

Minutes of the Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 3:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bostic; Members Ahart, Moss, Wendt and Wollrab

Members Absent: Member O'Connor

Other Members

Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator; Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator and Ms. Jude LaCasse, Assistant to the County Administrator

Department Heads/

Elected Officials

Present: Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management; Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Others Present: None

Chairman Bostic called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Chairman Bostic presented the Minutes of the Thursday, August 6, 2009 Property Committee meeting. Hearing no objections or corrections, Chairman Bostic accepted and placed the minutes on file as submitted.

Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation, presented a request for approval to accept a Management Agreement between the County of McLean and the Prairielands Preservation Foundation for non-native plant species removal. He advised that the Department of Parks and Recreation received a proposal from Mr. Chip Hendricks, CEO, Prairielands Preservation Foundation for the removal of non-native, exotic species of plants and trees from a portion of COMLARA Park. The Prairielands Preservation Foundation is a local not-for-profit corporation whose primary goals are to promote natural habitat development.

Mr. Steffa stated that the Foundation purchased a tract of land near the Evergreen Lake spillway that is adjacent to COMLARA Park boundaries. The Park property areas that the Foundation wishes to remove non-native species from is located below the Evergreen Lake spillway, as noted on the map included in the packet. Mr. Steffa indicated that the Foundation staff would like to conduct this project on park property to keep or minimize non-native plant species from encroaching on Foundation property.

Mr. Steffa noted that the Department of Parks and Recreation feels this is a worthwhile project because:

- This agreement requires no monetary investment by the Department for this project;
- The Foundation will staff the project. No Department staffing will be required;
- Non-native/exotic plant species are being removed to make way for growth of native plant species.

Mr. Steffa indicated that the Foundation recently received a grant of \$500,000.00 from the National Fish and Wildlife Service for this project. He added that the Foundation has additional land for which this grant will be used. Mr. Steffa stated that a large amount of the grant will be used to purchase or lease a piece of machinery that removes non-native trees.

Ms. Ahart asked what outcome the Department of Parks and Recreation expects from this project. Mr. Steffa replied that the Foundation will remove invasive non-native plants and trees and replace them with native plants and trees.

Motion by Wendt/Ahart to recommend approval to accept a Management Agreement between the County of McLean and the Prairielands Preservation Foundation for Non-Native Plant Species Removal.

Chairman Bostic pointed out that the Agreement runs through July 1, 2034. She asked how this project will be monitored over the years. Mr. Lindberg replied that usually the organizations involved keep track of the agreements, such as the Lake Bloomington leases. Chairman Bostic recommended that a method be developed to keep track of the Agreement.

Ms. Wollrab commented that this is a great program.

Chairman Bostic asked if the Foundation will provide a report on the progress of the project. Mr. Steffa indicated that he will provide the Committee with updates on the project.

Ms. Ahart asked when will the project begin. Mr. Steffa replied that the project will begin as soon as it is approved by the County Board.

Chairman Bostic called for a vote on the Motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Steffa reported that activity at the Park is slowing down. He noted that the campground is completely reserved for this Labor Day weekend, which will probably be the last full weekend at the campground.

Chairman Bostic asked if there are any additional plans in place for next summer. Mr. Steffa replied that there may be an expansion of the Bait and Tackle Shop. He stated that the Bait and Tackle shop, which was started last year, has been very successful.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Steffa.

Mr. Jack Moody, Director, Facilities Management, presented a request for approval of a contract with Abraham Vending for vending machine service in County facilities. He noted that the current contract will expire in December. Mr. Moody advised that in December 2006 the County negotiated a three-year contract with Abraham Vending as our vending machine provider. Prior to the contract, bids were solicited from area vending machine providers and telephone interviews were conducted with 92 references. Mr. Moody announced that Abraham Vending was selected because of the quality of the references and the 18% of sales reimbursement commission the County would receive should their proposal be accepted.

Mr. Moody advised that there have been no problems with Abraham Vending. He noted that the machines have worked well and the company immediately responds to any needs that may arise.

Mr. Moody recommended that the contract with Abraham Vending be renewed. He added that, except for the dates on the contract, there are no major changes. The County's 18% reimbursement commission stays the same. He added that the County is one of their best customers.

Ms. Wollrab commented that she was pleased to see that there are some healthy choice snacks. Mr. Moody noted that many of the healthy choice snacks can be found in the machines at the Health Department building. He indicated that all of the buildings are allowed to make suggestions and ask for specific items.

Chairman Bostic asked if Abraham Vending controls the prices. She pointed out that soda pop prices are expected to go up dramatically. Mr. Moody replied that they cannot raise the prices without meeting with him to discuss pricing changes. He advised that Abraham Vending has not raised the prices on soda pop, at \$1.25 for a resealable bottle or \$.65 for a can, in three years. Mr. Moody stated that price changes are usually in increments of five cents, such as on a candy bar. He pointed out that the County's

18% reimbursement stays consistent with the changes in price of the product. For instance, the County will receive an additional 18% on the nickel increase for a candy bar.

Chairman Bostic asked what is an average yearly 18% reimbursement to the County. Mr. Moody replied that the average reimbursement \$15,000-\$17,000. Chairman Bostic asked if those monies go back into the General Fund. Mr. Lindberg responded that the money is kept in a separate fund called the "Employee Vending Account" and it is used for employee activities.

Motion by Ahart/Wendt to recommend approval of a Contract with Abraham Vending Machine Services in County Facilities.
Motion carried.

Ms. Wollrab pointed out the \$1 million liability section of the contract. Mr. Moody replied that Ms. Hannah Eisner, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney, added that section into the contract, which protects the County should someone purchase an item that is spoiled.

Chairman Bostic asked if there were any additional questions. Hearing none, she thanked Mr. Moody.

Mr. Lindberg reminded the Committee that the October cycle will include the budget review of the Departments under which the Property Committee has oversight. Chairman Bostic noted, in the past, we have usually reviewed half of the Departments in October and half in November.

Chairman Bostic presented the August 31, 2009 Property Committee bills, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Property Committee by the County Auditor. The Property Committee bills include a Prepaid Total of \$404,164.42 and a Fund Total that is the same.

Property Committee Minutes
September 3, 2009
Page Five

Motion by Ahart/Wollrab to recommend approval of the bills as of August 31, 2009, which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bostic asked if there was any other business or communication for the Property Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Bostic adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith A. LaCasse
Recording Secretary