Supervisors to look at board applications

Issue arises when hunter asks why his application wasn’t considered years ago

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - A discussion on duck blinds at the county supervisor meeting on Tuesday morphed into an issue of how applications for the Lee County Conservation boardmembers get handled.

At the regular meeting of the Lee County Board of Supervisors, Rusty Robbins of West Point said his application from years back was never considered by the board, because the board had never seen them.

“I’m t’d off about putting my application in several years ago and it never got to the board. Those applications need to come here. He (Lee County Conservation director Nathan Unsworth) can have some input but you guys need to see them, too. I think I’m a pretty responsible person to be able to make a decision for the whole system, not just a few people.”

After the meeting, Robbins said that he had turned his application into the conservation board and apparently the board then forwards the applications to the Lee County Auditor’s office, who then forwards them to the supervisors.

However, several supervisors indicated unsatisfaction and prompted a discussion between supervisors, the supervisors to look at board applications.

County pushes for talks on blinds

LCCB chair props door open on issue

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

MONTROSE - An uproar from county duck hunters spilled into the Lee County supervisors meeting Tuesday morning.

A conversation at the end of Tuesday’s Lee County Board of Supervisor’s meeting, initiated by supervisor Matt Pflug, extended the meeting and prompted a discussion between supervisors, the hunters and Lee County Conservation Board chairman Harry Sylvester and LCCB Director Nathan Unsworth.

Rusty Robbins, a duck hunter from West Point, addressed the board at the beginning of the meeting during the public input section and voiced his concern about the new guidelines that will make permanent blinds a thing of the past after the 2018 hunting season.

The issue has been highly emotional, including some profanity-laced language.

Dr. B. Marie Brady-Whitcanak stands next to her current project, a mural that she will be putting on issue

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - She’s a doctor, an entrepreneur, an artist and someone would say a visionary. But it’s somewhat of an understatement to call her focused.

Just a few minutes listening to Dr. B. Marie Brady-Whitcanak, or “Marie” as she likes to be called can be exhausting. Eye contact is at a premium with her because as she talks she pulls at plans in her mind centered on a vision she is sharing for an Art/ Cultural District for downtown Fort Madison.

Whitcanak recently opened the Victorian Art Gallery on the corner of 8th and Avenue G in Fort Madison’s Main Street district and showcases her own work and some of others she encountered in her travels. She is an adjunct professor of philosophy, psychology and political science at Kaplan University, Carl Sandburg University and Spoon River College.

She said she opened the art gallery because the Bed and Breakfast she owns at 422 Avenue F was becoming more of a B&B than her original intention of a home for artists in residence who want to work in Fort Madison.

“I’ve had the B&B, the Victoria Bed and Breakfast and fine arts studio for 15 years but I was so busy with the B&B that it got too far away from its original intent to host artists to stay there and paint locally,” she said Tuesday. “From my experience traveling overseas, artists want to stay where they are painting.”

“But the B&B was getting too far from the art, so I thought a main street gallery would not only provide more visibility because it’s also up the street from my Painter’s Garden at 421 Avenue G, where I have large public murals and the rose garden, and Painter’s Porch for painters to paint with a pretty good view of the river.”

Whitcanak also serves on just about every preservation commission in Fort Madison including the North Lee County Historical Society, the Fort Madison Preservation Commission, the Old Fort Commission and the Historic ISP Corporation. She said with all the districts in Fort Madison that are on the National Register of Historic District, a cohesive plan could tie everything together.

“The downtown district seems to lend itself to an...
Hunters claim former director filtered applications

BOARD - Continued from Page 1

they are not getting the applications - that they just approve recommendations from the conservation board.

“We don’t see the applications anymore. We should,” said Supervisor Gary Pflug.

Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise, who’s on vacation and wasn’t at the meeting, sent an email to all supervisors and media following the meeting. Nikki Sugars, who works in the Auditor’s office, was filling in for Fraise at the meeting.

“The Board receives all applications submitted for independent boards in their weekly packet at the time when there is an opening,” Fraise wrote. Folluo wrote in a return email to all the parties that he didn’t recall getting those applications.

“I don’t recall getting applications prior to when we vote on the recommendation of conservation. Since Ron (Federl), Don (Hunold) and Matt (Pflug) have come on the board I don’t recall getting applications so we can review them. We may have gotten their recommendation and a runner up but I can’t pinpoint any others. I remember (sic) the conversation BOS had about letting conservation do interviews and make a recommendation to the BOS. I don’t know if we had a resolution but I remember agreeing to it.” Folluo wrote in the return.

