BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

Commissioners present: Breen, Remhof, and Vincer.

Commissioners absent: Baker and Patterson.

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

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Director Tucker suggested deleting Agenda Items 14B and 14C, Executive Sessions 2(C)(5) and 2(C)(11). In the absence of Secretary Baker, President Vincer added the Election of a Secretary Pro Tem to the agenda.

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

REMHOF MOVED AND VINCER SECONDED A MOTION TO ELECT BREEN AS SECRETARY PRO TEM. PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer opened the public hearing pursuant to the requirements of Sections 10 and 20 of the Bond Issuance Notification Act of the State of Illinois, as amended on the plans to issue General Obligation Bonds, Series 2021 in the amount not to exceed $1,850,000. There were no comments from commissioners or written or oral testimony from the public. President Vincer announced that all persons desiring to be heard have been given an opportunity to present oral or written testimony with respect to the proposed issuance of bonds.

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BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:05PM TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2021. BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted and briefly discussed.

President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the financial reports. Director Tucker commended Raul Leon on the facility rentals and bar service revenues. The use of the Jarrett Prairie Center for weddings and parties has rapidly increased over the last several months. Brief discussion followed.

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

President Vincer reported that Exelon has asked the City of Byron about installing sewer lines along German Church Road. Commissioner Breen noted that the lack of this infrastructure has hindered developers from building a hotel on German Church Road. President Vincer thought that the board should know about the current discussions between Exelon and the City of Byron.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:21-7:30pm-He reported that he will be meeting

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with Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education regarding kestrel and osprey at the District’s preserves. He stated that he has received calls regarding resurrecting the idea of developing a bike path from Byron to Stillman Valley. He noted that there is grant money available for this kind of project. He informed the board that the golf course will be closing on November 21, 2021. Mark Herman, Education Department-7:30-7:37pm-He distributed handmade thank you cards from the Ashton Franklin Center school district thanking us for their field trip. He noted that some schools are still not scheduling field trips because of COVID and lack of bus drivers. He reported that Halloween on the Prairie was a big success with everything being outside and the Byron Park District offering new games. Commissioner Breen noted that the geocaching event that we co-sponsored went very well. Todd Tucker (for Russ Brunner), Restoration / Maintenance Department-7:37-7:44pm-He reviewed Russ’ photos with the board. Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-7:44-7:54pm-Scott reported that PrairieView is at almost 30,000 rounds for the year and it compares closely with 2009. PrairieFire is getting busier and busier as courses close. He informed the board that they are preparing for the invitational coming up on November 26th. He noted that he attended Professional Development School recently. He also informed the board that he has been working with Northern Illinois University business classes. Students have been utilizing PrairieView and PrairieFire as learning tools on operating businesses. Fortunately, the District can implement the students’ ideas if found to be beneficial. Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-7:54-8:02pm-He reported that he and his staff have begun winterizing the course, blowing out lines, mulching leaves, spraying greens, etc. He reviewed photos with the board explaining a creek project that is being completed. Completing the project will increase aesthetics and playability because much of the swamp and weeds are being removed.

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REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2022 TAX LEVY ORDINANCE AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 21-2. PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET & APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCE NO. 21-3. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

Commissioner Remhof informed the board that he participated in the Trek for Troops event that was recently held at the District’s Nardi Preserve. He stated it went very well and there a lot of people who participated that had never been to the Nardi Preserve. It was great promotion for the District’s preserve.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:07 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC BODY OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE PUBLIC BODY TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC BODY 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 – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:48 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/mg