

Journal of Proceedings
REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 21, 2022, 6:00 pm
Education Classroom, Museum of the Grand Prairie,
Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve, Mahomet, Illinois

Via Zoom meetings (www.zoom.us)
Meeting ID: 841 0004 0630

The Champaign County Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners met at a Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022 via Zoom due to the Illinois Governor’s Executive Order 2020-10. Commissioner Hays assumed the role of President and called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Kerins called the roll. The following Commissioners were in attendance by both audio and video: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins, and Livesay. Commissioner Goodman was absent with notice.

REMOTE ATTENDANCE – All commissioners were remote via Zoom.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Commissioner Hays read the following public comment that had been submitted via email to the Board from Gregory Walburg.

I advocated that the CCFPD establish a policy to govern climate change actions. I think this is a necessary, proportionate response to the threat posed by our changing climate. Last week another report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emphasized the need to urgently reduce global carbon emissions. There is considerable agreement on the need to reduce carbon emissions to near zero by 2050 to reach a stable climate. President Biden has set a goal of reducing US carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. Despite all warnings, carbon emissions worldwide are currently increasing. We all need to do more to reduce emissions.

I suggest that establishing a policy is the most effective way for the district to address climate change. A formal district-wide policy will serve to inform all of the serious intent of the CCFPD to act on climate change and will help to engage everyone in climate change actions. The second, perhaps more important outcome, is that the emphasis resulting from raising climate change action to the level of a policy will also drive budget decisions. Establishing carbon reduction, and more broadly, climate change action, as a budget priority would allow for investment in technologies that can substantially reduce carbon emissions, such as installing solar arrays and replacing gas-fueled HVAC equipment with geothermal units.

As an entity dedicated to preservation, it seems to me that the CCFPD ought to make preserving a stable climate for future generations a high priority. I think there will be substantial agreement among stakeholders with a robust response of this kind.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONE RECOGNITION HR Manager, Dara Edgington, recognized Jacob Pruiett and Lisa Sprinkle on their 10-year milestone employees with a visual presentation: Mike Daab noted thanks to Jacob for his work with Natural Resources and Middle Fork. Lorrie Pearson noted thanks to Lisa Sprinkle for her work and help with District knowledge. Commissioners congratulated Jacob and Lisa on their milestones, and thanked them for their service.

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AGENDA MODIFICATIONS – Pearson asked Item D. **Resolution 2022-09 District Voluntary Affirmative Action Plan** under New Business be removed from the agenda. Hays noted removal of the item from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of Regular Meeting on March 17, 2022**
- B. Minutes of Executive Session on March 17, 2022**
- C. Monthly Staff Reports**
- D. March Treasurers Report**
- E. Disbursements for Approval**
- F. Fuel Supply and Delivery**

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to approve the consent agenda (Items A – I as noted on the agenda). Commissioner Livesay seconded. Kerins amended the motion, as the agenda noted items A – I, and it should be items A – F). Commissioner Livesay seconded the amended motion. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Forest Preserve Friends Foundation

Will Timmons, FPF president, was in attendance and gave a review of the group’s activities in 2021 and goals for 2022. 2021 highlights included: meeting with District Boards, including CAC and CCFPD, funding for the architecture design work for the proposed Homer Lake Interpretive Center, roofing of the Lake of the Woods Covered Bridge, accessible boat launch at Lake of the Woods, donor events, tree donor program, KRT work, increased new donors and individual gifts. Timmons also noted Meredith Mills was left the committee due to other commitments and Bob Espeseth had retired with over 40 years of dedicated service with the District, thus the Committee is currently looking for 2 new members. 2022 goals include: Legacy gifting, donor giving special events, Botanical Garden greenhouse granting project. Commissioners commended the committee for their work and noted the legacy gifts is a great idea. Commissioner Livesay thanked Timmons for his work with the group, and for his passion.

B. Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Hays noted the group had not met, but outreach work is gearing up with the creation of a schedule events calendar, which the members are very excited about, as they finally get to get back out and to do outreach. Hays also noted Greg Walburg was leaving the group, so a nomination committee was being formed to look for new members and the Hazen Bridge subcommittee had met.

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C. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners cited the following items from staff reports and observations:

- Spring eggs
- Botanical Garden flowers
- Prescribed burns
- Policy updates
- Golf numbers
- District staff continuing education efforts
- Volunteer cleanup events
- Golf Course Audubon Certification
- Willow Pond
- KRT Ribbon Cutting Event

Commissioner Hays also reported he would be leaving the CCFPD Board at the end of his 5-year appointment in June. Hays noted thanks to all Commissioners and staff, and stated he has thoroughly enjoyed his time on the Board, and is excited he was part of the Board acquiring the Hazen Bridge. Commissioners thanked Hays for his work on the Board, including his ability to first listen to discussions and then make decisions based on the facts he heard.

Livesay and Kerins noted they would like updates on the status on Disc Golf course discussions staff has had with local Disc Golf enthusiast, and if there was a timeline. Daab noted there was no decision made, and funds would be needed by the entity prior to proceeding, so it would be at least a 2 to 3-year timeline, and they are currently in an exploring phase with the group. Daab noted he would keep the Board advised.

In regard to the District Sustainability Committee, all Commissioners present agreed a Board member should work as a Liaison with the group, as District sustainability efforts, as noted with the resolution included on this agenda, should have Board involvement.

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

STAFF REPORTS

A. Executive Director Announcements – Pearson thanked Commissioner Hays for his work on the Board. Pearson also introduced Rusty Maulding, the new Site Superintendent at Lake of the Woods who will be starting on April 27th, noted staff are working on Strategic Planning goals, and thanked District Volunteers for their work during Volunteer Appreciation Week, and lastly noted the upcoming International Dark Sky week.

B. 1st Quarter Phishing Security Testing – Commissioners thanked staff for the update.

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C. KRT Phase 2C Ogden Construction Update – Commissioner thanked staff for the material.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2022-08 CCFPD Environmental Sustainability Efforts – Climate Commitment

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve Resolution 2022-08 to ratify the Champaign County Forest Preserve District’s environmental sustainability efforts presented as a Climate Commitment. Commissioner Livesay seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

B. Headquarters Basement Renovation Project

Commissioner Kerins moved the Board approve an additional \$77,680 in needed funding for the Headquarters Basement Renovation project. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Commissioners asked staff how many offices the basement space would include. Daab noted it would be a 5-desk space. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

C. Resolution 2022-10 Debt and Capital Assets Policy: Revisions to Financial Policies

Commissioner Livesay moved the Board approve Resolution 2022-10 approving a Debt and Capital Assets Policy. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Finance Director, John Baker, gave an overview of the document included in the packet. Kerins commended the addition of sustainability in purchasing requirements. Livesay confirmed staff also review other local like policies. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Job Descriptions for New Full-Time Positions

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the attached job descriptions. Commissioner Livesay seconded. Edgington gave an overview of the current policy regarding job description review by the Board. Livesay and Kerins both felt if the position was approved in the budget, that bringing the description for approval was not needed in the future. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

E. Approval of New Grade 11: Updates to 2022 Classification & Compensation Tables

Commissioner Herakovich moved the Board approve the addition of one grade to the current compensation tables. Commissioner Kerins seconded. Dara Edgington, HR Manager, gave an overview of the memo included in the Board packet. Commissioners confirmed other grades will also be reviewed over time. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kerins made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:18 pm. Herakovich seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Hays, Herakovich, Kerins and Livesay. Motion carried.

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