BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 17, 2023

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

Commissioners absent: none.

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

Guests present: none.

The meeting was called to order at 6 pm.

Director Tucker suggested removing Agenda Item 14A-14C Executive Session.

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

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 20, 2023. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer and the board congratulated Janet Dahlberg on receiving the 2023 Malcolm D. Swan Award for Outstanding Service which is the lifelong service award for long-term, outstanding service and contribution to the field of environmental education in Illinois. He stated that this is a well-deserved award.

The thank you card from the family of Bill Stevenson was noted. Bill worked at the clubhouse for several years.

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President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond, Superintendent of Finance/HR, to present the Financial Reports. Shawn reported that the Golf Fund is doing very well. He noted that there was a $9600 payout on the slot machines. Scott stated that he met with the gaming representative today and discussed placement of the machines. It may be best to keep the machines at PrairieFire since it’s open all year. Discussion followed.

BREEN MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR MARCH 2023. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

President Vincer updated the board on the progress of the City of Byron Public Works project.

Commissioner Remhof stated that he will be touching base with Cade Bushnell in June regarding potential land to expand the bike path.

President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administrative Services Department-6:16-6:39pm-He stated that Sandy Brooks and Jeff Ludwig would be excellent candidates for the new Efficiency Committee that the District has to establish by June 10, 2023. The board agreed. He is working with architects on the landscaping at the clubhouse. Discussion of Weld Park followed. Director Tucker met with Bruce Larson of the Ogle County Board. The Board is discussing what they should do with Weld Park. The board agreed that the District should not purchase the park if offered but will continue to maintain it as needed for the County.

Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-6:39-6:49pm-She reviewed her photos with the board discussing a river watching conference, creek monitoring, and a volunteer who assisted with geocaches.

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Todd Tucker (For Russell Brunner), Restoration/Maintenance Department-6:49-7:04pm-He reviewed the photos with the board. Commissioner Remhof asked about a reforesting plan for oaks. Commissioner Remhof suggested establishing a 5-, 10-, and 20-year plan. Director Tucker explained the correlation between the cycle of rabbits and oak trees. The board agreed that the prairie looks great but maybe we need to think about the woods.

Scott deOliveira/Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-7:04-7:15pm-He stated that the reconfiguration of the clubhouse has gone over well and the golfers like it. We now have to-go deli sandwiches which are going well too. Prairie Grass Pub will be open on April 27th. Concession workers are being cross-trained. Jason reported that the scrambles at PrairieFire are still going really well. We will try to run them when the golf course is open as well. He introduced Nic Barnes, PrairieView’s new PGA golf pro. He has been cleaning up and organizing the pro shop along with training staff and volunteers.

Mike Brown/Tyler McKay, Golf Maintenance Department-7:15-7:26pm-He stated that they are bringing on seasonal staff and should be at full capacity by June. He shared some information on Growing Degree Days that he had from Michigan State University. This information assists with scheduling applications of herbicides and plant growth regulators on the golf course. He reviewed photos with the board. Discussion followed regarding drain tile issues and installation. The City of Byron will assist with this project.

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The board discussed the proposed revised Hiring Policy. Shawn informed them that the District needs to strengthen the Nepotism section of this policy. The proposed revision states that no parent or child of an employee of the District shall be employed by the District.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED REVISION OF 1.4 HIRING POLICY OF THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:30PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Remhof, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

CR/mg