boards allow new commissioners to listen to executive session tapes when they get on the board. President Hogan asked him to provide a copy of those policies from those other districts. He stated that each request would be handled and voted on individually. Only three requests can be made with the date and purpose or intent.

President Hogan also suggested that the board implement a policy of approving personnel contracts in open session since it is customary to do so according to the District's legal counsel. This gives the board a final view of the contract before approval. He also noted that these contracts are available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Brief discussion followed. The board generally agreed.

Director Tucker noted that all of the District's policies were reviewed and updated eight years ago by staff pending final approval by legal counsel. These policies will be reviewed, updated, and approved in 2015.

Commissioner Ludwig updated the board on the Bike Path Committee. He reported that work on the bike path has halted due to the weather.

President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:45-7:56 pm-He updated the board on the FairCom meeting that he recently attended. President Hogan questioned Exelon's desire to "go green." Director Tucker stated that they didn't say that exactly but would like to have the same benefits that are extended to wind power companies. He informed the board that the Byron Park District is asking for assistance

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with the transition of hiring a full-time maintenance staff person to mow and plow. They are budgeting to purchase equipment. They would be mowing four parks in Byron. Russ will be meeting with Mike Perkins (Park District Director) to get more information and will report back next month. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:56-7:58 pm-He reported that Halloween on the Prairie was a big success with the changes of eliminating the scary scenes and providing a free hot dog lunch. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:58-8:00 pm; and Matt Henkel, Golf Course Operations-8:00-8:01 pm.

The board discussed the Golf Cart Lease Agreement. The use of electric carts was discussed. Commissioner Auker questioned the labor involved in maintaining electric carts vs. gas operated carts. Commissioner Brooks stated that electric carts are more eco-friendly which is more in line with the District's mission. Commissioner Auker asked about the infrastructure needed for the electric carts. Matt stated that four carts would be plugged into one "birdhouse" each night to recharge so there would be enough birdhouses for the number of carts. This would use basically the same footprint as the current cart storage area. Commissioner Ludwig commented that the GPS technology is more efficient and useful with the electric carts than gas carts. The electric carts will reduce maintenance costs in other areas such as keeping carts off of native grass plantings, etc. Currently, carts can go into these areas, damage the area, and maintenance then has to repair the damage. The electric carts will reduce the ability for

carts to even go into the areas therefore eliminating the potential damage and repair costs.

Commissioner Brooks noted that the GPS technology will also allow the ability to encourage golf etiquette with new golfers.

LUDWIG MOVED AND BROOKS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE GOLF CART LEASE AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED TO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF 80 ELECTRIC GOLF CARTS, DRIVING RANGE CART, AND BEVERAGE CART ALONG WITH A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT AND BUYBACK AGREEMENT WITH NADLER GOLF CAR SALES. BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

Discussion of the GPS Agreement followed. President Hogan stated that he likes the potential marketing capabilities of using GPS on the golf carts by selling ads on the system. Commissioner Auker questioned whether or not all of the “bells and whistles” are necessary. Matt stated that lower end GPS technology would not provide the food and beverage features or capture email addresses of the golfers. Commissioner Brooks noted that Saro Costa (PrairieView’s Food and Beverage Manager) was in favor of utilizing the food and beverage ordering feature in the GPS system. Commissioner Auker is concerned about the pace of play being inhibited by the usage of the features of the GPS technology on the carts. Matt stated that golf courses in this area are struggling so we need to do something different to increase our revenue. President Hogan is expecting this to increase revenue and pay for itself eventually. Matt stated that it also enhances the golfer’s experience on the course.

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LUDWIG MOVED AND BROOKS SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE GPS LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GPSi LEASING AS PRESENTED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF VISAGE GPS DISPLAY ON 80 GOLF CARTS AND A BEVERAGE CART. LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

AUKER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION NAMING COMMISSIONER HOGAN AS THE DELEGATE AND COMMISSIONERS AUKER AND LUDWIG AS ALTERNATES TO EXERCISE VOTING ON MATTERS PRESENTED AT THE IAPD/IPRA'S ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT THE STATE CONFERENCE IN JANUARY. AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2015 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 14-5. BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND BROOKS SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 14-4. BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

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The proposed 2015 golf fees were discussed. Commissioner Auker asked if the 2014 VIP voucher amounts will carry over to next year with the new system being put in place. Matt stated that amounts will carry over to 2015. Pass rates were discussed. Matt noted that there will be no resident/nonresident rate. There will only be one rate to entice nonresidents to use the course more frequently.

AUKER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2015 GOLF FEES FOR PRAIRIEVIEW AS PROPOSED. LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

AUKER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:43 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(1) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY, UNDER 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. AUKER – YES, BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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AUKER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 10:05 PM TO
COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. BREEN – ABSENT, BROOKS – YES,
LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

BROOKS MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 10:06 PM TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. BROOKS – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AUKER – YES,
BREEN – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ludwig, Secretary Pro Tem
Board of Commissioners

JL/mg