Byron Forest Preserve District

Minutes of Meeting

December 16, 2019

Commissioners present: Baker, Gramer, Hogan, Patterson, and Vincer.

 Commissioners absent: none.

 Staff present: Brown, Brunner, deOliveira, Gerke, Herman, McCammond, and Tucker.

 Guests present: Austin Root, Ice Miller LLP (bond counsel)

 The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

 Director Tucker removed Agenda Item 13C, Executive Session 2(C)(11).

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

 President Hogan opened the floor to Austin Root, Ice Miller LLP, to present the ordinance and discuss the General Obligation Bond. Brief discussion followed.

PATTERSON MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 19-7 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF $1,850,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2019 OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AND FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS. PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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GRAMER MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2019, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2019. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 Director Tucker distributed a thank you card from the Henkel Family. Brief discussion followed.

 VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 President Hogan reminded the board of state conference in January.

 President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:12-7:22 pm-He updated the board on the progress at PrairieFire. He also noted that the auction of the Lenz house at Bald Hill will be February 22, 2020 at 11am. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:22-7:28 pm-He distributed the January-May program list to the board. He informed the board of the geocaching programs that Janet offers and the coin that she had made specifically for the District. He noted that 65 people attended the Geminid walk. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:28-7:39 pm-He reviewed photos and discussed the

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progress at the District’s preserves. Mike Brown (for Matt Henkel), Golf Operations-7:39-7:47 pm-He stated that the maintenance department staff has been cleaning buildings and equipment. He reviewed photos with the board including the Mark Cameron memorial plaque to be placed on the course. He discussed the LED targets at PrairieFire. He informed the board that his assistant, Trent Snodgrass, will be moving on February 1st to work at another golf course so he will be advertising for a replacement. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-7:47-7:50 pm-Clubhouse staff has been cleaning, painting, and winterizing the pavilion.

 President Hogan asked about Policy Manual Revisions. Michelle stated that there will be some revisions to approve at the January meeting.

 President Hogan stated that the District has received the finished product of the Founding Fathers video. It will be reviewed.

 President Hogan noted that the staff needs to update their portions of the Strategic Plan.

 Director Tucker informed the board that he met with Joe and Al Castrogiovanni. They are interested in building a hotel and banquet center across from the golf course. They have to approach the City of Byron with a plan. President Hogan asked what the District’s role would be in this project. Director Tucker stated that they may be interested in leasing a couple of acres from the District to be used for parking and a retention area. Discussion followed.

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 The board and staff discussed changing the name of PrairieView Golf Club to “The Preserve at PrairieView.” They also discussed installing a bison statue in the circle drive at the clubhouse. The cost estimate for the statue is $15K. The new PrairieView logo with the buffalo on it was discussed. It was noted that the new logo ties into the Forest Preserve. It could get very costly to change the name of the golf course because so many items would need to be changed. Commissioner Vincer suggested that the new name could be on the entrance sign at first and then change other things later. Commissioner Baker expressed concern regarding the name change because it could cause confusion with the public. They may wonder, is it a golf course or is it a preserve? Commissioner Gramer stated that the course would need more educational information identifying flowers, plants, etc. The landscaping sculptures were briefly discussed but it was decided that there isn’t enough in the budget for them at this time. Further discussion of the name change followed with no motion being made.

 Director Tucker suggested that the bays at PrairieFire could be named after the District’s preserves, i.e. Jarrett, Ripplinger, Colman, etc. The names would be on a sign above each bay with an interpretive display explaining the name and a description of the preserve. This would tie the facility into the Forest Preserve a little more. PATTERSON MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO NAME THE BAYS AT PRAIRIEFIRE AFTER THE DISTRICT’S PRESERVES. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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 VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:40 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, SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE DISTRICT OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE DISTRICT OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND POSTED AND HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT AND 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, INCLUDING MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PARCEL SHOULD BE ACQUIRED. PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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 VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:13 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:14 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Steve Patterson, Secretary

 Board of Commissioners

SP/mg