BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

MARCH 21, 2022

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

Commissioners absent: none.

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

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm.

Director Tucker suggested deleting Agenda Items 13A-13C, Executive Session.

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

BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2022. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – ABSTAIN.

President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the Financial Reports. He stated that the Golf Fund is starting the year in the black, which is really good. Director Tucker noted that in previous years, the Golf Fund would start the year in the red and catch up by summer but that’s not the case this year. Brief discussion followed.

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REMHOF MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY 2022. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer reported that Exelon is moving forward with the City of Byron regarding installing City sewer lines to the Byron Plant. They are having conversations regarding the route for the installation. If German Church Road is the chosen route, that would provide many development opportunities across from the golf course, etc. Director Tucker noted that he attended a Byron Chamber luncheon with Paul Dempsey as the speaker for Constellation Energy. He said that Paul was very positive regarding their future plans. Brief discussion followed.

Director Tucker reported on the Byron/Stillman Bike Path situation. He received documents from Larry Hewitt regarding everything that was previously done to attempt to develop a bike path between Byron and Stillman Valley. Director Tucker and Commissioner Remhof will meet and report back to the board at the April meeting.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:20-7:30pm-He received information from Fehr-Graham regarding the asphalt bid and it will go out soon. He passed around before and after renovation photo of the Jarrett Prairie Center Lower Level (Blazingstar Room). He and the board discussed the list of upcoming rentals with bar service that Facility Manager Raul Leon submitted. So far this year, there are 31 rentals, 22 of them with bar service. Michelle Gerke noted that Raul booked four more events

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today. She stated that rentals have increased tremendously. She commended Raul on his hard work and salesmanship of the building for the rentals.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-7:30-7:34pm-She reviewed photos with the board.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:34-7:52pm-He reviewed photos with the board.

Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Course Operations-7:52-8:07pm-Scott reported that the golf cart delivery has been delayed until summer. Golf maintenance staff are servicing each of the current golf carts to find the best ones to be used. PrairieFire is booking more corporate outings.

Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-8:07-8:21pm-He reported that the course came out of winter in good shape. Rain has been good but we need a lot more. He hired a new assistant to replace Trent Snodgrass. Tyler McKay will start on April 4th, 2022. He noted that he’s waiting on the new equipment to arrive. It has been delayed until summer due to supply chain issues. He discussed the pond leak situation with the board. Many attempts of repairing the leak have been made over the years without success. He noted that he has put this situation on his 5-year capital budget plan to get it figured out and repaired. He reviewed his photos with the board.

The board discussed the request from the Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves regarding the Save Bell Bowl Prairie campaign. The organization would like for the District to be listed as a supporter on their letter to government officials and airport stakeholders to advocate for preserving the Bell Bowl Prairie in perpetuity. It’s an 8000-year-old remnant prairie that is home to multiple state and federally

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endangered species of plants and animals. The prairie is located on Greater Rockford Airport property. The board discussed and decided that supporting this cause is part of mission of preservation.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION APPROVING OF THE DISTRICT BEING A SIGNATORY ON THE SAVE THE BELL BOWL PRAIRIE ORGANIZATIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT TO BE SENT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND ROCKFORD AIRPORT STAKEHOLDERS. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE 2013 FORD F150 AS SURPLUS PROPERTY TO BE USED AS A TRADE-IN FOR A NEW TRUCK. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW USED TRUCK LOCALLY NOT TO EXCEED $40,000. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Director Tucker informed the board of the situation at the Expo Building regarding the cracked cement floor. He explained that the building was built on a ravine that had trees and debris in it then was covered with dirt. As the trees and debris have decomposed and settled, the building has settled as well and now there’s a crack that runs several feet along the south wall of the building. The building has also shifted causing the gutters and downspouts to separate. He stated that this was repaired about 15 years ago but it has appeared again. He said that it could be around $100,000 to fix it. The District’s maintenance crews could do a lot of the work and it would cost about half of that. Discussion followed regarding fixing it or taking it down and re-building. Todd stated that it could be about $1.5M to build a

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new building. He is meeting with an engineer from a concrete company to get a quote. Hopefully, this can be done by June or July. The board generally agreed to proceed with getting a quote to see what the least expensive route would be to fix it. Todd stated that he would email the board as he received information and report back to the board at the April meeting.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:58 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/mg