BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2021

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

Commissioners absent: none.

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

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

Director Tucker deleted Agenda Item 13A-C, Executive Sessions from the agenda.

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

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

The correspondence was noted.

The Financial Reports were discussed. Shawn reported that overall, things look really good. There are a lot of expenses but there is also a lot of revenue. Director Tucker noted that he will be meeting with the new Assistant Manager of Golf Operations, Jason Wombacher, and the rest of the golf staff to discuss the budget. Shawn informed the board that the audit should be ready for approval at the September meeting. Further discussion followed.

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 16, 2021

PAGE 2

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

President Vincer reported that he received interest from three potential candidates to fill the board vacancy, Dave Breen, Jeff Ludwig, and Dan Scheck. He reminded the board that they will interview the three candidates on September 8, 2021, at 6 pm in the Jarrett Prairie Center Board Room. They will then discuss and choose a candidate to be sworn in at the September 20th meeting.

President Vincer asked the board about a time that will work for them on October 4, 2021, for the Tentative Budget and Appropriation meeting. They settled on 4:30 pm in the Jarrett Prairie Center Board Room.

The board discussed dates and times for the Annual Budget Workshop. They decided to have the meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 5:30 pm at the Jarrett Prairie Center.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:22-7:29 pm-He updated the board on the Exelon situation, stating that there hasn’t been any movement on it since the last report. He informed the board that he spoke with Buster Barton of the Byron School District and agreed that the District will comply with the mask mandate along with the school district. President Vincer and Commissioner Remhof agreed that if it’s mandate, we have to follow the law. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:29-7:35 pm-He stated that he has had good attendance at the summer concerts. He noted that Byron Bank once again sponsored the concerts for us. He commended Janet Dahlberg for the great job she did with summer camp this year. Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:35-7:46pm-He

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 16, 2021

PAGE 3

reviewed photos with the board. He informed the board that his crew did a lot of cleanup from the storms that came through recently. Director Tucker noted that the path at Heritage Farm that leads to the bridge will be paved eventually since it keeps washing out. Discussion of abandoning the bike path by the river followed. It is usually flooded for much of the season but since it has been dry this year, people have been using the path a lot. Russell commended Greg Hunter for volunteering and working so hard weed eating, etc. at each preserve. Russell showed pictures of new young oak trees coming up at various preserves, which is exactly what we want to happen. Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-7:46-8:04pm-He stated that golfing has picked up a lot. He noted that the staff at PrairieView and PrairieFire have really stepped up with being short staffed due to Ashley being on maternity leave and finding a replacement Assistant Manager. He said that multiple company groups have cancelled due to the resurgence of COVID-19 but they want to reschedule. Commissioner Remhof asked if it’s possible to track usage at PrairieFire like we track the rounds at PrairieView? He also asked if we can tell where people are coming from? Scott said that the current software that we use, Alleytrack, doesn’t provide that information but it may be tweaked to be able to provide those stats. Commissioner Baker asked how many rounds of golf can be played at PrairieView in one month? After much discussion, Mike stated that an absolutely packed day would be about 235 rounds. Multiplying that by 31 days would be 7,285 rounds in July. Of course, that’s providing that the weather is good every day. Commissioner Remhof asked if other golf courses publish their number of rounds each month and how PrairieView compares to those courses. Scott will check into that and get back to the board. Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-8:04-8:20pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. Several mishaps occurred recently. A hydraulic line busted on a mower causing turf damage, a tire fell off of a tractor,

BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING – AUGUST 16, 2021

PAGE 4

and an irrigation head flew out of the ground. Discussion followed. Mike commended his crew for their work this season.

It was noted that the District donated the barbed wire and fence post exhibits to the Byron Museum of History.

Commissioner Remhof thanked the staff for their help in setting up for the Nuclear Meltdown race held on the Jarrett Prairie Preserve trails. He had about 100 people from various cities and states. The trails were in phenomenal condition and people loved it!

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:30 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Kris Baker, Secretary

 Board of Commissioners

KB/mg