BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 18, 2022

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

Commissioners absent: Patterson.

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.

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

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2022. PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Janet Dahlberg passed around thank you cards made by field trip students.

President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the Financial Reports. Golf revenue is down compared to last year due to the weather. In March of 2021, there were 747 rounds and this March, there were 165 rounds. REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2022. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

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President Vincer informed the board that the City of Byron and Exelon are still in discussions of installing a sewer line to the Byron Plant.

Commissioner Remhof reported on the Bike/Stillman Bike Path progress. He has reviewed the documents from Larry Hewitt. He noted that a lot of the work has been done. He would like to have a conversation with Mr. Behmer and others involved regarding land purchase or donation. Director Tucker will schedule a meeting.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:19-7:51pm-He reported that staff has been working on purging items from the Expo Building so work can begin on the floor in June. He informed the board that Larry Hewitt has asked about using District property to build a public works facility. Director Tucker noted that if it happens, he would like for it to be built near the Mechanics’ Building and the City’s pumphouse. Equipment sharing was discussed. He reported that Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab & Education would like to install osprey houses on District property at the Mill Creek Preserve, He-Leo Two Rivers Preserve, the dig site, etc. Director Tucker informed the board that staff is working on a proposal regarding the usage of unused sick time when someone retires. Now that the District is over 40 years, there are people who will be retiring with many days of unused sick time. He believes that if the District has a policy of compensating retirees for that unused sick time, will be an incentive for people not to abuse it. He noted that it’s not fair if someone works for many years and uses very little sick time, then retires and loses most of it versus someone who has used their sick time over those years. He informed the board that BJ Vangsness of the Byron Dragway may be interested in selling the Dragway as land not

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a business. Director Tucker noted that he could apply for an Illinois Clean Energy grant to purchase the property that would leave about $600,000 for the District to pay which could be paid over a couple of budget years. The board generally agreed with this. President Vincer noted that it’s important that it doesn’t look like the District is shutting down the Dragway. BJ would need to go public with shutting it down before the District could step in to purchase it. Brief discussion followed.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-7:51-7:55pm-She reported on the Maple Syrup Festival, field trips, and homeschool classes. Commissioner Breen asked how many geocaches are on District properties. Janet said about 40. She reviewed photos with the board. Brief discussion followed.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-7:55-8:09pm-He reviewed photos with the board of burning a various preserves, spring wildflowers making their appearance, cleaning out the Expo Building preparing for repairs, and equipment to be declared as surplus.

Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-8:09-8:25pm-He noted the low number of rounds for March due to the weather. Commissioner Breen suggested having a “flash sale” for walkers on the course due to the soggy course and current cart issues. Scott informed the board that the Gold Medal Tournament is coming up. The placement of the Marinelli bench has been established. He is preparing to host the 100th year of the Lincoln Highway Tournament. ESPN will be covering the event. Jason reported that with the cooler weather, PrairieFire has been going strong. Corporate events are filling up the schedule. PrairieFire is opening at 6am and serving breakfast during the Byron Plant’s outage to accommodate those workers.

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Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-8:25-8:34pm-He reviewed photos with the board of work on the course, controlled burns on the course, and the new plaque to be installed at the Turf Care Center in memory of Matt Henkel.

Director Tucker informed the board that he should have the information regarding the asphalt bid at the next board meeting.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE FOLLOWING AS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT LOCATED AT THE EXPO BUILDING: COMMERCIAL COFFEE MAKER, SINGLE KEG COOLER, SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR UNIT, SIDE-BY-SIDE FREEZER UNIT, TWO (2) STEAMTABLES, AND A PEPSI MACHINE. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:35 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Baker, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

KB/mg