BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

 Commissioners present: Baker (departed at 6:33pm), Breen, Patterson, Remhof, and Vincer.

 Commissioners absent: none.

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

 Guests present: Kevin Wills, Bernardi Securities.

 The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

 President Vincer stated that Agenda Items 14B and 14C – Executive Session can be removed from the agenda.

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

 President Vincer opened the floor to Kevin Wills of Bernardi Securities, the District’s Bond Counsel, to present this year’s bond sale information. He explained that his firm distributes term sheets to 25-30 banks including local banks. Three bids were received. Byron Bank came in at a 4.75% interest rate, Peoples National Bank in Kewanee came in at 5.17%, and the Bank of Alma in Wisconsin came in at 5.62%. It makes sense to go with Byron Bank since it’s over $14,000 in savings from the highest interest rate (Bank of Alma) to the lowest (Byron Bank). Brief discussion followed.

 REMHOF MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 23-2 PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2023, OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AND FOR THE LEVY OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT

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TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

 BREEN MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2023, AND THE BUDGET WORKSHOP AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – YES, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

 President Vincer opened the floor to Shawn McCammond to discuss the Financial Reports. He stated that he has been getting the budget and bond sale ready. The Golf Fund is doing well and should meet what we did last year.

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

 President Vincer reminded the board of State Conference in January. Brief discussion followed.

 President Vincer opened the floor to District Department Heads to present their Staff Reports. Todd Tucker, Administration Department-6:16-6:39pm-He reported that the PrairieFire Invitational went well again this year. He informed the board that we have been working with the landscape designer from Fehr Graham regarding the Jarrett Prairie Center landscaping project. He noted that we will be scaling back on the initially proposed clubhouse patio plan design. Staff decided it would be best to do the upgrade in phases. Commissioner Breen questioned if we are still thinking about upgrading the clubhouse at some point? President Vincer stated that a clubhouse upgrade will be considered after a

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new ComEd agreement is negotiated. Commissioner Breen expressed concern over “putting the cart before the horse.” Director Tucker noted that the patio could be used during construction. Commissioner Breen questioned if the new patio area would be considered for placement of the new or upgraded clubhouse? Director Tucker stated that the new clubhouse wouldn’t be placed in that area. President Vincer stated that he likes the idea of completing the project in phases.

 Commissioner Baker departed the meeting at 6:33pm.

 Building the new clubhouse and debt limits were discussed. Director Tucker stated that he may try to change the legislation again regarding debt limits. He will talk to Jason Anselment, General Counsel for Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD). Brief discussion followed.

 Janet Dahlberg, Education Department-6:39-6:51pm-She reported that school field trips are done for this year. Homeschool classes have begun and are going well. She reviewed her pictures with the board and commented on the Midwest Environmental Education Conference that she recently attended in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. She reported that even though Illinois doesn’t have any tribal lands, that Native American history is being added to the school curricula. She hopes the District can offer teaching to complement what the schools are teaching.

 Russell Brunner, Restoration/Maintenance Department-6:51-7:08pm-He introduced his new Assistant Superintendent, Scott Kruger. He reviewed his photos with the board. He noted that the photos with green plants still are non-native plants. True native plants should be brown at this time of year. He noted that the driveway at He-Leo has been re-graveled and the potholes repaired.

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 Scott deOliveira, Golf Operations-7:08-7:17pm-He informed the board that the golf course is closed for the season and the pro shop is now open during winter hours. He noted that they had a cross-country golf event at PrairieView with 22 golfers. He reported that weekday traffic is now picking up at PrairieFire since area courses are closing. The PrairieFire Invitational had 32 golfers participate and raised $27,500 in sponsorships with $19,000 going to local charities. They also had 40 spectators including some of the sponsors. He reported that many holiday parties have been booked at the pavilion with dessert and drinks after dinner at PrairieFire.

 Mike Brown, Golf Course Maintenance Department-7:17-7:23pm-He reported that the course is now closed. He reviewed his photos with the board.

 The board discussed the IAPD Director Search Proposal. Discussion followed regarding District vision plans for the candidates and new director.

 REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH IAPD TO SEARCH FOR A NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE DISTRICT. THE COST IS NOT EXCEED $6500. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

 BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION DESIGNATING VINCER AS THE DELEGATE, TUCKER AS THE FIRST ALTERNATE, AND PATTERSON AS THE SECOND ALTERNATE TO THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024 AT 3:30PM AT THE SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS CONFERENCE HELD AT THE HYATT REGENCY HOTEL IN CHICAGO. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

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 PATTERSON MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 23-3, AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES IN 2023 FOR ALL FOREST PRESERVE PURPOSES FOR THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

Shawn McCammond noted that $375,000 for the Clubhouse patio improvements was added to the budget per the last board meeting discussion and agreement.

BREEN MOVED AND PATTERSON SECONDED A MOTION TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 23-4, THE COMBINED BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF THE BYRON FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT, OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2024, AND ENDING ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 2024. BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

REMHOF MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 7:45 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

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COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT TO DETERMINE ITS VALIDITY. HOWEVER, A MEETING TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION TO A SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE OF THE DISTRICT THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WAGE INCREASE TRANSPARENCY ACT MAY NOT BE CLOSED AND SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND POSTED AND HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT. BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, AND VINCER – YES.

BREEN MOVED AND REMHOF SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:12 PM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. PATTERSON – YES, REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

PATTERSON MOVED AND BREEN SECONDED A MOTION AT 8:13 PM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. REMHOF – YES, BAKER – ABSENT, BREEN – YES, PATTERSON – YES, AND VINCER – YES.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Chris Remhof, Secretary

 Board of Commissioners

CR/mg