

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee
November 6, 2017 - Open Session Minutes**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, November 6, 2017. 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
Linda Pedersen
Craig Taylor
Tom Weber
Jeff Werfel

Absent:

Sandy Hart
Terry Wilke

Also Present:

Ann Maine, President
Chuck Bartels
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Steve Neaman
Jim Anderson
John Nelson
John Tannahill
Mary Kann
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Nan Buckardt
Ken Jones
Rebekah Snyder
Allison Frederick
Jeanna Martinucci
Jackie DeMasi
Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton
Jonathan Meyer (Village of Volo)

Public Signed In

John Vaughn
Charlene Prost
Tony Pierce
Christine Lee
Pat Johnston
Barb Thompson
Rich Gerber
Ellie Muehl
Sandy Prier
Michael Marino
Tim Marvin
Ruth Monico
Roni Blum
Scott Solway
Sandy Kautzman
Helen Monaghan
Nancy Scully
Ken Monico
Mary Solway
Jon Kautzman

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

2.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

Chair Calabresa asked committee members and staff to introduce themselves for the benefit of the public present.

4.0 Public Comment – There was no public comment for items not on the agenda.

5.0 Executive Director Report – Executive Director Kovach distributed his report and commented on the status of pending legislation for a possible property tax freeze; a recent Preservation Foundation event and subsequent endowment gifts; construction of the new museum; solar-lit trails for this winter; and the recent event at Newberry Library to announce the Teich Archives being added to their core collections. President Maine made further comments regarding the Newberry Library event.

6.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Werfel, second by member Weber to approve the open and executive session minutes from October 2, 2017. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

7.0 Correspondence – None

8.0 Payment Approvals – The legal bills for August and September 2017 were circulated for signature approval.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 For Information Only - Countryside Golf Club Wireless Telecommunication Facility Update – Chair Calabresa announced that today’s discussion would be for information only, and the committee would provide policy direction to staff at the December 4, 2017 meeting. She noted that the District did not initiate the conversations; it received a request from Central States Tower (CST) to place a cell tower at Countryside Golf Course. In responding to the request, the District required that CST hold an open house to allow public input.

Mr. Kovach distributed and reviewed a summary of public questions and comments submitted at the public open house held on October 18, which was attended by 49 people, including District staff. He showed the committee the visual information CST used at the open house and noted that they only had one person present to interact with the attendees. Chair Calabresa had concerns following the open house and felt CST was ill-prepared, and that the overall information they provided was difficult to understand. President Maine noted that public hearings are part of the District’s process to keep the public aware and informed. Committee members provided their comments and questions. Commissioner Bartels noted that what CST presented at the open house was not what was previously presented to the Committee, including a 130-ft. height, location and design. His hope was that there would be a collaborative opportunity, but did not feel CST was collaborative.

Chair Calabresa asked for comments from the public:

- Ruth Monico, Grand Dominion – opposed to cell tower at Countryside;
- Christine Lee, real estate agent – opposed; spoke on negative impact of cell towers when selling homes;
- Barb Thompson, Mundelein – if a cell tower is approved, please have blinking lights on it;
- Tim Marvin, Mundelein – opposed; CST has not provided evidence that it’s needed;
- Nancy Scully, Grand Dominion – opposed; cell towers go against the District’s mission. President Maine responded to explain that the committee had wondered if there might be a site that was already disturbed or paved over. At the same time, the District is faced with long-term sustainability in the event of a likely property tax freeze. This was the thinking of the committee at the start of the conversations in response to CST’s request. Member Weber added that it wasn’t about money, the District thinks of the cell tower as a utility, and provides a public benefit.
- Scott Solway, Grand Dominion – opposed, but if it’s needed, consider the middle of the golf course.

