

**Journal of Proceedings**  
**REGULAR MEETING – BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 15, 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, February 15, 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 6:14 p.m. Commissioner Hundley called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott. Commissioner Herakovich was absent with notice.

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS** – Executive Director Pearson asked item D. Disbursements for Approval be pulled from the Consent Agenda and moved to New Business after item D.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **Minutes of Regular Meeting on January 18, 2024**
- B. **Minutes of Executive Session on January 18, 2024**
- C. **Monthly Staff Reports**
- E. **January Treasurers Report**
- F. **Approval of Quote for Golf Course Landscaping Services**

Commissioner Knott made a motion to approve the consent agenda, with noted change. Commissioner Goodman 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 approval of a new logo for the Stable Roots Endowment.

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** – Lisa Sprinkle, Marketing Manager, reported staff are currently reviewing by-laws, and are also working with Sue Gallo, Volunteer Coordinator, to get outreach dates set for the season. Sprinkle also noted two CAC members are still active and involved with outreach.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

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

- updated website
- golf simulator numbers
- museum artifacts moved from SRFP
- Carron Johnson for her financial assistance

Commissioner Knott also noted how the preserves attract wildlife and how serene it was while recently visiting Middle Fork. Commissioners thanked staff for the work they do daily to make the preserves so enjoyable for all.

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 announced a tree planting in memory of Senator Bennett, staff are working on setting Preserve hours to all be the same using dusk hours for closing, noted the Efficiency Committee has just met, and staff are working on finalizing core values and will begin work on the Strategic Plan process.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance 2024-01: Ordinance Providing for the issue of not to exceed \$272,321 Taxable General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds, Series 2024, for the purpose of developing forest preserve lands in and for the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the Corporate Fund of the District.** – Commissioner Goodman moved approval. Commissioner Knott seconded. Commissioner Hundley confirmed the interest and term of the bonding. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**B. Rejection of Bids for Discovery Garden Greenhouse**  
Commissioner Knott moved the Board reject the bids and bid alternates for the Discovery Garden Greenhouse Construction at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve. Commissioner Hundley seconded. Planning Director, Bridgette Moen, gave a review of the information included in the packet, noting they are working with vendors for a prefab greenhouse instead of a built one to lower cost and will be rebidding soon. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**C. Rejection of Bids for Lake of the Woods Golf Course Irrigation Wiring Replacement**  
Commissioner Goodman moved the Board reject all bids for Irrigation Wiring replacement (Material and Labor) at Lake of the Woods Golf Course. Commissioner Knott seconded. Moen noted after bids were received, the need to clarify procedure was needed, and it will be rebid. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**D. Rejection of Bid for the Homer Lake Invasive Removal Project**  
Commissioner Hundley moved the Board reject the bid and bid alternates for the Homer Lake Invasive control Project. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Natural Resources Director, Peter Goodspeed, gave an overview of the document that was included in that Board packet, and noted the project is already bid out. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**E. Disbursements for Approval**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board to approve the payment of \$278,043.77 in accounts payable disbursements dated January 19, 2024 through February 8, 2024. Commissioner Goodman seconded. Director of Business & Finance, Brock Martin, noted a P-Card correction in the document that was earlier submitted. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:43 pm, Commissioner Knott moved to go into closed session for “The discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes” as mandated by Section 2.06 and authorized by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) and 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) and “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 ILCS 120/2(c)(5). Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

At 7:57 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**F. Release of Executive Session Minutes**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board to conduct the required semi-annual review of the unreleased minutes of past executive sessions and concluded that the need for confidentiality still exists for all unreleased minutes and portions of minutes, except for the following which will be released and made available for public inspection at this time: August 17, 2023 (except ¶ 1 under 2 (C)(5)), October 19, 2023, November 16, 2023, December 14, 2023 (except ¶ 1 under 2 (c)(5)), January 18, 2024. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**G. Destruction of Verbatim Recordings of Executive Session Minutes**

Commissioner Knott moved the Board concluded it is appropriate and therefore authorized the destruction of existing recordings of executive sessions held on or before August 18, 2023. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins and Knott.

**H. Approve Executive Director’s Compensation**

Commissioner Kerins read the motion to approve an increase of 6% to Executive Director Lorrie Pearson’s salary to be retroactive to January 1, 2024 as discussed and recommended during her performance review conducted on February 15, 2024. Commissioner Goodman seconded. A roll call vote was taken. The following commissioners voted “yes”: Goodman, Hundley, Kerins, and Knott.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Board Direction on Setting Consent Agenda Items**

Commissioners present stated if the report/memorandum has all pertinent information, in particular noting that the item was approved in the annual budget, then questions can be asked ahead of time or the item removed from the consent agenda if so needed.

**B. Board Presidency Status**

Pearson noted with Commissioner Herakovich's excused absence due to personal matters, she wanted to survey the Board if a replacement should be requested by the Champaign County Executive. Commissioners present noted they can attend meetings to keep quorum, and agreed that Herakovich should make her own decisions regarding her seat. Kerins noted he could fill the President role as Vice-President. All present agreed to keep the current officers until July when a new member would be appointed by the County.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Hundley made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:12 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