Byron Forest Preserve District

Minutes of Meeting

June 15, 2020

Commissioners present: Gramer, Hogan, and Patterson.

Commissioners absent: Baker and Vincer.

Staff present: Gerke, McCammond, and Tucker.

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Director Tucker deleted Agenda Items 14A-C, Executive Sessions. GRAMER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – ABSENT, BAKER – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

GRAMER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2020, AND THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2020. PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – ABSENT, BAKER – ABSENT, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

The correspondence was noted and briefly discussed. Split Rock Studios is featuring the Jarrett Center Museum design on their website. Director Tucker noted that Morton Buildings may be using PrairieFire on the cover of their magazine.

PATTERSON MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MAY 2020. Director Tucker reported that the golf course has been busy and PrairieFire is doing well also. He stated that he would like to bring in a million dollars in revenue this year. President Hogan questioned the current Reopen Illinois restrictions due to the pandemic? Director Tucker stated that

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there are 10-minute tee times, no playdays, and limited food service. We should be able to open up more options on June 26th when Phase 4 of Reopen Illinois begins. Shawn reported that the audit is behind because of the pandemic. The due date has been extended to September 30th. VINCER – ABSENT, BAKER – ABSENT, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

There was no President’s Report.

President Hogan opened the floor for Staff Reports. With the absence of Department Heads due to social distancing restrictions, Director Tucker updated the board on each department’s report for May. Administrative Services Department – He reported that he and Russ walked the Ogle 40 property and hope to close on it before the July board meeting. Todd will be on vacation June 27-July 5, 2020. He noted that Matt Henkel and his family will be moving out of the District’s main site farmhouse by September. An email will go out to staff to see if anyone is interested in moving into the house. A survey of Franklin’s Ground Squirrel may be interested in releasing some at our sites. Commissioner Patterson questioned the research of our sites for Native American burial grounds. Director Tucker stated the some sites have been done. Commissioner Patterson stated that there are interns at the University of Illinois that might be able to do it. Director Tucker will check into getting it done. Education Department – Director Tucker stated that he would like to have Mark and Russ produce videos for each preserve like the one they recently did. Crystal worked with the Byron Public Library and established a Story Walk along some of the District’s trails for little ones to read and follow. Crystal and Janet will be doing some summer programming in July and August. Restoration Department – Director Tucker reviewed photos. The Restoration crew has been working on weed control. Commissioner

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Patterson suggested upgrading the volleyball court and fire pit at He-Leo. Golf Operations Department – We will be issuing complimentary cards for PrairieFire to promote the facility. Discussion of whether or not to install a fence to control ball rollout at PrairieFire followed. Leagues and lessons were discussed briefly. Commissioner Gramer suggested starting leagues at PrairieFire right after the leagues at PrairieView. Since people are used to their schedule, they’re more likely to sign up for another league to keep playing throughout the fall/winter. There will be some adjustments made on the PrairieFire lights and software. Commissioner Gramer stated that the course looks great and the greens are awesome! The Cameron Memorial was discussed briefly. The family will probably plan a ceremony soon when more people are able to attend.

PATTERSON MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:55 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BAKER – ABSENT, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, VINCER – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Gramer, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

AG/mg