

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 14, 2023, 6:00 pm,**  
**Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie,**  
**Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois**

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 2023, at Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois. Commissioner Kerins called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Knott called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Kerins and Knott. Commissioner Herakovich and Hundley were absent with notice.

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE** – Commissioner Herakovich attended via remote, but it was noted she would not be able to vote, or attend Executive Session, as her absence was not due to an authorized exemption under the Open Meetings Act. Also attending via remote was Carron Johnson.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Sarah Livesay spoke regarding the Nature Center information included in the staff reports. Livesay stated she felt having two separate facilities within Homer Lake is not the best plan, as other entities that have tried such facilities spacing have not had favorable outcomes. Livesay asked the Board and District to revisit having one larger facility.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** – None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on December 14, 2023**
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on December 14, 2023**
- C. Monthly Staff Reports**
- D. Disbursements for Approval**
- E. November Treasurers Report**
- F. 2024 Board Meeting Schedule**
- G. Commissioners Travel for 2024 IPRA/IAPD Conference**
- H. Financial Signatories**

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

**FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION**

Pearson noted the group recently met and discussion included the 2024 meeting schedule with a new meeting time of 4 pm, year-end giving campaign and the Three Rivers Society.

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

It was noted the outreach season is over, and staff will be reviewing by-laws.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioners noted positive things about the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Staff work on the 2024 Budget

- Night Lights
- Museum visitation numbers
- KRT media coverage
- Golf Course grounds appearance and annual rounds numbers
- 2024 Preserves Calendar

Commissioners also commended staff on staff reports.

Commissioner Knott noted recently a Boy Scout Troop 40 commemorated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and had opened a time capsule that was placed at Homer Lake in 1981. In the capsule were things from his troop when he was a Boy Scout. Knott noted the influence the Preserves gave to him at an early age, and continue to influence all ages that visit!

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Executive Director Announcements** – Pearson reported the Foundation had supported the 2023 Season Night Lights electric improvements, and the Preserves had recently received notice of award of the Lake of the Woods Spillway grant funds.

#### **B. Nature Center Update**

Museum and Education Director, Kamryn Suttinger, gave an overview of the document that was included in the packet. Commissioners thanked Suttinger for the information. Kerins noted he wasn't in favor of two separate facilities, that he feels the old facility should be demolished and a new larger facility be built where staff can also be housed. Goodman stated action needs to be made in the very near future on the facility. Commissioners confirmed possible Foundation assistance, and bonding initiatives. Commissioners asked staff to provide more information at a future meeting.

#### **C. Kickapoo Rail Trail IGA Update**

Moen gave an overview of the information provided in the packet, noting no action is needed at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Approve Intergovernmental Agreement between IDNR & CCFPD**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve an amendment to extend for 5-years, to December 31, 2028, the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) for contractual arrangements specific to habitat restoration and conservation along the Salt Fork in the Vermilion River watershed. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Daab gave an overview of information included in the packet. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

#### **B. Approve Resolution 2023-21 Bike Path Grant**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve Resolution 2023-21, approving the agreement for the Bicycle Path Program (Bike Path) grant, administered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Commissioner Goodman seconded. Commissioners noted the

material included in the packet were very helpful. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**C. Approved Resolution 2023-29/30/31 Rental Facility and Boat Fees**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2023-29: 2024-2025 Pavilion and Other Rental Fees; Resolution 2023-30: Camping Fees; and Resolution 2023-31: Golf Fees. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**D. Approve Resolutions 2023-23/24/25 Vacation Leave/Attendance/Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA) Leave Policies**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2023-23 – Personnel Policy 3-2- Vacation Leave, Resolution 2023-24- Personnel Policy 6-3: Attendance, and Resolution 2023-25- Personnel Policy 3-11: Paid Leave for All Workers Act (PLAWA) Leave. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”:  
Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**E. Approve Resolution 2023-27 2024 Working Management Plan & Budget**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2023-27 2024 Working Management Plan and Budget as noted with said modification. Commissioner Knott seconded. Pearson, Daab and Glynn gave an overview of the information provided in the packet. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**F. Approve Ordinance 2023-03 Appropriation Transfers**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve Ordinance 2023-03 for Appropriation Transfers. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**G. Approve Resolution 2023-28 Capital Transfer and Commitments**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Resolution 2023-28 to transfer \$142,378 from the Improvements and Developments (Construction) Fund to the Capital Projects Fund. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:58 pm, Commissioner Knott moved to adjourn to Executive Session, a Closed session for “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 acquired,” as authorized by 5 ILSC 120/2(c)(5).

. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

Commissioners Knott moved to adjourn back to regular session at 7:12 pm. Goodman seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**H. Approve Memorandum of Purchase of Property at 2060B County Road 125E, Mahomet and Waiver of Conflict of Interest**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve a memorandum of purchase for property and a conflict of interest waiver regarding legal representation for potential acquisition of said property. Commissioner Goodman seconded A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Knott made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:13 pm. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Kerins and Knott.

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Wendy Hundley, Secretary  
Board of Commissioners  
Champaign County Forest Preserve District