

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – November 5, 2018**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, November 5, 2018. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Chair Carol Calabresa called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

**Members Present:**

Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Sid Mathias, Vice Chair  
Paul Frank  
Sandy Hart  
Linda Pedersen  
Craig Taylor  
Jeff Werfel (arrived 1:05)  
Tom Weber  
Terry Wilke

**Also Present:**

Ann Maine, President  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Jim Anderson  
Ken Jones  
John Nelson  
Mary Kann  
Nan Buckardt  
Rebekah Snyder

**Also Present:**

Katherine Hamilton-Smith  
Julie Gragnani  
Matt Norton – *Legal Counsel*  
Don Wilson, *Lake County Audubon*  
Roger Hitchings  
Robin Chessick  
Vicki Richman  
Sheila DeLattre  
Janet Gundlach  
Rita O'Connor, *Long Grove Trustee*

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**4.0 Public Comment:** Roger Hitchings, Arlington Heights, Illinois; spoke in support of the trail connection and other improvements being made at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. Chair Calabresa noted that public comments could be made on this matter when the committee discusses agenda item 9.2.

Member Werfel arrived at 1:05 pm.

**5.0 Executive Director Report** –Executive Director Kovach distributed his report and commented on:

- Preservation Foundation: strategic planning session to develop a membership program; and recent Development and Finance Committees' meetings;
- Solar-lit trails at Lakewood and Old School are now open until March 10;
- Rollins Savanna parking lot paving off of Washington Street is complete and open to public;
- Recent Access Audit and Transition Plan public feedback sessions. President Maine added that in the next year there should be a presentation to the Board on ADA requirements.
- Trees and shrubs planted this fall as part of the annual reforestation program;
- Fall burn season is underway;
- 680 participants in the annual Halloween Hike event, and Museum staff presented a program to Grayslake students on how to research historical topics;
- Payroll conversion is in progress and staff is preparing for a review of the Capital Improvement Plan in late January.

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Taylor, second by member Mathias to approve the open session and executive session minutes from October 1, 2018. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**7.0 Correspondence** - None

**8.0 Old Business** - None

**9.0 New Business**

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract to Purchase Native Grass Seed for Kettle Grove Forest Preserve to Shooting Star Native Seed, Spring Grove, MN in the Contract Price of \$43,810.00 Motion by member Weber, second by member Hart to recommend approval as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.2 Policy direction regarding potential partnership with Village of Arlington Heights for a Wilke Road trail connection at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach noted that the District received a letter from the Village requesting a joint agency response and support of the project, and to participate in a planning meeting on November 15, 2018. Director Randy Seebach provided specific details of the project. Over the years there have been numerous requests from residents south of Lake Cook Road for connection to existing trails at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve near Wilke Road, and the District has consistently denied allowing a connection until the Village and/or Cook County Dept. of Transportation provided a safe pedestrian crossing through the Lake Cook Road right-of-way. In 2008 the Village was awarded CMAQ funding for pedestrian improvements at the intersection but was forced to withdraw the project when bids received were significantly over the estimate. They applied for an Invest In Cook grant in 2017 but was not awarded funding. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The committee discussed various scenarios and options; and President Maine noted that for now, it would be okay for staff to attend the meeting to get more information. Staff showed a picture of a path that has been created by people crossing into the preserve and President Maine felt that it was an attractive nuisance and asked staff to work with PDRMA for any needed signage at this location.

Public comment was given:

- Roger Hitchings, Arlington Heights, Terramere/Creekside Civic Association, and his bike club; spoke regarding the safety issue in crossing Lake-Cook Road at Wilke Road.
- Sheila DeLattre, Terramere/Creekside Civic Association, spoke regarding numerous accidents on Lake-Cook Road, noting the only safe place to cross is at Wilke Road and asked for the District's help.
- Vicki Richman, Terramere/Creekside Civic Association, spoke requesting any help the District can provide in making a safe crossing.
- Janet Gundlach, Terramere/Creekside Civic Association, spoke regarding her experiences with unsafe crossings at Lake-Cook Road, and asked for the District's help.
- Rita O'Connor, Long Grove Trustee – spoke in favor of anything that could be done that is safer.

Chair Calabresa added that Cook County has jurisdiction over all of Lake-Cook Road. Committee discussion continued and Director Seebach noted that the crosswalk at Arlington Heights Road does have pedestrian push buttons. Director John Nelson added that the path shown in the picture is closed now due to the MWRD project underway within Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve. When the project is finished, the District will keep that path blocked off. The consensus was to have staff attend the November 15 meeting.

9.3 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Easement Agreement with Commonwealth Edison for a permanent utility easement for existing electrical poles along Grand Avenue at Grant Woods Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach summarized the recommendation, noting that ComEd requested to come on the property to replace utility poles at the noted location. No documentation could be found regarding rights for the existing poles, therefore an easement agreement needs to be established in accordance with the developed protocol and standardized agreement approved by the Committee and Board in the past. Motion by member Wilke, second by member Weber to recommend approval as presented; and staff responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.4 Recommend approval of Resolution to purchase an approximately 0.67-acre property in Lake Villa Township known as the Weldon property, for \$3,685.00 as an addition to Fourth Lake Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach showed the parcel on a map and gave details. Motion by member Werfel, second by member Wilke to recommend approval as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.5 Recommend approval of Resolution to purchase an approximately 13.4-acre property in Antioch Township known as the Petty property, for approximately \$73,700.00 as an addition to Sequoit Creek Forest Preserve - Mr. Kovach showed the parcel on a map and gave details. There would be a delayed closing of up to three years, which was a condition of the seller to give him additional hunting seasons. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hart to recommend approval as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.6 Recommend approval of Resolution to purchase an approximately 88.8-acre property in Newport Township known as the Dorsey property, for approximately \$2,220,000.00 as an addition to Pine Dunes Forest Preserve - Mr. Kovach showed the parcel on a map and gave details. Director Jim Anderson explained the restoration opportunities to expand grassland and wetland bird habitats on this property and noted that this is one of the ecological complexes identified on the Green Infrastructure Plan, tying in with Red Wing Slough and Pine Dunes. Motion by member Wilke, second by member Pedersen to recommend approval as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

**10.0 Executive Session** – Motion by member Weber, second by member Mathias to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 1:50 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:13 p.m.

President Maine thanked the committee for their hard work over the past two years and asked members to let Mr. Kovach know of any suggestions or comments so that the information can be passed on to the new Rules Committee. Members discussed this committee's role moving forward. Mr. Kovach noted that there will still be land acquisition opportunities and the need for easements. Chair Calabresa also thanked the committee for their hard work.

**11.0 Next scheduled meeting:** To be determined.

**12.0 Adjourn** – With no further business, motion by member Weber, second by member Mathias to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**AYE   NAY**

**AYE   NAY**

  
John Wasik, Chair


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Diane Hewitt

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Julie Simpson, Vice Chair

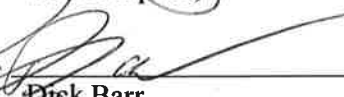
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