BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

DECEMBER 18, 2023

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

Commissioners absent: Vincer.

Staff present: Brunner, deOliveira, Gerke, McCammond, Tucker, and Wombacher.

Guests present: none.

In the absence of President Vincer, Vice President Patterson presided over the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Director Tucker suggested removing Agenda Items 13A – Jarrett Prairie Center Landscaping/Patio Bid Results, because the bid opening date has changed. He also suggested deleting Agenda Items 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 – ABSENT.

BREEN MOVED AND BAKER SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES, THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, AND THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2023. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – ABSENT.

The correspondence was noted.

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Vice President Patterson opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the Financial Reports. He stated that revenues will be very close to last year’s revenues. Brief discussion followed.

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

There was no President’s Report.

Vice President Patterson opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-6:06-6:23 pm-He informed the board that that the Jarrett Prairie Center landscaping/patio bid opening didn’t happen today because it was going to be too much over budget. He noted that working with Fehr Graham has not been a good experience. Since we weren’t getting the information that we needed for the bid, Todd met with Neil Wills of Wills Concrete to get more information and suggestions for the project. The bottom line was that it’s going to cost a lot more than originally thought. We may need to forego the landscaping to get the patio done and then do the landscaping at another time. The bid opening date has been postponed to January 11, 2024. He informed the board that staff will be meeting with contractors soon to discuss further the options for the clubhouse patio bid project.

Russell Brunner, Restoration / Maintenance Department-6:23-6:39 pm-He reported that Ogle Natural Areas Alliance purchased a 14-acre parcel of land between the District’s Mill Creek Wetland and the Byron Park District’s Johnson Riverfront Park. He reviewed photos with the board.

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Commissioner Remhof asked about planting trees where trees are being removed. Russell stated that they would be planting more oak trees. Some of the trees being removed at the fence line at Bald Hill will be cut into boards to be used for projects in the woodshop. He reported on the seed exchange with local forest preserves and conservation districts. We bring seed and take different seed. He was able to get seed that was not available for purchase this year. He and his crew will be planting seed on December 19th at the Bald Hill Preserve.

Scott deOliveira and Jason Wombacher, Golf Operations-6:39-6:55pm-Rentals at the pavilion are going well. Customers like the having dinner at the pavilion and the entertainment option of PrairieFire after dinner. Scott reported that inventory is being done at the clubhouse. He reviewed the season pass and daily rates for 2024. There are some increases such as Fridays will become the weekend rate. Other top courses in the area also have weekend rates on Fridays. Commissioner Remhof asked about how many passholders “add-on” PrairieFire to their passes. About 20 passholders add PrairieFire to their passes. There have been many holiday parties at PrairieFire, large parties with all of the bays and smaller office-type gatherings. They reported that the scramble events have been going well since it’s become colder outside. The scrambles are held every other Saturday at 9am. After that, people begin booking the bays, so it works out well.

There was no action on the IAPD Director Search agenda item, but the board wants it to stay on the agenda.

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REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 6:57PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF -YES, AND VINCER – ABSENT.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Remhof, Secretary

Board of Commissioners

CR/mg