BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

JULY 19, 2021

Commissioners present: Baker, Patterson, and Vincer.

Commissioners absent: Gramer and Remhof.

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

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Director Tucker deleted Executive Sessions 2(C)(1) and 2(C)(11).

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

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2021. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – ABSENT, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

Correspondence was noted. ByronFest went well even though the weather didn’t cooperate one day. The board commended Russell and his department for setting up the event. It was noted that the woodshop volunteers did a great job building a new ticket booth. Further discussion followed.

Shawn reported that the financial reports look good. PrairieFire brought in $95K in June and PrairieView is bringing in revenue comparable to 2019 revenues.

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

President Vincer informed the board that he received Andy Gramer’s resignation from the board effective immediately. He and his family moved to Vermont. The board discussed their approach to

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filling the vacancy within the next 60 days as required. Potential candidates, interviewing, and selection were discussed. Staff will research the legal requirements for filling a vacancy and get back to the board. The board will discuss potential candidates at the August meeting. A tentative interview schedule was set for September 8, 2021, at 6pm in the Jarrett Prairie Center Board Room.

President Vincer asked staff about having a contingency plan for producing revenue if Exelon closes the Byron Station. PrairieView and PrairieFire revenues were discussed. Director Tucker noted that even if Exelon decides to close the plant, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has to approve it. He stated that it takes 10-13 years to close down a plant so the District would have time to figure out what to do during that time, downsizing as needed.

President Vincer noted that citizens have asked him and he has seen petitions regarding a request that the District build a dog park. Director Tucker stated that this has been requested of the District in the past. The District offered property to the City of Byron to build it since it’s not really something a forest preserve would build. The City didn’t follow through on that offer. He suggested that maybe Byron Park District could build one on the property they purchased along River Drive in Byron. City governments and park districts generally have dog parks. He reminded the board that the District does allow leashed dog walking at the Ripplinger Preserve and on the bike path. Dog parks were further discussed. They can be expensive facilities to maintain without producing revenue. Generally, rural areas like Byron really don’t require dog parks because most people have yards or there are areas to walk dogs. It was noted that Oregon Park District has a dog park. Further discussion followed.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:50-8:02pm-He reported that the Matt Henkel

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Celebration of Life Playday Fundraiser went very well. He noted that Matt’s family may decide to do a memorial playday fundraiser annually. Golf cart replacement was discussed. Mark Herman, Education Department-8:02-8:08pm-He reviewed photos of a scout group project at the Bald Hill Preserve clearing fencing and posts. It was a great help. He reported that he had 32 people attend the Annual Archeology Day event. He noted that someone brought a couple of stones that were identified as a large hooved animal’s gall stones. Byron School District’s K-6th grades have scheduled their fall field trips. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-8:08-8:18pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. Todd Tucker for Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-8:18-8:21-He informed the board that Scott was on a well-deserved vacation. He has been doing a great job considering the staffing issues and other situations that have occurred. Todd noted that the Junior Golf League had a great turnout this year. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-8:21-8:37pm-He noted that the irrigation system had a brief rest while we got a little rain but it is coming back on today. The Men’s Lincoln Highway Tournament was discussed. It’s possible that it could be held at PrairieView next year for its 100th anniversary which could be covered by ESPN since its one of the oldest golf events. He commended his crew for their efforts this season, making his first year as a superintendent very good. He reviewed photos with the board.

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REVISED CRISIS MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICY FOR THE DISTRICT. STAFF NAMES WERE UPDATED. BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

The audit is not ready for approval. It may be ready by the August meeting.

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:40 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(5) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF

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

VINCER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:47 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – ABSENT, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:48 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REMHOF – ABSENT, BAKER – YES, GRAMER – ABSENT, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/mg