BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Commissioners present: Baker, Gramer, Ludwig, Patterson, and Vincer.

Commissioners absent: none.

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

Guests present: Chris Remhof and Ryan Reeverts, citizens.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Director Tucker suggested deleting Executive Sessions 2(C)(5) and 2(C)(11) from the agenda. LUDWIG MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2021. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted.

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR JANUARY 2021. PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

There was no President’s Report or Personnel & Finance Committee Report.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:06-7:22pm-He distributed correspondence he received

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regarding a farm for sale in the District. He stated that it is too expensive and not the right time for the District to purchase additional land. He informed the board that he will be interviewed on an IAPD podcast. He has been working on staffing issues with PrairieView, PrairieFire, and in the Education Department. Some staff are retiring or going on maternity leave so replacements are being considered. He has been addressing weather related issues at PrairieFire. He reported that there are positive discussions regarding the power plant possibly closing. He told the board that Lyle Pryor of Municipal Lease has passed away so the District will move forward with Byron Bank and bond counsel to carry the PrairieFire loan. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:22-7:28 pm-He reported that we recently hosted a virtual Winter Lecture on Feral Pigs and had 16 households watching. More virtual lectures are scheduled over the next several weeks. He noted that Preschool registration has gone really well with all classes being almost full. He and Janet hosted a virtual field trip of the museum for Polo School District. Todd Tucker for Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:28-7:30pm-He reported that their department has been focused mainly on snow removal due to all of the snow storms recently. They are also processing seed and cleaning the buildings. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-7:30-7:33pm-He reported that the greens should come out of the winter just fine due to the snow cover protecting it. He’s been interviewing applicants for seasonal positions. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-7:33-7:52pm-He informed the board that Andrew has been doing lessons regularly at PrairieFire. They hosted club fitting demo days during the really cold days. He noted that Julie Whetsel will be retiring from her full-time position at the clubhouse but will continue on as a seasonal employee. He’s been working on staffing issues at PrairieView and PrairieFire. With the cold snap we’ve had, bay

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rentals have been down a little. Commissioner Patterson questioned how the equipment is handling the cold. Director Tucker answered that some of the equipment isn’t doing well. It wasn’t made to endure the Northern Illinois winters. District staff is working with manufacturers on ideas to make things work properly. Scott has helped the software companies with the functionality of their software. PrairieFire is an innovator in this area. Fortunately, companies have been allowing discounts, free upgrades, etc. due to the learning curve. Mike noted that most of these issues are internal so the golfers aren’t noticing any difference in play.

PATTERSON MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ADDING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY TO THE DISTRICT’S STAFF HOLIDAY SCHEDULE. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The board reviewed and briefly discussed a letter from Mrs. Deirdre Nardi granting lifetime hunting rights to Todd Tucker and Caleb Hardy at the Stephen J. and Deirdre Nardi Equine Prairie Preserve. The letter states it is recorded with the deed that hunting rights were legally kept by the Nardis when they donated the land to the Forest Preserve. Director Tucker noted that he wanted the board to be aware that Mrs. Nardi has given this permission. LUDWIG MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE LETTER FROM MRS. NARDI GIVING PERMISSION TO TODD TUCKER AND CALEB HARDY FOR LIFETIME HUNTING RIGHTS AT THE STEPHEN J. AND DEIRDRE NARDI EQUINE PRAIRIE PRESERVE. GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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Commissioner Baker asked if the PrairieFire logo is trademarked or copyrighted. Staff will check into this and report back to the board.

LUDWIG MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:03 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, 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 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. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:20 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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LUDWIG MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:21 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Gramer, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

AG/mg