

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 16, 2021, 6:00 pm
Headquarters, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

Via Zoom meetings (www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 841 0004 0630

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021 via Zoom due to the Illinois Governor’s Executive Order 2020-10. Commissioner Goodman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Hays called the roll. The following Commissioners were in attendance by both audio and video: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins, and Livesay.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS

HR Generalist, Dara Edgington, introduced Rachael Skaggs, representing HRgov. Ms. Skaggs gave a visual presentation of a recent Compensation Study that had been completed for the District by HRgov. Commissioners thanked Ms. Skaggs for their work on the document and taking the time to cover the information with them this evening. Edgington covered the 3 scenarios in the memo that was included in the packet. Commissioner questions to Edgington included: Classification titles change confirmation, District merit increase background, ability to hire with experience, and clarification on the PT Naturalist position. Edgington responded, in regard to merit increases, that the District hasn’t offered in the past. Kerins polled Commissioners on their choice of scenarios. All concurred option 3 was their preferred choice. Edgington noted the committee recommendation would come back to the Board in October. Kerins confirmed a 5-year phase-in with option 3. Edgington noted that was correct. District Finance Director, John Baker, noted they will update figures for budget impact.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on August 19, 2021
- B. Minutes of Special Meetings on July 27, August 11, August 12, August 17, August 18, August 26, and September 2, all in 2021.
- C. Minutes of Executive Session on July 27, August 11, August 12, August 17, August 18, August 19, August 26, and September 2, all in 2021.
- D. Monthly Staff Reports

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Commissioner Livesay reported she had not attended the last meeting, but was given meeting information by FPF President, Will Timmons. Livesay noted at the last meeting; they unveiled the bench honoring FPF member, Bob Espeseth, at the Lake of the Woods Botanical Garden, approved upcoming events including bike month, and sponsorship for the NAWC, discussed a shared with the District part-time social media specialist position, KRT Sleepy Creek fundraising auction, and the October 16th Buffalo Trace donor event.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays noted the group had not met over the past month. Hays reported in regard to outreach, an email had been sent out on the group's interest in participating at the Urbana Farmers Market. Sprinkle noted she had already received a few responses.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Grants
- Projects/Construction
- The new IPRA Forest Preserve group
- Golf play and grounds
- Volunteer foot golf event
- Camper programs at Middle Fork
- USRC mussel survey
- Middle Fork River Clean up
- People's Choice Awards
- IT Committee for cyber work information
- Museum's ball game online program
- District Golf Pro's coaching of the Mahomet Seymour High School team

All commissioners commended staff on the wonderful appearance of all preserves.

Commissioners thanked Wuellner for her past leadership and wished her well on her retirement, and also welcomed the District's new Executive Director, Lorrie Pearson.

Executive Director Report

A. Announcements –Wuellner thanked Edgington and the Compensation Committee for their work on the Compensation Study; and Edgington for her work regarding the recent District Executive Director Search. Wuellner also noted District volunteers, Sandy Lu and Fred Newport, will be honored at an upcoming Volunteer Gala Event in the community, and expressed thanks to Museum staff for their work on the recent Prairie Stories event at the Museum. Wuellner also welcomed the new District Executive Director, Lorrie Pearson, noting her wish for Pearson's success.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Herakovich moved to approve the payment of \$170,688.98 in disbursements dated August 20, 2021 through September 16, 2021. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. Treasurers Report - August

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the August 2021 Treasurer’s report. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2021-13 Financial Signatories

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve Resolution 2021-13 Financial Signatories, to authorize commissioners and specific staff to handle District financial transactions and investments. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. 2020-2021 Transfers

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board authorize \$9,338 in fund transfers as described in packet information. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

E. DCEO Tourism Attractions & Festivals Grant

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board authorize an application for a Tourism Attractions & Festival Grant, administered through the Illinois department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), in the amount of \$335,500. Commissioner Herakovich seconded. Commissioners asked if this was a new grant being offered. District Planning Coordinator, Bridgette Moen, noted it was a new grant that became available for application. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

F. USFWS Wetland Project

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board authorize the CCFPD Deputy Director for Planning and Development to execute the Landowner Agreement for habitat improvements at Middle Fork River Forest Preserve as a sub-recipient of the cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF). Commissioner Hays seconded. Daab gave a review of the information that was supplied in the Board packet, noting the agencies had approached the District for this joint project. Commissioners thanked Daab for his work

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making the connections for such work to be done. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hays moved to Executive Session at 7:22 pm 2(c)21 discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed and the Regular Meeting opened at 7:25 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

G. Release of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Livesay moved that the Board conducted the required semi-annual review of the unreleased minutes of past executive sessions and concluded that the need for confidentiality still exists for all unreleased minutes and portions of minutes, except for the following which will be released and made available for public inspection at the time:

February 18, 2021 (except ¶ 1 under 2 (c)5), March 18, 2021, April 15, 2021 (except ¶ 1), and May 20, 2021 (except for ¶ 1). Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

H. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Executive Session Minutes

Commissioner Livesay moved that the Board concluded it is appropriate and therefore authorized the destruction of existing recordings of executive sessions held on or before February 19, 2020. Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hays made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:28 pm. Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Andrew Kerins, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District