Fraise sent a follow up email in which she wrote she has always sent the board the applications she has and there have never been more than one or two. Robbins said that was part of the problem with how the board is picked.

“That’s why you don’t get in,” Robbins said. “They pick who they want on the board because they do not - and I’m going back to Tom Buckley - he did not want nobody in there that was going to buck the system.”

Pflug agreed that the appointments were always off a recommendation.

“From the get-go we should be able to look at those applications and vote up or down, but before this we took your recommendations and voted yes or no,” Pflug said. “Basically we set their budget and once

They pick who they want on the board because they do not - and I’m going back to Tom Buckley - he did not want nobody in there that was going to buck the system.”

-Rusty Robbins, West Point resident

Charles Vandenberg, Editor
(319).371.1670
editor@pencitycurrent.com

Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager
(319).371.4125
sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Nissa Rung, Advertising
(319).520.8953
n.rung@pencitycurrent.com

Shawna Ross, Advertising
(319).470.0622
sross@pencitycurrent.com

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For the Record

Fort Madison
Police report
08/21/17 - 2:17 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1100 block of Avenue F. 08/21/17 - 11:03 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1300 block of Avenue G. 08/21/17 - 11:12 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2100 block of Avenue L.

08/21/17 - 11:16 a.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft at 1200 block of 40th Street. 08/21/17 - 12:49 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1500 block of Avenue M. 08/21/17 - 12:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 4800 block of Avenue D. 08/21/17 - 2:52 p.m. - Fort Madison police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2000 block of Avenue B.

08/21/17 - 10:11 p.m. - Fort Madison police arrested Katelyn Francis Skelton, 52, of Fort Madison, at the police department on a warrant for failure to appear. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
08/21/17 - 11:48 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Tyler Jordan Sturm, 27, in the 3500 block of Johnson Street Road, on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was taken to Lee County Jail and held. 08/21/17 - 11:48 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Shara Burnham McDonough a.k.a. Shara Delores Ferrel, 46, of Oskaloosa, in the 3100 block of Hwy 218 on a warrant for 1st degree theft greater than $10,000. She was released on bond.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Waste Authority met on August 15, 2017 at the administration building in Fort Madison at 6:30 A.M. to conduct a regular monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 A.M. Present: Brad Randolph, Marc Lindeen and Roger Bryant. Rick Larkin and Gary Adam were absent.

Motion to approve the July 21, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Bryant, seconded by Lindeen. Motion to approve the General Manager’s report made by Lindeen, seconded by Bryant. Motion to approve the Business Manager’s report made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen. Discussion and approval to purchase a 2015 Jeep Patriot from Jim Baier Ford for $13,995.00. Motion to approve made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen.

Motion to adjourn made by Bryant, seconded by Lindeen.

The meeting ended with discussions on the next meeting, which will be held on September 15, 2017 at 6:30 A.M. to conduct a regular monthly meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minutes

August 15, 2017

The Great River Regional Waste Authority met on August 15, 2017 at the administration building in Fort Madison at 6:30 A.M. to conduct a regular monthly meeting.

All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 A.M. Present: Brad Randolph, Marc Lindeen and Roger Bryant. Rick Larkin and Gary Adam were absent.

Motion to approve the July 21, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Bryant, seconded by Lindeen. Motion to approve the General Manager’s report made by Lindeen, seconded by Bryant. Motion to approve the Business Manager’s report made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen. Discussion and approval to purchase a 2015 Jeep Patriot from Jim Baier Ford for $13,995.00. Motion to approve made by Randolph, seconded by Lindeen.

Motion to adjourn made by Bryant, seconded by Lindeen. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 A.M. The next Commission meeting will be held on September 15, 2017 at the administration building in Fort Madison, Iowa at 6:30 A.M.

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Below are the results of the 2017 Kempker Open held at Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course on Saturday. The event was an 18-hole tournament with those in the championship flight playing an additional 9 holes.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT
1ST ADAM MOYERS (104)
2ND JIM BUTLER (107)
3RD TU WEBB (108)
4TH JAMEY ROBBINS (109)
5TH JAY KARMODHD (109)

1ST HAGE BROEG (110)
2ND ACK WALEN (113)
3RD MELISON (113)
4TH NICK RARRISH (113)
5TH IRVAN LUTTENBERGER (116)
6TH JORDAN HUBBS (116)

FIRST FLIGHT
1ST JOE STEWART (76)
2ND ERIC WARD (76)
3RD DOUG FRENZ (76)

