BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2020

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

Commissioners absent: Patterson.

Staff present: Brown, Brunner, deOlivera, Frisk, Gerke, McCammond, and Tucker.

Guests present: Mary Rose Fillip, District Volunteer & Bald Hill Presenter

The meeting was called to order at 7pm following a PowerPoint presentation by District Volunteer Mary Rose Fillip regarding the history of the District’s Bald Hill Prairie Preserve.

Executive Sessions 2(C)(5) and 2(C)(11) were deleted from the agenda. VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2020. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

The correspondence was noted.

GRAMER MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2020 FINANCIAL REPORT. Director Tucker discussed the positive effects that the pandemic has had on the golf course and PrairieFire since people are looking for outdoor things to do. Shawn informed the board that we received our tax drop which a little smaller than usual. Playdays were discussed. Commissioner Gramer

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noted that it’s better to have paying golfers. Commissioner Vincer cautioned staff on moving too quickly to change things. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

The board discussed a time for the special meeting on October 5, 2020, and decided the meeting would be at 4pm.

President Hogan requested that staff review the strategic plan to make sure we are addressing the goals in the plan. There may be needs to discuss at the budget workshop in October.

The board briefly discussed extending the bike path. Vacating the bike path that runs along the river in River Park was discussed. President Hogan asked about plants that could be planted in this area. Director Tucker noted that plants have been put in this area but with the flooding, it hasn’t been successful. Commissioner Vincer suggested installing a canoeing and kayaking inlet when the bike path is removed. Director Tucker stated that Russ and the Restoration Department staff would discuss options for this site to be discussed at the department head capital projects meeting.

President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:24-7:47pm-In the absence of Mark Herman, Director Tucker discussed items relating to the Education Department along with the Administration Department. He asked the board about cancelling Halloween on the Prairie. The board agreed to cancel it. Preschool will be starting soon following the Illinois State Board of Education and CDC guidelines. The Keller Education Center is still closed to the public to keep it cleaner and safer. Mark and Janet will assist with preschool classes a couple of days per week so the classes can be broken down into smaller classes.

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They will be outside as much as possible and take “field trips” to the observatory and Heritage Farm. He noted that there were over 300 people who came out for the meteor shower. President Hogan asked about naming the trails within the preserves. Janet named many of the trails based on topography like bluffs, creeks, cliffs, loops, etc. Director Tucker informed the board that he will be meeting with Scott, Nick, and Shawn to discuss and tweak the PrairieFire budget for 2021. He informed the board that we are working with the District’s legal counsel to reestablish a District Foundation to be able receive funds from grants and donors. To establish or resurrect our previous Foundation, we need at least four people to be the board that governs the Foundation. Several names were mentioned as potential Foundation board members. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:47-7:57pm-He noted that the archery hunting lottery was held last Saturday. He reviewed and discussed photos. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-7:57-8:19pm-He stated that the course has been very busy which is good for business but hinders maintenance of the course. Director Tucker noted that he still hears many compliments about the how good the course looks. Mike informed the board that only two trees were lost on the course during the derecho storm on August 10, 2020. There may have been a lightning strike on the irrigation system because there have been some additional issues. Mike reviewed and discussed photos. President Hogan asked if the suggested hole changes at last month’s board meeting will be discussed soon. Director Tucker answered that discussion will continue but there’s a lot of conversation that needs to happen before we move forward. Commissioner Vincer stated that we should be open to change but we have to take intelligent action especially since PrairieView is a prestigious course. Director Tucker stated that with so many changes recently, we need to be sure to move forward correctly. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-8:19-8:33pm-He noted that trends have shown that the

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course is full early evenings due to so many working from home, finishing their work in the morning, and then playing golf in the afternoon/early evening. Small outings have increased a little. Larger outings have been held safely by providing boxed lunches to eat outside. The Friday fish fry at the clubhouse has been going very well. PrairieFire is doing well also. We are still figuring out trends. Director Tucker stated that PrairieFire has been making about $20,000 per week, which will be $960,000 annually. This is more than what was expected. There was a power outage on August 15, 2020, that damaged three of the four power supplies at PrairieFire. Each one costs $8800. A claim will be submitted to PDRMA.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE WOODS 918ORD FINISH MOWER AND THE 1999 JOHN DEERE 6X4 GATOR AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:35PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION2(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 EDUCATION 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

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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. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:20PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:21PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Gramer, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

AG/mg