

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 18, 2024 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, January 18, 2024, 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 6:02 p.m. Commissioner Knott called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Kerins and Knott. Commissioner Hundley arrived at 6:05 pm. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice.

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Brian of Mahomet shared his desire for snowboarding space with snowmaking equipment at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. Commissioners thanked Brian for attending the meeting.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** – None

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT** - It was noted Commissioner Goodman would be serving as Board Liaison to the FPF Committee effective immediately.

**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, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**FOREST PRESERVE FRIENDS FOUNDATION**

Pearson noted the group recently met and discussion included the 2023 Years End review: noting \$25,000 more in donations than the previous year, selection of officers and committees.

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - None

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

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

- Staff for their work on grounds and trails
- Elks Lake Pavilion renovations
- Night Lights

- Golf simulator play
- New website
- Teaming with other public entities on programming
- Carbon capture study being conducted

Commissioners also commended Golf Professional, David Sebestik, for being named High School All-Area Boys Golf Coach of the year.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Executive Director Announcements** – Pearson reported Night Lights had very high visitation this year. Pearson thanked Lake of the Woods Garden and Operations staff for their work setting it up, volunteers for manning the event, and museum & education for providing programming events during the event.

Pearson welcomed new finance staff; Brock Martin, Business & Finance Director, and Jessica Howard, Assistant Business & Finance Director, and also noted new Preserve full-time staff: Jessica Smith, Collections Coordinator, and Josh Schneman, Maintenance Worker II at Lake of the Woods.

Pearson also reported she and other Preserve staff will be attending the 2024 IPRA/IAPD Soaring to New Heights Conference, and also advised the Lake of the Woods Poster that had been designed with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary art work had recently been updated with the 75<sup>th</sup> info removed.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution 2024-02 Final 2024 Management Plan and Budget**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve resolutions 2024-02 Final 2024 Management Plan and Budget. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Pearson reported this document has the program budgeted dollars shown. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**B. Ordinance 2023-02 Annual Budget and Appropriation**

Commissioner Goodman moved the Board approve Ordinance 2023-02:2024 Annual Budget & Appropriation. Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**C. Approve KRT Intergovernmental Agreement w/CCFD/VCCD & UPD for DCEO Funds**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board approve the Kickapoo Rail Trail Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**D. Approve Proposal for Owners Representative Service for KRT with CORE Construction Services of Illinois, Inc.**

Commissioner Hundley moved the Board approve the proposal for the Owners Representative Services at the Kickapoo Rail Trail from CORE Construction Services of Illinois, Inc. for Two Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand and 00/100 (\$224,000.00) and authorize the Executive Director to execute the contract, pending legal review. Commissioner Knott seconded. Preserve Planner, Bridgette Moen, gave an overview of the document included in the packet. Commissioners confirmed the company has done this type of work, especially with the railroad. Moen reported they have, and that was one of the reasons they feel very secure with going with them. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**DISCUSSION** – Amber Johnson, contracted by the CCFPD at the October 2023 Board meeting to Work with staff on Core Values for the Preserves, was in attendance to work with the Commissioners on a Values Focus Group study and collect their feedback. Ms. Johnson stated she had been working with Preserve staff, some volunteers, and committee members to collect feedback, and now wanted to get feedback and comments from the Board. A short discussion took place.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:04 pm, Commissioner Goodman moved to adjourn to A closed session for “The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body,” as authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). Commissioner Knott seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

At 7:25 pm Commissioner Knott moved to adjourn from closed session and to go back to the regular session. Seconded by Commissioner Hundley and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Pearson noted a Special Meeting in the first week of February would be needed for a Bond Ordinance. All in attendance noted the 5<sup>th</sup> of February would work with their schedules.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Knott made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:29 pm. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

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