

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

August 21, 2013

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Horn, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Horn, Treasurer Parish, Secretary Stahl, 1st Vice-President Leonard, and 2nd Vice-President Murphy.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve the Minutes of the July 17th Regular Public Meeting. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$157,181.08 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$7,965.03. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE", Trustee Leonard "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy "AYE". Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE: None

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. **Other: None**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Accept the painting proposal from Jones and Sullivan:

Director Merner explained that a donor has given funds to provide for the painting of the north side of the Oglesby Mansion. The quote from Jones and Sullivan is considerably lower than previous quotes, which also includes painting the window trim, inside the window frames and re-glazing windows where necessary.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approved hiring Jones and Sullivan to paint the north side of the Oglesby Mansion for \$9,000.00. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE", Trustee Leonard "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy "AYE". Motion carried.

2. Final payout-Meyer Roofing

Paul Marien explained that the District had paid Meyer Roofing in March for the roof project but withheld 10% until all work was completed. The roofing project has been satisfactorily completed and staff recommends paying Meyer Roofing \$840.00 for the final payout.

Trustee Leonard MOVED to approve the final payout for Meyer Roofing in the amount of \$840.00. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion.

3. Approve Annual Treasurer's Report:

Director Merner explained that by law we are required to prepare the Annual Treasurer's Report and publish in local paper. She emphasized that the Treasurer's Report ties to the Annual Audit.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report for fiscal year April 1, 2012, through March 31, 2013, and publication as required. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

4. Award Contract for construction of the north porch- Oglesby Mansion

Paul Marien explained that only one contractor responded to the open bid for work on the north porch renovations at Oglesby Mansion. The staff recommends rejecting this bid and soliciting new proposals for the project. Trustee Leonard questioned the condition of the porch and Paul confirmed that the porch is failing and will need to be completely torn out, but that it is safe to use for now. Once demolition begins the side entrance will be used during construction.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to reject the bid from Christy-Foltz for \$29,925.00 for the north porch and open the bid process for other proposals. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

5. Approve contract for millwork-Milliman:

Director Merner updated the Board that the east porch had been completed and in order to complete the next phase of the construction work, more millwork needed to be fabricated. Staff recommends awarding the contract for the work to Brad Milliman, Inc., for \$5,596.00. He also constructed the railings for the east porch and his work was satisfactory.

Trustee Parish MOVED to authorize the custom woodwork from Brad Milliman, Inc., in the amount of \$5,596.00. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish, "AYE"; Trustee Horn, "AYE"; Trustee Leonard "AYE"; and Trustee Murphy "AYE". Motion carried.

6. Public Hearing Beltway Project:

Director Merner attended the latest Beltway Project meeting to ensure that the previous agreement with the District had remained the same. She was sent a copy of the Environment Assessment and everything from 2003 was in this document. They estimate that it will take ten years to complete the project. One change that was made was that the bicycle path will now be installed at the same time as the road.

7. Land Acquisition Opportunities:

Director Merner was approached by three landowners who wanted to sell or donate property to the District.

- 1) First proposed donation is a home built in 1874 in Harristown. Brent Wielt, Historic Sites Manager, conducted research on the property and didn't note anything significantly historic to Macon County. The District already owns an 1875 Mansion. After some discussion, the Board was in agreement that this piece of property would not offer much to the Conservation District and would require restoration work. The Board was in agreement that it was not worth pursuing this property at this time.

- 2) The second proposed property is on Martin Lane and abuts Sand Creek Conservation Area. This piece of property is approximately 2 acres and has a 2400 square foot house that sits on the property. Director Merner reminded the Board that the District tries not to purchase houses. This property does not significantly impact Sand Creek and, therefore; if it was sold to any other individual, nothing would change. The Board was in agreement that this property was not worth pursuing.
- 3) The third proposed property abuts Sand Creek Conservation Area and is located at 750 Mt. Gilead Road. This site is 6.7 acres and is about 90% flood plain. The price the current owners paid for the land is almost double what the District paid for property in South Macon Township. Staff does not recommend purchasing this property. There is no urgency to purchase unless cost becomes more reasonable. The Board was in agreement.

Lastly Director Merner spoke with Mr. Kaufman concerning the 5 acres of land along Lake Decatur that he wishes to donate to the District. He agreed to pay for the initial restoration, driveway, gated entrance, small gravel parking lot, and a fence along the neighbor's property as well as giving a \$250,000 endowment to maintain the property. However, Mr. Kaufman wants a clause in the title prohibiting the installation or placement of any permanent buildings on the donated property. Director Merner will work with his attorney using language from the Conservation Act. Trustee Parish questioned whether this property was in the city or county and Director Merner confirmed that it is in the county. Trustee Horn questioned whether a dock could be built along the lake and Director Merner confirmed that it was not considered a permanent dwelling and wouldn't be a problem. Mr. Kaufman decided to donate the property now instead of a bequest.

Trustee Leonard MOVED that the District should proceed with the acquisition detail and bring back updates to the Board. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

8. Nearing Trust-RFP Trustee Services:

Director Merner reminded the Board that we are one of six beneficiaries of the Nearing Trust, with Regions Bank currently serving as the Trustee. A Request for Proposal was sent to Busey Bank, First Mid-Illinois Bank, Soy Capital Bank, and Hickory Point Bank. The trust agreement does grant the beneficiaries the right to change Trustees. Trustee Murphy questioned if the rates provided by the other banks were guaranteed and how often do they re-balance the portfolio. Director Merner will look into her questions. The other five beneficiaries are The Audubon Society, Presbyterian Church by Millikin University, Eastern Star Home on Route 51, The Historical Society, and the American Chess Foundation (located in New York). If the Board is in agreement, Director Merner will contact the other beneficiaries for their interest in pursuing the matter and will engage them in the interview process if they decide to move forward. The Board was in agreement to proceed with the process.

9. Departmental Reports:

Director Merner, Paul Marien, Jeff Tish and Pam Smith highlighted the main topics from their Departmental Report.

10. **Other:** No other business.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl MOVED to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 8:13 p.m. Trustee Leonard SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary