



**PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Monday, April 4, 2016**

The Lake County Forest Preserve District's Planning and Restoration Committee met on Monday, April 4, 2016. The meeting was convened at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**Committee Members Present:**

Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair  
Bill Durkin  
Sandra Hart  
Diane Hewitt  
Sid Mathias  
Craig Taylor  
Tom Weber

**Also Present:**

Ann Maine, President  
Linda Pedersen, *District 1*  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Jim Anderson  
Steve Neaman  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith  
Nan Buckardt  
John Nelson  
Mary Kann

Rebekah Snyder  
Debbie Boness  
Debra Ramai  
Matt Norton, *Holland & Knight*  
Pamela Olesiak  
Barbara Mitzel  
Marc Brown  
Barb Thompson, *Lake County Audubon*  
Robert Ralston

**Committee Members Absent:**

Nick Sauer, Vice Chair  
Carol Calabresa

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carter called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Chair led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

**3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 29, 2016 JOINT MEETING**

Motion by member Weber, second by member Hewitt to approve the Minutes of the February 29, 2016 joint meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Minutes were circulated for signatures.

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**5.0 ADDED TO THE AGENDA - None**

**6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**6.1 Letter regarding equestrian trails between Grant Woods and Bluebird Meadow Forest Preserves, and construction of horse trailer parking near Townline Road**

Director Seebach introduced Pam Olesiak, who requested permission to allow equestrian use on the existing and proposed trails from Grant Woods (at Monaville Road) north through Bluebird Meadow (to Townline Road), and consideration of horse trailer parking at Townline Road. Discussion ensued regarding issues of the impact horses have on the preserves and the amount of additional labor involved in maintaining the existing equestrian trails within the District. It was pointed out that, of the existing 202 miles of trails within the Lake County Forest Preserve system, 78 miles are open for equestrian use. As the Committee members weighed in on the issue, there was little support at this time for committing



additional financial resources to a use that benefits such a small group. Chair Carter reminded those present that the District has recently removed over \$7 million from its Capital Improvement Plan due to revenue shortfalls.

**6.2 Letter proposing naming of the Old School Forest Preserve circle drive to Mike Graham Drive**

The author of the letter, Robert Ralston, was present at the meeting to present his reasons for why the District should consider naming the Old School circular drive for a former Lake County Forest Preserve board member and a one-time mayor of Libertyville. Mr. Ralston said Mr. Graham was a strong advocate for open lands and that many of the forest preserves would not exist today, if not for him.

It was explained to Mr. Ralston that the District has a naming policy in place, and that requests should be directed to Rebekah Snyder, Chief Development Officer and Executive Director of Preservation Foundation. Considerations will be made through a formal process of donations.

**7.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Executive Director Kovach presented an update of District projects, news and upcoming events including:

**Organizational Sustainability**

- ❖ There will be cuts to this year’s budget, as staff works through the projected 10-year CIP during the budget process.
- ❖ The vendor, *Food for Thought*, has indicated they are no longer interested in negotiating a license agreement at the Greenbelt Cultural Center. Staff is attempting to re-engage them while planning for how the District could better use the site if the District continues as the operator.
- ❖ Committee members are encouraged to read the March/April 2016 issue of the *Illinois Parks and Recreation* magazine’s article on golf. It helps explain why the District opens later in the spring – opening earlier in spring means that revenue will not cover expenses.

**Preservation Foundation**

- ❖ A planned-giving newsletter was mailed to 2,758 homes including donors of \$100 or more; Museum donors of \$50 or more, people in the database who have a middle or high “Planned Giving Rating”, past and current District leaders including Commissioners and Preservation Foundation board members, and people living in Illinois or Wisconsin who have a high wealth and giving rating.

**Communication, Education and Outreach**

- ❖ There was a meeting with the Executive Director and the Board President of Conserve Lake County to discuss the Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) dataset, and receive an update on the Conservation at Home project at Ryerson Woods.
- ❖ Environmental Education, April Vaos, has recently been named the 2016 Master Front Line Interpreter by the National Association of Interpretation-Region 5. Ms. Vaos coordinates the District’s Voyageur Canoe programs.

**Conservation**

- ❖ The GIV is nearly completely written.
- ❖ Winter restoration work progressed very well and a great deal of clearing has been completed. Communication and Outreach have been able to field and address most of the neighboring residents’ questions and concerns regarding how the clearing work changes the landscapes. This is an important component in garnering public support for the District’s restoration efforts.