9.2 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Extended License Agreement with Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Conversion of Existing Road to Recreational Trail at Spring Bluff Forest Preserve – Executive Director Kovach showed the location on a map and summarized the recommendation. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Mathias to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.3 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Intergovernmental Agreement with Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency for Lake Michigan Water Line Extension along Fish Lake and Gilmer Roads, adjacent to Singing Hills Forest Preserve and the Millennium Trail – Mr. Kovach showed the location on a map and summarized the recommendation, noting that the project will impact approximately a 1,000 lineal feet of the Millennium Trail. However, JAWA will provide a temporary bypass route so the trail remains open at all times during construction. Member Werfel provided additional information in response to questions. Motion by member Weber, second by member Taylor to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Temporary License Agreement with Wauconda Township allowing the District to perform restoration activities on Township property adjacent to Kettle Grove Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach showed the location on a map and summarized the recommendation. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Weber to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Policy direction regarding potential partnership with Village of Lindenhurst for trail connection at Hastings Lake Forest Preserve, to (i) authorize permission to sign Memorandum of Understanding, and (ii) authorize negotiation of Intergovernmental Agreement – Director Seebach summarized past conversations with village officials for a potential trail connecting a local Village neighborhood to the District's existing trails at Hastings Lake Forest Preserve. An asphalt trail connection is proposed, which would provide more than 1,000 homes with improved, direct access to the Hastings Lake trails. He outlined the details of a draft memo of understanding and asked for approval to have the Executive Director sign it, then to negotiate an agreement. The Village will acquire the vacant lot as fee simple. District staff will prepare plans, secure permits and administer the project; District crews will construct the trail and the Village will reimburse the District for all materials, estimated at \$19,000. Staff time is estimated at \$18,000. The District will have a perpetual easement across Village property and will only maintain the portion on District property. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. President Maine voiced concerns over the out-of-pocket cost to the District for engineering and permits. Mr. Seebach felt that the \$8,000 estimated for permits and fees was a maximum and will probably come in around \$3,000. President Maine said that in the future the District's policy should be that no hard costs are incurred with projects like this, and be careful of District crews working on other jurisdictions' projects, causing delay to District projects. The consensus of the committee was to proceed with this project; however, in the future the details of a project like this should come to the committee at an earlier stage so the committee can decide whether to commit to the project.

10.5 Policy direction regarding the Village of Volo's notification that it intends to install lighting improvements along a portion of the Millennium Trail at Singing Hills Forest Preserve – Director Seebach summarized the Village's plan to install ambient lighting along a portion of the Millennium Trail adjacent Fish Lake Road and within the District's trail easement. In the original IGA, the Village did not expressly reserve the right to install above-ground, parallel lights, or other utilities. Staff is concerned that lighting could invite night time use of the Millennium Trail, outside of the District's standard operating hours, and could expose the District to additional risk and liability. Mr. Seebach added that the Operations Committee discussed this matter and their direction was to defer a decision to the next meeting to await comments from the District's insurance carrier (PDRMA). Mr. Seebach and Jonathan Meyer from the Village responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Mr. Meyer added that their intent is for beautification and ambiance, not to brightly illuminate the trail; the placement would be about 200 feet apart. Chief Tannahill added that the District would get the calls regarding incidents because the trail is in our right of way. He also voiced concerns over black ice forming after sunset on the trail in the winter. Mr. Meyer noted that the bid has been awarded but a contract has not been signed and they could work with extending a decision to next month; also the Village wasn't aware they needed permission from the District. Following further comments, motion by member Taylor, second by member Mathias to defer this item to the December meeting to await comments from PDRMA. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.





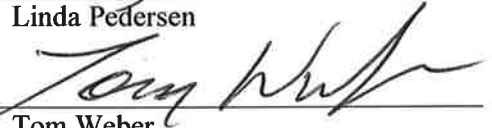

11.0 Executive Session – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Werfel to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition matters. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7, NAYS: 0. The Committees went into executive session at 2:42 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:26 p.m.

Chair Calabresa reminded committee members that if they are not able to attend a committee meeting to please let her and President Maine know prior to the meeting.

12.0 Next scheduled meeting: December 4, 2017

13.0 Adjourn – With no further business before the committee, Chair Calabresa adjourned the meeting at 3:27 p.m.

Approved:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Carol Calabresa, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Paul Frank			_____		
 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Craig Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Tom Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Jeff Werfel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Terry Wilke					