



PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of Monday, August 29, 2016

The Lake County Forest Preserve District's Planning and Restoration Committee met on Monday, August 29, 2016. The meeting was convened at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

Committee Members Present:

- Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair
Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair
Carol Calabresa
Bill Durkin
Sandra Hart
Diane Hewitt
Sid Mathias
Tom Weber

Also Present:

- Ann Maine, President
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Debbie Maurer
Steve Neaman
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Nan Buckardt
John Nelson
Mary Kann
Rebekah Snyder
Gina Wedekind
Debra Ramai
Helena Keller
Matt Norton, Holland & Knight
Mick Zawislak (Daily Herald)
Barb Thompson (Lake County Audubon)

Committee Members Absent:

- Craig Taylor

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

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

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3.0 ADDED TO THE AGENDA - None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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

Sustainability and Access

- The fourth annual Fred Fest was held at Fox River Forest Preserve on August 21 and more than 300 people attended despite morning rain and passing showers. Nearly \$8,000 was raised to support habitat restoration at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve.
State Grants:
In June, a Department of Natural Resources' Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grant had been awarded to the District in the amount of \$200,000 to fund equestrian parking and trail development at Lake Carina Forest Preserve, but the District informed IDNR that it would not be accepting the grant because the Board moved this project to the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan's (CIP) unfunded list in February. The project is estimated to cost \$1.2M with the equestrian parking component removed.
In August, the District was notified of being awarded a \$200,000 RTP Grant to go toward development of a 1/2-mile trail connection between Van Patten Woods and the Des Plaines River Trail to Pine Dune Forest Preserve. A planned parking lot expansion to include equestrian parking was eliminated from the project budget in the most recent update of the CIP, so the District is currently negotiating with the State regarding the reduced scope of work.
In January 2015, the District was notified of being awarded a \$263,700 Open Space and Land Acquisition Development (OSLAD) Grant for 3/4-mile of trail and an observation



platform to be constructed at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve. Before the grant could be fully executed, the State's administration, under a new governor, suspended the grant. On August 23, 2016, the District received the fully executed agreement with notification that the State has authorized an advance payment of 50% of the grant with the stipulation that the project must be completed by August 19, 2018. Matching funds of no less than the full grant amount will be required in order to secure the full grant award. This issue will be coming back to Committees for discussion in January.

- o Another grant previously awarded the District that was suspended by the State is \$750,000 from a Public Museum Capital Grant to support construction of the Collection Care Facility. The grant had been awarded in May 2014 and design work began the following month. In March 2015, word was received that the grant had been suspended and that work requiring grant reimbursement should cease. The project was on hold until July 2015 when design and engineering recommenced. The project is currently in construction and the District will attempt to negotiate with the State to recover some or all of the grant, but there is no indication the State will release this grant.

Leadership

- ❖ COO Mike Tully has been elected to a two-year term as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO). A press release is being prepared.
- ❖ Des Plaines River Trail Challenge is underway to call attention to the completion of the trail. The District is challenging the public to travel the entire 31.4-mile length of the trail before November 30, 2016. Those who complete the challenge can, on the 'honor system', claim a commemorative sling bag and custom luggage tag from the Preservation Foundation at the District's General Offices, or become a trail champion by making a gift of \$100 or more to the Foundation.
- ❖ The latest Attitude and Interest Survey confirms that the public perceives the District's preserves to be clean and well-maintained.

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2016

Motion by member Sauer, second by member Weber to approve the Minutes of the August 1, 2015 meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Minutes were circulated for signatures.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE - None

8.0 OLD BUSINESS

8.1 Waukegan Savanna Dog Exercise Area – Project Update

Director Randy Seebach updated the Committee regarding the construction of public access improvements for the dog exercise area at Waukegan Savanna. Since all six bids received the end of July were over the budgeted amount for the project, staff is redesigning the plan to reduce the use area (from 16 to 10 acres) to save the cost of seeding and fencing, and will rebid the project in winter when there might be more competitive bidding.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Approve a Motion to (i) Release Committee Closed Session Minutes, (ii) Retain as confidential all other Committee Closed Session Minutes not previously released, and (iii) Erase Verbatim Recordings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the District's Policy on Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings

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



9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Everett Road Trail Connection Construction at Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve to V3 Construction Group, Ltd., Woodridge, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$924,260.00

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

9.3 Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending (i) the FY 2017 Budget, to increase expenditures in FY 2017 by \$212,000.00 to allow for the implementation of additional woodland habitat restoration work at Grainger Woods Conservation Area and Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve, and (ii) the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan to reflect such funding changes

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

9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Phase 3 Clearing at Grainger Woods Conservation Preserve to Homer Tree Service, Inc., Lockport, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$129,802.00

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

9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Oak Woodland Phase 3 Clearing at Schreiber Lake, Lakewood Forest Preserve to JH Landworks, Wauconda, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$87,373.00

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

9.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Clearing Phase 5 at Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserve to Clean Cut Tree Service, Grayslake, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$117,000.00

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

9.7 Monthly Department Report

Debbie Maurer, Manager of Ecological Services, reported on the following:

- ❖ The District has been partnering with the City of Lake Forest and Lake Forest Open Lands Association to perform habitat restoration at Middlefork Savanna with the assistance of funding received in 2014 from the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund Grant program. Work began this summer to restore wetlands adjacent to the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. YCC members have installed approximately 25,000 wetland plant plugs, District crews are removing almost one mile of drain tiles draining previously farmed wetlands, and contractors have installed native wetland sod to reduce erosion and provide native plant habitat.
- ❖ Ongoing projects at Fort Sheridan include invasive species management with a late summer controlled burn planned, and work under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues. Stream restoration work in Jane's Ravine is nearly complete with rock step pools



and limestone retaining walls installed. Work on Scott's Ravine and on the lakefront is expected to begin soon.

- ❖ Des Plaines River Dam Removal at Captain Daniel Wright Woods began on August 1 and is anticipated to be completed soon; the removal of the MacArthur-Hollister dam will follow immediately after and is expected to take three to four weeks.
- ❖ A drone-generated video was presented showing an aerial view of the restoration work being conducted at Ethel's Woods. The video highlights the transformation of Rasmussen Lake as a meandering stream on the site, following dewatering of the lake.

10.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

12.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016.

13.0 ADJOURN

With no further business before the Committee, Chair Carter adjourned the meeting at 2:07 p.m.

PLANNING AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE:

YEA NAY

YEA NAY

Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair

Nick Sauer, Vice-Chair

Carol Calabresa

Bill Durkin

Carol Calabresa

Bill Durkin

Sandra Hart

Diane Hewitt

Sandra Hart

Diane Hewitt

Craig Taylor

Sid Mathias

Craig Taylor

Tom Weber

Tom Weber