

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 15, 2021, 6:00 pm
Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, Illinois. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Commissioner Hays called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Hays, Kerins, and Livesay. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice. Bill Goodman was present, but as the County Board had not yet met to confirm his reappointment, Goodman was included in discussions, but did not vote on agenda items.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 17, 2021
- B. Monthly Staff Reports

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

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Commissioner Livesay reported the full group did not meet in July. However, the fundraising committee met to discuss proposals from consultants to assist with fundraising for a new nature center.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays also noted the group had not met since last month’s joint board meeting, but the Hazen Bridge subcommittee would be meeting the first part of August at the site.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Staff work to incorporate board comments into revised kayak rental contracts
- Grounds appearance at Middle Fork
- Election (referendum) data provided by the planning staff
- Work on a grant designed to expand the diversity of and outreach to volunteers
- Golf course youth programming
- New District roofing projects as promised during referendum campaigning

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- Media coverage
- Grant work underway

Commissioner Hays noted his appreciation that the Riverview Retreat Center would be used for an upcoming volunteer appreciation event, and also noted upcoming events for the USRC and the Illinois Paddling Council.

All Commissioners briefly discussed the election data that was included with the staff reports, noting that the mapped data was helpful and should be used by the District to inform future outreach efforts.

Executive Director Report

A. Announcements – Executive Director Wuellner thanked planning staff for their work on the election data, and also gave an overview of what the fundraising consultant would bring to the process to fund a new nature center. Goodman asked if current donors would be contacted, or if new donors would be found. Wuellner responded that current donors would be approached first but that both consultants had stated that new donors would be needed to reach the goal. Goodman stated that he would not be opposed to the use of District funds for the project and that he expected the center would need to be funded from many different revenue sources. Livesay stated she would like the Education staff to outline and specify exactly their needs for the building space. Livesay also noted she would like staff to put a memo together with a summary of needs and proposed project timelines.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Hays moved to approve the payment of \$303,465.24 in disbursements dated June 18, 2021 through July 15, 2021. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. Treasurers Report - June

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve the June 2021 Treasurer’s report. Commissioner Hays seconded. Finance Director, John Baker, noted highlights of the report including; COVID trends, revenue surplus, property tax receipts, golf, pavilions and camping revenue, and education programs. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2021-08, License Agreement with Kingfisher Kayaking, Inc.

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve Resolution 2021-08 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the license agreement with Kingfisher Kayaking, Inc. regarding kayak and

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canoe excursions. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners thanked staff for their work on the contract. Livesay noted the word tubing would need to be removed prior to the contract being executed. Commissioners asked if Kingfisher had reached an agreement with a private property owner to use their land for take-out. At this time, the representative from Kingfisher Kayaking noted that an agreement was still pending, and thus they will not be using the Salt Fork River until a take-out location has been established and an agreement given to District staff. Commissioner Hays noted thanks to Kingfisher Kayaking for helping get people on the rivers in the District. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Resolution 2021-09, License Agreement with Lunatic Kayak Rental, LLC

Commissioner Hays moved the Board approve Resolution 2021-09 authorizing the Executive Director to execute the license agreement with Lunatic Kayak Rental, LLC regarding the operation of a kayak and canoe rental concession on Homer Lake. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners confirmed that boats would not be stored on our property, paddle boards would not be included in the rentals, and that boats would be labeled with the business name. Livesay also asked Lunatic Kayaking representatives to make sure clients do not trespass on private property. Lunatic Kayak stated they would notify clients of that, and also to make sure they stay away from the spillway/dam area. Hays noted he would like to see ACA (American Canoe Association) certification at some point for canoeing and kayak safety. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

E. Homer TIF Extension

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board support extending the Homer Tax Increment Financing District through the 2035 tax year. Commissioner Hays seconded. Commissioners thanked Baker for his follow up info on the memo in the packet. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

F. Audit Contract Renewal

Commissioner Hays moved the Board renew the District audit contract with CliftonLarsonAllen, LP for the 2021 to 2022 audit years. Kerins noted he appreciated the three-year contract with an option to extend for two additional years as it provides continuity in auditing. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Hays moved to Executive Session at 6:57 pm under 2(c)1: The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity, and 2(c)5: The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be

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acquired. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Executive Session was closed at 8:09 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

G. Resolution 2021-10, IDNR Habitat Grant Applications: Salt Fork Land Acquisition

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve Resolution 2021-10, authorizing the application for a Special Wildlife Funds Habitat Fund grant administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for funding to be used toward the purchase of property in the Salt Fork River watershed west of St. Joseph, IL. Commissioner Hays seconded. Livesay asked if an appraisal would be needed. Staff noted an appraisal was not required for the grant. Commissioners also asked staff for timeline, reimbursement and a closing timeline. Staff noted it would be a two-year timeline for grant completion, and that funds could be made available at closing. More information about the exact timeline will be dependent upon negotiations with the seller. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

H. Executive Director Recruitment

Dara Edgington, HR Generalist, gave an update on information received from IAPD regarding the Executive Director recruitment, and Edgington also asked commissioners their preference on the interview timeline. It was agreed that ½ day in-person sessions would be preferred rather than conducting interviews via Zoom. It was also noted Roger Digges from the CAC and Will Timmons from the FPPF agreed to be involved with the interview process as needed. Edgington also noted that the July 27 special meeting was confirmed for IAPD to provide initial feedback on candidates.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Livesay made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:22 pm. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

Scott Hays, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District