BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

JULY 20, 2020

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

 Commissioners absent: Patterson.

 Guests present: Via Zoom- Andrew Canfield and Chris Remhoff, citizens.

 Staff present: Gerke and McCammond. Via Zoom- Brunner, Brown, deOliveira, Henkel, Herman, and Tucker.

 The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

 Executive Session was deleted from 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.

 President Hogan opened the floor to Andrew Canfield and Matt Henkel to discuss playability, trees, sand bunkers, and mowing patterns at PrairieView. Mr. Canfield has been an avid golfer at PrairieView since 2012. He and Matt have spent a lot of time discussing possible improvements to PrairieView. They have researched golf course rankings and the golf course architecture world. Based on this research, they are proposing changes to PrairieView. Mr. Canfield stated that these changes are quite easy and require little to no capital from the District’s budget. He reviewed recommended changes to each of the first nine holes. The staff and board followed along on the PDF provided online. Mr. Canfield stated that the changes will make the course more playable and will provide more playing area on each hole. He informed the board that courses across the world have been widening fairways and reducing maintenance of courses. He stated that other golf course architects have reviewed and

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agreed with his suggested changes to the course. President Hogan stated that with golf courses struggling to stay afloat, will these changes increase interest in our course? Mr. Canfield stated, yes, courses are leaning towards making golf more fun. President Hogan relayed concerns regarding PrairieView’s legacy of being the best. If these changes are made, will PrairieView “blend in” with other courses? Mr. Canfield stated that PrairieView will still be the best because of the land that it sits on and how well maintained it is. Director Tucker stated that these suggested changes are a lot to digest and it’s extremely important to keep the integrity of the course as well as the playability for all skill levels who play the course. Mr. Canfield offered to walk the course with anyone to review his recommendations. Commissioner Vincer asked what PrairieView’s Golf Pro Andrew Schlupp thinks of these recommended changes? Matt stated that he and Mr. Canfield haven’t discussed these recommended changes with Andrew yet. Mr. Canfield completed his presentation of the front nine hole recommendations and agreed to review the back nine recommendations at the August board meeting.

 GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2020. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – ABSTAINED, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JUNE 2020. Shawn informed the board that tax payments have been delayed due to the pandemic which will delay the District’s funds. In June, the golf course made $65,000 in revenue. PrairieFire is doing very well. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

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Commissioner Baker suggested that we have a “real” grand opening at PrairieFire when we get to Phase 5 of Reopen Illinois. The board and staff generally agreed.

The board and staff discussed setting the time for the special board meeting on October 5, 2020, to approve the Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance. They agreed to discuss further at the August board meeting. They discussed and decided to set October 14, 2020, at 5:30pm for the Annual Budget Workshop.

 President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:53-7:55pm-He reported that he closed on the Ogle 40 addition to the Colman Preserve so it is now 320 acres. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:55-8pm-He informed the board that 850 trail maps have been distributed in the last few months and 1000 more have been ordered with the new Ogle 40 addition on them. He reported that 12 people showed up for the Annual Archeology Day program and 38 people attended the concert on the deck. He noted that schools will not be allowing field trips so his department is exploring ideas for programming for this school year. President Hogan asked about comet viewing. Unfortunately, it has been cloudy and rainy but the observatory will be open when conditions permit. Russell Brunner, Restoration Department-8-8:11pm-He reported that people have been at the Bald Hill Preserve to look at the comet and take pictures. He thanked Mark for helping out in the Restoration Department with removing weeds in the Jarrett Prairie Preserve. He said that his help has taken some pressure off of his staff. He began reviewing photos in Dropbox. He stated that the shelter is going up at Bald Hill in the next couple of weeks. He noted that he and his staff have been working at the new Ogle 40 property. There are about

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100 logs left on the property from the previous owners logging it before it came into the District’s possession. He noted that plants have been coming in at the He-Leo wetland and blue heron have been seen there. He mentioned that he and Raul stained the deck at the Jarrett Prairie Center. He stated that his department worked with Golf Maintenance on cleanup from a storm that took down a giant oak tree on the golf course along with several other trees. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-8:11-8:22pm-He reported that PrairieView had 180 more rounds in June 2020 than in June 2019. After one month of PrairieFire being open, he reported that there have been 130 bay reservations per week and about $20,000 in revenue per week. President Hogan asked if PrairieFire was gaining traction with people from outside of Byron. Scott stated that it’s been very busy and they are still figuring things out. President Hogan asked how the staffing is going? Scott said that we have good staff and they are still figuring things out as they go. Matt Henkel, Golf Maintenance Department-8:22-8:35pm-He informed the board that he and his family will be moving out of the District house in the next couple of months and Mike Brown will be moving in. He reviewed the status of the Golf Fund and commended the PrairieView and PrairieFire staff for their hard work so far this season. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-8:35-8:44pm-He thanked the Restoration Department for assisting with cleanup of the downed trees from the recent storm. He noted that with the recent heat and humidity, the course requires more care to keep disease low on the course. He then reviewed photos in Dropbox.

 President Hogan stated that he would like for the Department Heads to be physically present at the board meetings again beginning in August with social distancing restrictions in place.

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 VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COVID-19 PROTOCOL AND RESPONSES POLICY. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 GRAMER MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FARMHOUSE RESIDENTIAL LEASE WITH GOLF MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MIKE BROWN. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:58 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Andy Gramer, Secretary

 Board of Commissioners

AG/mg