Byron Forest Preserve District

Minutes of Meeting

September 16, 2019

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

Commissioners absent: Patterson.

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

Guests present: Chris Remhof and Jim and Judy Fager, citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

President Hogan deleted Agenda Item 13C – Executive Director’s Contract and Director Tucker deleted Agenda Items 14B and 14C – Executive Sessions 2(C)(5) and 2(C)(11) from the agenda. Appointing a Secretary Pro Tem was added to the agenda.

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

VINCER NOMINATED AND BAKER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF GRAMER AS SECRETARY PRO TEM. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

President Hogan opened the floor to Chris Remhof. He reported on the 2nd Annual Tiger 10-Miler Race that was held at the Jarrett Prairie Preserve and the Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve. This race is an official Rockford Roadrunners circuit race. Mr. Remhof stated that they had 207 registrants and 178 people ran which was almost double the number from last year. The runners were from three states and 15 countries. The after party was held at Hairy Cow Brewing Company in Byron who served 96 pizzas to the runners breaking the business’ record with over 400 pizzas served in a day. There were

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lots of compliments from runners regarding the Forest Preserve and the City of Byron. Mr. Remhof read some of the Facebook comments from the runners including, “most well-groomed trail ever raced on.” He thanked the board and staff for all of the help with the race. Director Tucker thanked Mr. Remhof for all of the marketing done for the race which was great exposure for the Forest Preserve.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2019, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2019. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSTAIN, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

The correspondence was noted and discussed briefly.

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

Shawn McCammond stated that the Golf Fund is up $42,000 from last year.

President Hogan reminded the board of the upcoming special meetings on October 7th and 9th and state conference in January.

President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services-7:19-7:36 pm. He reported that the house at Bald Hill is worth $270,000 so it will be on the market soon. He met with the McNetts who would like to donate money to pay for a gazebo at Bald Hill in memory of Mike McNett. President Hogan asked about putting buildings on nature preserves. Director Tucker stated that they don’t have a problem with buildings that are located on the preserve before it’s a dedicated nature preserve. We will have a grand opening of

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the new Bald Hill with the additional acreage in spring 2020. He then reviewed the construction timeline for the new PrairieFire facility at the golf course. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:36-7:42pm-He reported on the recent field trips doing stream studies at the Colman Preserve and the Byron Middle School learning about pollinators. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:42-7:51pm-He reported on setting up the Chilifest in Byron, Oregon High School students picking seeds, and helping with Autumn on the Prairie at Nachusa Grasslands for which we get “paid” with prairie seed. He reviewed photos with the board. Matt Henkel, PrairieView Golf Operations-He reported that he met with Judy Fager and Kay Cameron to find a place for the Mark Cameron Memorial on the golf course. He introduced Scott deOliveira, his new Assistant General Manager. He reviewed photos with the board.

The Founding Fathers interview has been setup with Ben Barton, Chet Kobel, and Jack Philbrick.

President Hogan opened the floor to Judy Fager. She presented the wording for the bronze plaque to be used for the Mark Cameron Memorial on the golf course. Director Tucker suggested that she contact Doty & Sons who made the plaque for Mr. Nardi at the Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE WORDING FOR THE BRONZE PLAQUE AND THE LOCATION ON THE GOLF COURSE FOR THE MARK CAMERON MEMORIAL. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 04-19, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF A PORTION OF REAL ESTATE (AT THE BALD HILL PRESERVE). PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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Director Tucker explained the Ogle County Emergency Management Agency Agreement. If the board approves, the District will cooperate and coordinate with OCEMA to provide personnel and/or equipment to effected individuals and jurisdictions and staging space for official entities mobilized for a disaster or emergency situation during the time frame of a local, county, or state declared disaster.

GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DISTRICT AND THE OGLE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:13 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 OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:55 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

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VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:56 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Gramer, Secretary Pro Tem

Board of Commissioners

AG/mg