BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

OCTOBER 17, 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 6 pm.

BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – 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 2022 in the amount not to exceed $2,000,000. There were no comments from commissioners or oral or written 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 TO ADJOURN THE PUBLIC HEARING. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, AND THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2022, AND OCTOBER 6, 2022. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSTAIN, AND VINCER – YES.

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

President Vincer updated the board on the City of Byron’s plan to break ground for a new public works building in 2024. He reminded the commissioners about the upcoming state conference. Commissioner Patterson stated that he would not be able to attend. The other commissioners were unsure at this time.

Commissioner Remhof and Director Tucker updated the board regarding the By-Valley Bike Path. Phone calls are to be made to Mr. Bushnell and Mr. Behmer.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports.

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Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-6:16-6:19pm-He reported that Caleb Hardy got a photo of a bobcat at the Nardi Preserve. He informed the board that Raul already has 16 receptions booked for 2023 in the Jarrett Prairie Center. He reminded the board that Halloween on the Prairie is this coming Sunday.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-6:19-6:25pm-She reported that a Byron School District teacher will be bringing his Astronomy Club to the observatory this semester. He will bring his Astronomy class to the observatory next semester. She noted that there have been several field trips, homeschool classes, and scout events. Preschool is going well with fall assessments being prepared at this time. She reviewed her photos with the board.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-6:25-6:39pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. He reported on the wedding for which his department prepared the Wilson shelter and area. He discussed ginseng plants and poison ivy. He noted that Illinois has more native orchids than Hawaii.

Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-6:39-6:48pm-They reported that many groups from the Byron Station have utilized PrairieFire recently. It was noted that the Rockford Icehogs arrived at PrairieFire without reservations but they were able to accommodate them. Preparations for the PrairieFire Invitational have begun. Leagues will be starting a little earlier this year.

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Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-6:48-6:58pm-He reviewed his photos with the board. He reported on the damage that raccoons and skunks cause on the course. He noted that his crew has been blowing a lot of leaves off of the course. He discussed the clubhouse house deck and it needing some TLC.

The City of Byron proposal was discussed. Director Tucker stated that he will send the proposal to the District’s attorney to see what we can do legally. He and Russ will discuss the proposal and meet with City representatives. President Vincer explained where the City currently stands. They need to tear down some buildings at the current Public Works Department to expand the sewer plant and build a new Public Works Building. He noted that since the City and the Forest Preserve have the same customers, it makes sense for us to work together. The option of building a new building for the Forest Preserve’s Restoration/Maintenance Department was discussed. Commissioner Remhof mentioned building a new Public Works Building at the school or near Rabine Paving. President Vincer stated that they would like to be out of the public eye if possible. Further discussion followed.

The Recycling Program Proposal was discussed. The board considered the option of the District spending $14,000 to take part in the program. Director Tucker noted that since the District is in the City limits, why can’t the District utilize the City’s recycling program. He also noted that as much as the District would like to be able to

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recycle again, it’s not really the District’s mission to spend that kind of money on a sanitation situation. Further discussion followed.

Approving the IAPD Credentials Certificate was tabled until the November meeting.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:29 PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER SECTION 2(C)(1) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE, OR DISMISSAL OF SPECIFIC EMPLOYEES, SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVE AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR SPECIFIC VOLUNTEERS OF THE DISTRICT OR LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING HEARING TESTIMONY ON A COMPLAINT LODGED AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVES AS AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR IN A PARK, RECREATIONAL, OR EDUCATIONAL SETTING, OR A VOLUNTEER OF THE DISTRICT OR AGAINST LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY, UNDER SECTION 2(C)(5) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF 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, AND UNDER SECTION 2(C)(11)

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OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF LITIGATION, WHEN AN ACTION AGAINST, AFFECTING OR ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT HAS BEEN FILED AND IS PENDING BEFORE A COURT OR ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, OR WHEN THE DISTRICT FINDS THAT AN ACTON IS PROBABLE OR IMMINENT, IN WHICH CASE THE BASIS FOR THE FINDING SHALL BE RECORDED AND ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THE CLOSED MEETING. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:37PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:38PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Remhof, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

CR/mg