BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

JULY 18, 2022

 Commissioners present: Baker, Breen (virtually), Remhof, and Vincer.

 Commissioners absent: Patterson.

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

 Guests present: Mayor John Rickard, City of Byron.

 The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

 Director Tucker suggested removing Agenda Item 14A, Executive Session 2(C)(1).

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

 President Vincer opened the floor to Mayor John Rickard of the City of Byron. He informed the board that the City is need of land to build a public works building. The City hopes to have the planning done by the end of 2022 and break ground in spring of 2023.

Discussion of the Restoration Department moving to the dragstrip property and allowing the City to purchase/lease the current Land Management Center area was discussed. The potential purchase of the dragstrip property by the District is on hold right now so that isn’t an option for the near future.

Allowing the City to build next their current well site near the River Road entrance was considered. The option of the City building a building and trading it with the District was another option

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that was discussed. Russell will figure out how much square footage is needed for his department to operate for the purpose of considering a building swap. The attorneys for both entities would need to advise on this option.

The installation of sewer lines for ComEd was discussed. Mayor Rickard stated that it is planned for installation in 2023-24 and the plan is to come down German Church Road with the lines.

The City’s bonding capabilities were discussed along with the grant that is being used to complete the project. Director Tucker stated that the District will do what is possible to assist the City with this project. Commissioner Remhof agreed as long as the District and the City get what they need while being fiscally responsible to the taxpayers. Further discussion followed and Mayor Rickard departed the meeting.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2022. PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – ABSTAIN.

President Vincer opened the floor to Director Tucker to report on Finances in Shawn’s absence. Director Tucker stated that there were three payrolls in July. August will look better. Golf and rentals are doing well.

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

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The Bike Path progress was discussed. Director Tucker stated that he will reach out to Mr. Behmer again since he hasn’t returned his call.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-6:40-6:50pm-He reported that the whiskey tasting event at PrairieFire went really well. He updated the board on the progress of the Expo Building floor repairs.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-6:50-6:57pm-She reported that summer camp, adventure club, and viewing nights at the observatory are going well. Girl scouts and others are showing up at the observatory due to the planets aligning and the super moon. She hired some part-time help, Noah Hansen. He has been working on scheduling concerts, movie nights, hikes, etc. He will also be reaching out to teachers to schedule field trips. She reviewed her photos with the board.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-6:57-7:17pm-He reviewed photos with the board. Commissioner Remhof expressed concern about dog walkers crossing the driveway and going into the prairie when a trail is mowed through the new prairie near the front entrance. Russell stated that they would install signs that dogs aren’t allowed. Commissioner Remhof asked about releasing flea beetles into the prairie to eat the invasive plants. The beetle larva will eat the roots of the invasive plants. Russell stated that he is still researching the idea to see if it would work for us. He noted that they have been released locally to combat leafy spurge.

Scott deOliveira, Golf Operatons-7:17-7:30pm-He reported that there have been many rentals, showers, meetings, and corporate outings at PrairieView and PrairieFire. The Chana playday was rained

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out but the golfers spent several hours at PrairieFire and they rescheduled their outing. PrairieView hosted the 100th Lincoln Highway Tournament. There were 10 teams from other courses. Commissioner Remhof asked about recent incidents with the golf carts. A cart was stuck and Mike had to get them out. He reviewed photos with the board of the Lincoln Highway Tournament and the whiskey tasting event.

Mike Brown, Golf Maintenance Department-7:30-7:43pm-He reviewed photos with the board. The golf course is in very good shape. The crew built stairs to 12 tee. DamIt Pond Sealer was applied to try to stop the pond from leaking.

The Proposed Sick Leave Policy Revision was discussed briefly.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SICK LEAVE POLICY REVISION AS PRESENTED. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO DECLARE THE 2002 CHEVY VAN AS SURPLUS. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:13PM TO CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION 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 PUBLIC BODY, INCLUDING MEETINGS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING WHETHER A PARTICULAR PARCEL SHOULD BE ACQUIRED AND UNDER SECTION 2 (C)(11) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF

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

BAKER MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:43PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:44PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSENT, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Chris Remhof, Secretary

 Board of Commissioners

CR/mg