BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

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

 Commissioners absent: Patterson.

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

 Guests present: Carol Jackowski, Lucas Group (auditor).

 The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

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

 President Hogan opened the floor to Carol Jackowski of the Lucas Group to present the District’s 2019 audit. She first stated that due to the pandemic, deadlines for audits were changed and the District is within the deadline to approve the audit. She stated that the audit went very well and Shawn was very easy to work with as always. She reviewed revenues and expenditures. Brief discussion followed. Ms. Jackowski departed the meeting.

 BAKER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOITON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2020. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 The correspondence was noted and briefly discussed. Director Tucker noted that he received a “verbal” correspondence from a neighbor of the District’s Bald Hill Preserve. She commended him on

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the condition of the trails and the upkeep of the preserve. She also said that she has attended and enjoyed many of the District’s winter lecture series presentations.

 Director Tucker noted that he would like for Bald Hill to be a protected nature preserve. Commissioner Vincer asked about what happens with our protected preserves if the District is forced to close due to the Exelon situation. Director Tucker stated that he was exactly sure but it would take government action to change the laws that protect the land before it can be used for something else.

 VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR AUGUST 2020. Shawn noted that the Golf Fund is doing very well, much better than last year at this time. Unfortunately, the General Fund lost some revenue due to cancelling summer camp, issuing some preschool refunds, and not being able to have facility rentals. Ashlee, Tim, and Andrew will be working more hours at PrairieFire when the course closes for the season. PrairieFire had a $7000 day on Saturday, which is about a $1000 more than past Saturdays. Without foreseeing the pandemic happening, it was a good time to build PrairieFire to offset some of our lost revenues. VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND HOGAN – YES.

 VINCER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DISTRICT’S 2019 AUDIT AS PRESENTED. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 President Hogan stated that we should be writing to our government officials in support of keeping the Exelon Byron Station open. Director Tucker stated that he would be contacting Peter Murphy of the Illinois Association of Park Districts to see what his organization can do to help us.

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 President Hogan opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:30-7:44pm-He attended that the ribbon cutting for the Winnebago County Forest Preserve’s portion of the Funderburg property that is next to the District’s Colman Preserve. He stated that he is establishing a committee to organize a PrairieFire Invitational to be held on Black Friday for the top golfers in the area. The prizes would be a check to their chosen charitable foundations. Mrs. Nardi has committed to donating $5000 towards the event. Commissioner Vincer stated that it was a great idea. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:44-7:49pm-He reported that Preschool is going well even with the COVID precautions in place. They have had five families register for the family field trips being offered. These field trips are offered for up to 10 people in the same family for $25 per hour and there are several topics from which to choose. He noted that he is still working part-time for the Restoration Department, pulling weeds and picking seeds. Janet is working on the trail markers. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:49-8pm-He reported that his department has been working on trimming back trails to prepare for the cross-country runners and the Tiger 10-Miler. They have begun clearing the newly purchased Ogle 40 at Colman. About 1000 yards of dirt have been hauled from our wetlands to the County, the Township, and other preserves. The rain filled in the areas nicely. He reviewed his photos with the board. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-8-8:10pm-He reviewed the photos with the board. He explained the aeration that has been completed on the course. There some diseased areas on the course but they have recovered. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-8:10-8:23pm-He reported that golfing in general is up due to COVID. He informed the board that they have some scheduled events coming up, Glow Golf, Chili

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Shootout, and Customer Appreciation Week. They are working on organizing leagues and tournaments in Toptracer. President Hogan asked about inside dining availability if the group isn’t playing Toptracer. Scott stated that they are working on figuring out those issues.

 VINCER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:24PM TO CONVENVE 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, 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, AND UNDER SECTION 2(C)(11) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTION IS PROBABLE

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OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 BAKER MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:31 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – ABSENT, VINCER – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND HOGAN – YES.

 GRAMER MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:32 PM 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