

Journal of Proceedings
SPECIAL MEETING – JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 16, 2023, 6:00 pm

Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green Street, Champaign, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Special Meeting as a Joint Meeting with the Citizens Advisory Committee on Thursday, March 16, 2023. Commissioner Goodman called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Livesay called the roll. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Livesay. Herakovich was absent with notice. CAC members in attendance: Nancy Elliot, Fred Bunting, and Fred Newport. Also in attendance was prospective new committee candidate Madison Story.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

DIRECTION FOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

Pearson gave an overview of information shared at the last Board of Commissioners meeting in regard to the direction of the committee, including outreach, sharing information on the District’s 75th anniversary, training and District talking points. Commissioners agreed, noting DEI training, and having talking points prepared by staff will allow like messaging going to the public. In regard to meeting times, all agreed that to encourage engagement, they should hold meetings a set number of times annually. It was also noted the current number of seats on the committee is 12, which is up from 8 seats in 2018, as trying to cover outreach assignments, more were needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins moved to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:14 pm. Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Herakovich, Hundley, Kerins, and Livesay. The following CAC members voted “yes”: Elliot, Bunting, and Newport.

Sarah Livesay, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 16, 2023, 6:00 pm, Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green Street,
Champaign, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at the Champaign Public Library, 200 W. Green Street, Champaign IL. Commissioner Goodman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Livesay called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins, and Livesay. Herakovich was absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS - None

PRESENTATION – **Nature Center Feasibility Study Information**

Bridgette Moen, District Planner, gave a visual presentation reviewing information on the Nature Center Feasibility Study. Moen gave the history of the concept designs, and noted since the last time staff had brought information to the Board, staff have recently been able to collaborate with staff on what the current needs are for the facility in regard to staff and programming needs. Moen asked the Board for direction going forward.

Commissioners thanked Moen and other contributing staff for their work on the excellent presentation, noting the information provided is very helpful. Commissioners confirmed granting and funding options. Staff reported most grants require completion within 2 years of accepting the grant, thus, funding sources would be needed prior. Kerins stated he appreciated the cost-effective rework of the design that staff has been able to provide. Livesay also noted appreciation, stating the current design is a good compromise. Livesay also advised the FPPF is behind the fundraising for a facility, and now that the covered bridge roofing and the KRT fundraising has come to an end, they are ready. Livesay also stated with the new Three Rivers Society, this is a great time to show funding needs. Hundley suggested branding and messaging be prepared for outreach. Youth Programs Manager, Stacey Clementz, noted thanks for education staff being asked to be involved in the process.

Commissioners again thanked staff for their work, and those present, agreed with staff's recommendation on a 6,000 sq. ft facility plan.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Special Meeting on February 16, 2023**
- B. Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 16, 2023**
- C. Monthly Staff Reports**
- D. February Treasurers Report**
- E. Disbursements for Approval**

Regular Meeting

March 16, 2023

Page 2 of 4

F. Resolution 2023-04 Surplus Goods

G. Purchase of Vehicle – Middle Fork

H. Purchase of Vehicle – Lake of the Woods

I. Golf Course Irrigation Head Replacement

Commissioner Livesay made a motion to approve the consent agenda, noting the Treasures Report was a Board memo this month. Commissioner Kerins seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins, and Livesay.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Livesay noted the group recently met and Commissioner Goodman also attended. Livesay reported FPF President, Will Timmons, was grateful for Goodman’s attendance. Livesay stated the group welcomed a new member, are a quarter to their fundraising goal for the Dark Sky grant match, and will be holding an event on April 8th for the Three River Society members. They also spoke about Botanical Gardens Green House project, endowment goals, and had officer appointments. Goodman noted the amount of engagement within the group is great.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Manager, advised at the last meeting the group discussed proposed changes to the committee work, and all were very supportive.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Spring egg event
- Staff active shooter training
- Irrigation head replacement
- Nature Center report
- Feasibility Study Information
- UIUC Design for America Team ADA project
- E-Vehicle purchases
- 75th Anniversary work
- Early golf season start
- Volunteer work
- Compensation Package document work

Commissioners noted thanks to all staff for the appearance of all preserves.

Hundley thanked CAC members present for their work, and for attending the meeting.

Regular Meeting

March 16, 2023

Page 3 of 4

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director Announcements – Pearson noted thanks to Goodman, Hundley and Daab for attending the recent Legislative Breakfast on behalf of the District. Pearson also noted Willow Pond, with recent rains, is filling up and looking good, the annual Spring Egg Event will be starting soon, and the Museum and Education Director recruitment is going well.

B. 2023 compensation Update: Ongoing Equity Analysis & Adjustments – Pearson noted updates included in the packet information.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Position Revisions/New Part-time Position

Pearson gave an overview of the information that was supplied in the packet. Finance Director, John Baker, noted a slight change to annualized impact numbers due to IMRF calculations used. Livesay asked for clarification on the new Public Program Specialist in regard to the MF Activity Coordinator position. Staff noted the position would be a year-round position, and would fall under the Museum and Education Department.

B. Freedom Fest Update

Pearson gave an overview of the documents that were included in the packet, and noted since the report was written, 2 additional sponsorships had been received, additional food trucks had been added, but they have only been able to add one person to the committee. After actively searching and requesting assistance, funds are still under the needed amount to break even. Pearson stated no action is needed at this time, but a decision will need to be made next month whether this will be the last Freedom Fest event. Livesay suggested large businesses that we do business with should be contacted for sponsorship, and noted the Grants and Development Officer should look into such options. Livesay and Hundley also suggested checks be requested to go through the FFFF, not the District as suggested on the sponsorship information shown.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:09 pm, Commissioner Kerins moved to adjourn to Executive Session for 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, 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 acquired,” as authorized by 5 ILSC 120. Commissioner Hundley seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins, and Livesay.

Commissioners Livesay moved to adjourn back to regular session at 8:06 pm. Hundley seconded. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

Regular Meeting

March 16, 2023

Page 4 of 4

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Herakovich made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:08 pm. Hundley seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins, and Livesay.

Sarah Livesay, Secretary
Board of Commissioners
Champaign County Forest Preserve District