BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 19, 2021

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

Commissioners absent: Gramer

Guests present: Chris Remhof, citizen.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

The election of a secretary pro tem was added to the agenda in the absence of Secretary Gramer. PATTERSON MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. GRAMER – ABSENT, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON NOMINATED AND VINCER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF LUDWIG AS SECRETARY PRO TEM. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

LUDWIG MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2021. PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, LUDWIG – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted.

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

President Vincer noted that he would like to re-visit and update the strategic plan that was prepared a few years ago now that we have PrairieFire. Commissioner Ludwig noted that it should updated every 3-5 years. Director Tucker suggested that they may want to update it again when he retires in a few years. The new director will want to have input into it regarding his own ideas and plans for the District.

There was no Personnel & Finance Committee meeting this past month.

President Vincer opened the floor to the District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:18-7:26pm-He distributed the Getaway Guide and Ogle County Living Magazine so the board could see the articles and ads for the District. He updated the board on the Exelon situation. He reported that one of our long-time woodshop volunteers, Bill Hogan, recently passed away. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:26-7:30pm-He reported that Crystal Frisk had her baby, Dayla. The new preschool assistant, Ann Brandt, is doing very well. He gave away 750 oak trees to the public in just a few days. The first school field trip is scheduled for May 14th. College class field trips are also coming up soon along with hunter safety class. Russell Brunner, Restoration/ Maintenance Department-7:30-7:44pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. His department has been burning and seeding every day lately. They have used hundreds of pounds of seeds with about 50 species of prairie plant mix. Commissioner Ludwig asked about the toad pond at He-Leo. Russ said that

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it is full of toads and it’s very nice. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-7:44-7:55pm-He reported that PrairieView had its first outing for the season with 70 golfers and they rented bays at PrairieFire. There are several special events scheduled at the golf facilities including celebrations of life and birthday parties. He noted that the new menu for Prairie Grass Pub will be coming out on May 1st. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-7:55-8:07pm-He reported that the course came out of the winter well. It's now growing out of any winter diseases that were present when the snow melted. He is experimenting with growth regulator on the greens. Commissioner Patterson asked if he had received any comments regarding the tree removal that has been done on the course. Mike stated that he has only heard positive comments. Only 5% of the trees were removed from the course due to maintenance issues with the evergreen needles. Playability was also improved with the tree removal. The course is called “Prairie”View so the goal is to have more prairie. He reviewed photos with the board.

There were no policy manual revisions for March.

LUDWIG MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE 2007 FORD F150 PICKUP AND THE 2008 WOODS BATWING 15’ MOWER AS SURPLUS ITEMS. GRAMER – ABSENT, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The board discussed the lease agreement for PrairieFire. The original lease was through Byron Bank but was prepared and administered by the Municipal Development & Funding Company and its owner, Lyle Prior. Lyle has passed so now the lease will be handled solely through Byron Bank. The Change in Terms Agreement clarifies these details. To the District’s advantage, a reduced interest rate is also part of the changed agreement.

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PATTERSON MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CHANGE IN TERMS AGREEMENT WITH BYRON BANK FOR THE PRAIRIEFIRE GOLF & GRILL FACILITY. LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

Commissioner Patterson congratulated Chris Remhof and President Vincer on winning the consolidated election.

LUDWIG MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:17PM 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 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

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

LUDWIG MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:49 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND LUDWIG SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:50 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. GRAMER – ABSENT, LUDWIG – YES, PATTERSON – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Gramer, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

AG/mg