

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 19, 2022, 6:00 pm
Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at the Golf Course Clubhouse, Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet IL. Commissioner Goodman called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hays and Kerins. Commissioners Herakovich and Livesay were absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mary Ellen Wuellner of Urbana congratulated Brian Taylor on his upcoming retirement, and thanked the Board, District and Sustainability Committee for the recently passed Climate Commitment Resolution.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – None

PRESENTATION

A. 2020 Referendum Study Report

Commissioner Kerins gave an overview of the project, noting this material will be presented at the 2022 NRPA Conference. Kerins also introduced the research team members including: Dr. Sharon Suiwen Zou, Dr. Nick Pitas, Dr. Andrew Kerins, Mary Ellen Wuellner and Izabelle Jaquet. Dr. Zou gave a visual presentation explaining the project and the work that was done prior to the referendum, and the data that was used, and noting special thanks to District staff, Board, volunteers, Yes to Forest Campaign and resident participants.

Commissioners thanked the team for their work on the project, noting the information collected will be useful not only for the Districts historical records, but for other entities to use for their referendum preparations.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 21, 2022

B. Monthly Staff Reports

C. April Treasurers Report

D. Disbursements for Approval

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items A – D as noted on the agenda). Commissioner Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays and Kerins. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Executive Director, Lorrie Pearson, reported the committee recently met and discussion included: Creating donor levels and recruitment of 2 new committee members.

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B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Hays reported at the last meeting there wasn't a quorum present, but they were able to meet and discussion included: outreach, the Tomlinson cemetery committee work, Hazen Bridge committee noted possible granting opportunities, and the creation of a nominating committee for member recruitment. Hays also announced to them he wouldn't be seeking a second term, and a discussion took place on how a resident could apply for CCFPD Board appointment.

C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Outreach
- Volunteer garlic mustard removal work
- Prescribed burns
- Golf numbers
- Willow Pond work
- Water fountain/bottle fillers at Lake of the Woods Sangamon River kayak launch
- Donor tree planting
- New Lake of the Woods entrance signs
- Upcoming Museum exhibit opening
- After school golf program
- Volunteer info shared

Commissioners offered congratulations to Brian Taylor on his upcoming retirement.

Hays, speaking on behalf of the Upper Sangamon River Conservancy, thanked the District for the use of Izaak Walton Cabin and the Lake of the Woods kayak boat launch, noting they were able to get many people out to safely enjoy the river.

Commissioners also commended staff on the work of all District staff as noted in the staff reports.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director Announcements – Pearson noted the upcoming Museum of the Grand Prairie exhibit, A History of Healing. Pearson also welcomed Rusty Maulding, new Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve Site Superintendent, to his first official Board meeting. Maulding noted thanks to all staff for warm reception he has received. Lastly, Pearson noted congratulations to Brian Taylor for his upcoming retirement, noting as though she's only been at the District at short time, she has heard from those that know him, that he has put his heart in soul into his work at Homer Lake.

OLD BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Reject All Bids for Concrete (Materials and Installation) at Lake of the Woods

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board reject all bids for Concrete (materials and installation) at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. Commissioner Hays seconded. District Planner, Bridgette Moen, stated the work is not critical at this time, and with fuel cost and companies being busy, that they are hoping to bid again later in the fall or early spring and hopefully for lower cost. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays and Kerins. Motion carried.

B. Resolution 2022-11 Honoring Brian Taylor

Commissioner Hays moved approval of Resolution 2022-11 Honoring Brian Taylor. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Kerins read the resolution out loud. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays and Kerins. Motion carried.

Commissioner Goodman read a write up that Commissioner Livesay, who was unable to attend the meeting, noting thanks to Taylor for his leadership and mentorship when she first started working as a staff member at the District.

Staff presented Taylor with a tribute to his 31+ years of service and his retirement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:00 pm. Hays seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hays and Kerins. Motion carried.

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