BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

MAY 16, 2022

Commissioners present: Baker, Breen, Patterson, Remhof (virtually), 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 26A-26C Executive Session.

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

REMHOF NOMINATED AND BAKER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF VINCER FOR BOARD PRESIDENT. PATTERSON –YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER NOMINATED AND BREEN SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF PATTERSON FOR BOARD VICE PRESIDENT. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – ABSTAIN, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER NOMINATED AND PATTERSON SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF REMHOF FOR BOARD SECRETARY. BAKER – YES, BREEN – ABSTAIN, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF NOMINATED AND BAKER SECONDED THE NOMINATION OF BREEN FOR BOARD TREASURER. BREEN – ABSTAIN, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO SET THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TIME AND PLACE FOR THE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MEETINGS WHICH WILL BE HELD ON THE FOURTH MONDAY AT 6PM AT THE JARRETT PRAIRIE CENTER, 7993 NORTH RIVER ROAD, BYRON. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING THE CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY-DECEMBER) AS THE DISTRICT’S FISCAL YEAR. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING BYRON BANK AS THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORY FOR DISTRICT FUNDS. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING ICE MILLER/BERNARDI SECURITIES AS THE DISTRICT’S BOND COUNSEL. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING THE LUCAS GROUP AS THE DISTRICT’S AUDITOR. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH ANCEL GLINK AS THE DISTRICT’S LEGAL COUNSEL. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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BAKER MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE OGLE COUNTY LIFE AS THE DISTRICT’S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION ESTABLISHING THE FOLLOWING BOARD COMMITTEES AS COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE: BUILDING & GROUNDS/INTERGOVERNMENTAL, PROGRAM & RECREATION, LONG RANGE PLANNING, AND PERSONNEL/FINANCE. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 18, 2022. PATTERSON – ABSTAIN, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

The correspondence was noted. Janet distributed thank you notes from Commissioner Baker’s class who came to the Forest Preserve for a field trip.

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

President Vincer reported that the City of Byron will be approaching the board to discuss leasing property on which to build a public works facility. Commissioner Breen questioned if the dragstrip property would be suitable if the District purchases it. Russell noted that if the District purchases the dragstrip property, the Restoration/Maintenance Department would be relocated to that area. At that point, the City of Byron could then lease an acre of the current Land Management Center site. Further discussion followed.

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Director Tucker reported on the Byron/Stillman Bike Path Committee progress. He informed the board that he, Chris Remhof, Mayor Typer of Stillman Valley, Ron Steenken of Willett Hofmann, and Larry Hewitt of the City of Byron had meeting to develop a plan to move forward. It was decided to send a couple people to speak to the Behmers about utilizing their property for the path. Brief discussion followed.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-7:36-7:54pm-He noted that he spoke at the Byron Rotary Club meeting recently. He informed the board that Matt Henkel’s father wants to donate a memorial bench to be installed at the Bald Hill Preserve at about the halfway point between the parking lot and the Biggest Tree. He reported that he is assisting Michelle with getting the District’s central filing organized. He noted that the Byron School District has begun to review their intergovernmental agreement with the District. He also noted that he will be presenting a Sick Leave Policy update at next month’s meeting. He informed the board that he will be getting an environmental study completed on the dragstrip property to make sure there aren’t any hazards. The study will cost about $5-6K.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-7:54-8:01pm-She reported that field trips are going well. She stated that preschool and home school classes have ended for the season. She noted that the District participated in the City Nature Challenge and became 67th in the list globally with 140 submissions of photos. She reviewed photos with the board.

Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-8:01-8:18pm-He informed the board that his department has burned about 1000 acres of prairie. He recently taught a Master Naturalist

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class at the Jarrett Prairie Center. His department has begun working on the floor repairs at the Expo Building and they cleaned the stage at Heritage Farm. Commissioner Remhof asked about developing stone crossings in the creeks at the District’s preserves. Russell agreed that they could do that. He reviewed his photos with the board.

Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-8:18-8:28pm-He reported that the Gold Medal Tournament went well. There are 66 junior golfers signed up for the Junior PGA League which is a little more than last year. PrairieView had its first outing of the season. Byron Fire had 136 golfers play and the golf carts held up well. He noted that the new carts are scheduled to be in production on June 1, 2022, so we should have them by the end of June. Twenty-five gas carts have been rented to supplement the fleet until the new carts arrive. The Matt Henkel Memorial Golf Outing is scheduled for July 19th and the proceeds will go to the Wee One Foundation. He informed the board that PrairieFIre was open and serving breakfast during Exelon’s recent outage and it went really well. He noted that along with the offices being relocated, the nook area was painted and the stone wall was installed, and the larger tables have been finished and are now available to larger groups for dining at PrairieFire.

Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-8:28-8:37pm-He introduced his new assistant, Tyler McKay. He stated that his department should be fully staffed by the end of May. He assisted Russell with the Expo floor repair project and installed the Marinelli memorial bench at PrairieView.

President Vincer commended all of the staff on doing an awesome job.

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Director Tucker presented the two bids that were received for the 2022 Asphalt Resurfacing Project. Martin & Company, Oregon, Illinois bid $99,117.25 and William Charles Construction, Rockford, Illinois bid $104,985. Director Tucker noted that it came in under budget. Commissioner Breen asked about the gutter situation at the Expo Building to manage the rain flow on the new pavement. Director Tucker stated that the gutters will be re-installed after the project is finished. Janet asked about re-shaping the area in the Heritage Farm/Expo Building area to allow for more parking. Further discussion followed.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO AWARD THE 2022 ASPHALT RESURFACING PROJECT BID TO MARTIN & COMPANY, OREGON, ILLINOIS IN THE AMOUNT OF $99,117.25. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO ADD TYLER MCKAY TO MIKE BROWN’S DISTRICT CREDIT CARD, TO REMOVE TRENT SNODGRASS FROM MIKE BROWN’S CREDIT CARD, AND TO ADD PATTY RUGGIERO TO CANDACE BIANCHI’S CREDIT CARD. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

BAKER MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO DECLARE THE GAS TANK AT THE GOLF COURSE NEAR THE PAVILION AS SURPLUS PROPERTY TO BE TRADED FOR A PROPANE TANK FOR THE NEW GRILL AT THE PAVILION. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:50PM 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