SECOND FLIGHT
1ST SCOTT MILLER (81)
2ND RAYNE MALEAHN (81)
3RD CHAD THORNTON (81)

THIRD FLIGHT
1ST FRED KNIX (84)
2ND DARY WAGLER (84)

FOURTH FLIGHT
1ST SCOTT NOCEK (86)
2ND RON MILLER (86)
3RD TROY TAYLOR (86)

SECOND FLIGHT
1ST RANDY THORNTON (88)
2ND ROBERT WASHINGTON (84)
3RD TOM SKEWS (84)
4TH CAN DEE (85)

Senior Division

FIRST FLIGHT
1ST JAY KARMODHD (109)
2ND RON MILLER (86)
3RD JAY JORDAN (86)

SECOND FLIGHT
1ST RANDY THORNTON (88)
2ND ROBERT WASHINGTON (84)
3RD TOM SKEWS (84)

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FORT MADISON - Fort Madison Partners will be joining forces with the Baxter Sports Complex to provide free community events at the Baxter Sports Complex. This event is an opportunity to come out and see the complex and shake off that work stress with your friends. We will feature free music from 5-7:00 pm with food and beverages for purchase.

Our Premier Sponsor for the Friday, August 25th event is Randolph Dental with music by Kerry Murray, from Kayambee; music sponsored by Artist Trax Studio and special food and beverage specials can be purchased from Baxter Sports Complex. Come out and relax on the patio with your friends and help support our community.

Party on the Patio, is an event benefiting community-wide beautification efforts. If you have questions please call the Fort Madison Partners office at 319-372-5471. Save the date for the September and October events: September 15th and October 6th.

Welcome all you Cowboys & Cowgirls...

...We hope you enjoy the Rodeo!

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County not sure it has standing in duck blind issue

BLINDS - Continued from Page 1

risk losing generations of traditions of hunting, and have a concern for safety on the Mississippi River in boat blinds. Board members voted to change the permanent blind guidelines to coincide with Iowa Department of Natural Resources due to a group of hunters not following the guidelines on getting the blinds out of the water. Pflug asked Unsworth to elaborate on the decision to end the permanent blinds.

Unsworth outlined the system implemented five years ago with people getting permanent blinds through a lottery system. He said there were issues getting the blinds out on time so the board revisited the issue last year with a three-year contract. The past year there were still some issues with hunters following guidelines, so they board voted to phase out the permanent blinds and allow boat blinds only. "At that point we had some feedback from hunters that it wasn’t enough time so we decided to give them another year to prepare for that change," Unsworth said.

"Here’s the problem: these guys aren’t duck hunters," said Pat Armstrong, a Fort Madison hunter. "They only give us two weeks to get those out. If you don’t quit hunting two weeks before, you won’t get out. You’re gonna get frozen in back there. But the Ortho pocket, I’ve been hunting since ’55 there and I’ve built a lot of blinds out there and you build a good one, it will last five years.”

Sylvester said hunters have always been told they can call the board and ask for an extension. He said the board has met with duck hunters over the years to come up with guidelines that work for everyone.

"But no matter what we come up with, they didn’t follow the rules," Sylvester said.

Supervisor Ron Fedler asked if there were any federal or state guidelines that govern the issue. Sylvester said the board went against the Iowa Department of Natural Resources recommendations. “We decided we would try to work with permanent blinds and the DNR didn’t even want us to do that. Every year we meet with duck hunters and try to work out guidelines and things that would work for everyone and they just wouldn’t follow the rules.”

Sylvester pointed to occasions when the conservation district had to go down and pull out blinds that had broken loose and floated down river. “We’ve had maintenance people go down the river and pull blinds out of the river and we don’t have the manpower to do that. So we’re just looking at going back to the DNR rules on the river.”

Pflug asked if there wasn’t a way to reach a compromise with the hunters. "Listening to what they’re saying, going forward is there a way - with these guys, is there chance to sit around and try to work out something," Sylvester left the door open to possibly taking one more shot at working with the hunters.

"By extending the permanent blinds a year, that gives us time to do stuff like that," he said.

Unsworth reminded the supervisors that per state code, the conservation board has authority to set their own policy. "Public input is the time for these folks to bring issues to us and then for us to go back to do our homework and make recommendations," he said.

Fedler said he wanted to look into what authority the board had to intervene. "As far as rulings, we need to check into whether we have any authority at all, which I don’t think we do, to overrule their decisions." After the meeting, when asked if the decision by the LCCB was a done deal, Unsworth hesitated and said, "We’ll see."