BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

MAY 17, 2021

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

Commissioners absent: none.

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

Guests present: Terry and Fynn Remhof.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Vice President Baker administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected commissioners, Steve Patterson (4-year term), Chris Remhof (4-year term), and Aaron Vincer (2-year unexpired term). The commissioners and staff thanked Commissioner Ludwig for his service and he departed the meeting. The commissioners welcomed new commissioner, Chris Remhof, to the board.

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

REMHOF NOMINATED AND PATTERSON SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF VINCER FOR BOARD PRESIDENT. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

VINCER NOMINATED AND GRAMER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF PATTERSON FOR BOARD VICE PRESIDENT. PATTERSON – ABSTAIN, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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GRAMER NOMINATED AND VINCER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF BAKER FOR BOARD SECRETARY. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

GRAMER NOMINATED AND VINCER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF REMHOF FOR BOARD TREASURER. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO SET THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TIME AND PLACE FOR THE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE FOURTH MONDAY AT 7PM AT THE JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER, 7993 NORTH RIVER ROAD, BYRON. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO SET THE DISTRICT’S FISCAL YEAR AS THE CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY-DECEMBER). PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH BYRON BANK AS THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR DISTRICT FUNDS. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

GRAMER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISH ICE MILLER LLP AS THE DISTRICT’S BOND COUNSEL. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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PATTERSON MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE LUCAS GROUP AS THE DISTRICT’S AUDITING FIRM. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED AMOTION TO ESTABLISH ANCEL, GLINK, DIAMOND, BUSH, DICIANNI, AND KRAFTHEFER AS THE DISTRICT’S LEGAL COUNSEL. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE OGLE COUNTY LIFE AS THE DISTRICT’S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

GRAMER MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES AS COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE: BUILDING & GROUNDS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL, PROGRAM & RECREATION, LONG RANGE PLANNING, AND PERSONNEL/FINANCE. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2021. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted. President Vincer stated that it’s good to see thank you cards from visiting groups again since we didn’t get many, if any, in 2020.

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

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-7:25-7:33pm-He informed the board that new commissioner, Chris Remhof, spent the day with staff in each department to see the operations of the District. Commissioner Remhof commented that the District is in good hands and he was amazed to see what all is done at the District. Director Tucker mentioned having the future board meetings in the board room. He commended Michelle on the phase 2 remodeling of the lower level of the Jarrett Prairie Center. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:33-7:41pm-He reported that the hunter safety class is full, a new storybook walk has been installed, and we had our first school field trip group since the pandemic started last year. He also noted that preschool graduation was successfully held last week and Crystal Ashelford is officially retired. He informed the board that Janet has placed over 40 geocaches on our preserves. This is becoming a very popular activity. The District has some of the top geocaches in the State of Illinois. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:41-7:57pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. He noted that 100 bobolinks were counted at Bald Hill. Bobolinks fly 6,000 miles to South America for winter and back to Bald Hill for the summer. He reported on the thousands of flowers and grasses coming in at various preserves. Some plants and flowers weren’t planted by his department but conditions are now favorable for them so they are returning. Mark noted that we participated along with 419 cities worldwide in the bioblitz which is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Scott deOliveira, Golf

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Operations-7:57-8:07pm-He reported that there are a lot of parties and events booked at the golf course and PrairieFire. He and Todd were interviewed on Good Day Stateline promoting PrairieFire.

Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-8:07-8:30pm-His department moved a flagpole from the Restoration Department area to the PrairieFire range so that people could easily see which way the wind is blowing. Replacing the irrigation system and golf carts were discussed.

BAKER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES: 1) ADD TRENT SNODGRASS TO MIKE BROWN’S DISTRICT CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT AND REMOVE MATT HENKEL. 2) ADD JASON AKEY AND CANDACE BIANCHI TO THE PRAIRIEVIEW GOLF CLUB CHECKING ACCOUNTS AND REMOVE MATT HENKEL & JULIE WHETSEL FROM THE ACCOUNTS. 3) ADD SCOTT DEOLIVEIRA TO THE PRAIRIEVIEW JR. GOLF ACCOUNT AND REMOVE MATT HENKEL. 4) ADD CHRIS REMHOF AND REMOVE TREVOR HOGAN ON ALL ACCOUNTS THAT BOARD MEMBERS ARE ON. 5) ADD JASON AKEY & CANDACE BIANCHI TO NICK SCHOENHARD’S DISTRICT CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT AND REMOVE JULIE WHETSEL. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Commissioner Patterson asked Director Tucker about the status of the Exelon situation. He stated that there was a meeting last week but there isn’t anything new to report. He noted that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has to be involved with and approve any closure of a plant.

BAKER MOVED AND GRAMER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:40 PM 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

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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. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:29 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. GRAMER – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

VINCER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 9:30 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/mg