Mr. Kovach reminded Committee members that the next scheduled meeting is a joint budget meeting scheduled for May 2 at 8:30 a.m., and will be held at the Operations and Public Safety Facility in Lindenhurst.

**8.0 OLD BUSINESS - None**

**9.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**9.1 Recommend approval of an Ordinance approving Amendment #3 to an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Lake, providing for a Wetland Mitigation License Agreement at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve**

After review and discussion, motion by member Mathias, second by member Hart to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was circulated for signatures and forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee for approval.

**9.2 Provide policy direction regarding a request from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to consider providing the local cost share for a portion of the Millennium Trail along U.S. Route 45 as part of the Millburn Bypass project, and to authorize execution of a Letter of Intent between IDOT and the District**

Director Seebach explained that IDOT is requesting the District provide the 20% local share of construction and engineering costs (estimated at \$34.8k) for the Millennium Trail portion of the shared use path that is proposed to run along U.S. Route 45 as part of the Millburn Bypass project. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee about whether the District should sign a Letter of Intent committing to the local cost share, contingent upon the partner agencies agreeing to accept long-term maintenance responsibilities; negotiate an agreement with IDOT stating that the District would pay the local share for the Millennium Trail portion; and negotiate with the partner agencies regarding cost-sharing and maintenance responsibilities.

There was discussion and it was the consensus of the Committee for staff to craft a Letter of Intent, using caution that wording be concise as to what the District is responsible for, and with regard to potential cost overruns, while keeping in mind that it is important for the partner agencies and local communities to participate.

**9.3 Monthly Department Report – Natural Resources Department**

Director Anderson gave a progress report regarding:

- ❖ The GIV Model and Strategy that included a work session with the Committee of the Whole and Lake County Partners, led by the Conservation Fund and District staff on February 4. Locations were identified for three to five 10,000-acre ecological complexes. Since some portions of the project include potential land acquisition, they will be presented to the Land Preservation and Acquisition Committee for review before being taken up by the other Standing Committees and Board this summer.
- ❖ As part of the GLFER Project at Fort Sheridan, access to the lakeshore has been prohibited and it is likely the lakeshore will remain closed until October. Habitat restoration of the bluffs and ravines is ongoing with clearing of trees in Janes and Hutchinson Ravines.
- ❖ Natural Resources staff will be working with Lake County Stormwater Management in a watershed planning effort for the Des Plaines River Watershed; LCSMC will be conducting a watershed assessment and the District will be providing access and



equipment. As part of the District's annual lake monitoring assessment program, staff and funding will be provided for the Des Plaines River Watershed Working Group's extensive ecological and water quality testing of streams and lakes in the DPR watershed.

- ❖ Updates were given regarding the Controlled Prescribed Burn season, Native Seed Nursery's 2015 harvest, winter clearing projects, native seeding by in-house crews in 2015/16, and Volunteer Stewardship Program.

**9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Wildlife Reintroduction and Post-Release Monitoring within the Lake County Forest Preserves in 2016 to Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago, Illinois, in a Contract Price not to exceed \$45,000.00**

After review and discussion, motion by member Durkin, second by member Weber to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was circulated for signatures and forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee for approval.

**9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Schreiber Lake Restoration Phase 2 Reforestation to Homer Environmental, LLC, Lockport, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$60,650.00**

After review and discussion, motion by member Weber, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was circulated for signatures and forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee for approval.

**9.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Ecological Assessment of District Lands in 2016 to Northern Illinois University, Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability & Energy, DeKalb, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$175,012.00**

After review and discussion, motion by member Durkin, second by member Taylor to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was circulated for signatures and forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee for approval.

**10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**12.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2016: Joint Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m. at the Operations and Public Safety Facility, 19808 W. Grand Avenue, Lindenhurst, IL.

**13.0 ADJOURN**

With no further business before the Committee, Chair Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.



PLANNING AND RESTORATION  
COMMITTEE:

	YEA	NAY		YEA	NAY
<u>Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair</u> Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair</u> Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Carol Calabresa</u> Carol Calabresa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Bill Durkin</u> Bill Durkin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Sandra Hart</u> Sandra Hart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Diane Hewitt</u> Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Sid Mathias</u> Sid Mathias	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Craig Taylor</u> Craig Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Tom Weber</u> Tom Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

