



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, February 6, 2017. The meeting was convened at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

President Ann Maine called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2.0 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Maine called upon Vice President Linda Pedersen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance

3.0 ROLL CALL

Recording Secretary Helena Keller called the roll and 14 Commissioners answered: Bartels, Calabresa, Carlson, Cunningham, Durkin, Hart, Hewitt, Maine, Martini, Nixon, Pedersen, Taylor, Weber, and Wilke. Commissioner Werfel arrived at 11:04 a.m. Commissioner Frank arrived at 11:07 a.m. Absent: Commissioners Lawlor, Mathias, Paxton, and Rummel.

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

5.0 ADDED TO THE AGENDA – No additions to the Agenda

6.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF June 6, 2016, 2017

Motion by member Nixon, second by member Hart to approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed by majority with member Martini abstaining.

7.0 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE WORKFLOW PROCESS

Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer gave a description on the process of item preparation for presentation at Committee and Board meetings. He summarized the workflow process and described the timeline and channels of internal review and final review by legal counsel. It was noted that this process begins after the item has been initially, usually extensively, discussed between Directors and Project Managers. His presentation included displaying the Board and Committee Meeting Schedule, the Committee Meeting Workflow Dates list, and the Upcoming Agenda Items list used for coordinating items for inclusion on an agenda. Mr. Tully also answered general questions.

8.0 UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Executive Director Kovach presented an update on the District's Strategic Plan. He gave a quick review of the 100-Year Vision mentioning the five strategic directions: Leadership; Organizational Sustainability; Conservation; Communication, Education & Outreach; and Public Access & Connections. He went on to describe Phase I – Visioning into the Century, Phase II – Strategic Direction within the next 20-25 years and elaborated upon Phase III – looking into the next five to eight years and the tactics that will be used to accomplish goals. Director Kovach's presentation focused on the updates to the three Pillars that encompass the thirteen tactics.

Pillar 1 – Leadership

1. Building upon the District's 5 Core Values and working to earn recognition as one of the "Best Places to Work in IL"
2. Developing and maintaining a 10-year rolling financial plan responsive to changing economic conditions and that ensures the District's organizational sustainability
3. Reducing the District's kilowatt hours purchased by 35% to model sustainability through conservation and green practices
4. Establish a process for developing strategic partnerships that consider and protect the District's long-term interests
5. Establish a unified process for creating, editing and storing geospatial and demographic data to effectively inventory, maintain and promote resources
6. Analyze brand usage to strengthen public recognition of the District's identity

Pillar 2 – Conservation

7. Develop partnerships to create three 10,000-acre complexes that provide large-scale habitats for woodland, grassland and wetland species
8. Eradicate buckthorn across 4,000 acres through a collaborative pilot project that broadens invasive species awareness, leading to action for improved ecological health.
9. Develop a land classification and use policy as the foundational guide for determining future land acquisition, restoration and improvements

Pillar 3 – People

10. Develop a comprehensive plan for a unique Lake County destination that tells the entwined natural and human story
11. Increase the number of Lake County schools that participate in an educational experience by 5% annually, to foster future generations of stewards, users and supporters
12. Approve a master plan and identify a funding strategy that maximizes connectivity between our preserves and communities in north-central Lake County
13. Present focused public awareness messages and narrative that inspire people to interact with and support their forest preserves.

Director Kovach responded to questions throughout the presentation.

9.0 DEVELOPMENT DIVISION REPORT

Rebekah Snyder gave an update of the activities of the Development Division starting with a brief history of the past 10 years. She presented slides on the statistics of received and pledged gifts and explained that funds come to both the Preservation Foundation and to the Forest Preserves. She stated that the impact of the Strategic Plan helped the Preservation Foundation refine its message supporting its mission to extend and accelerate the Forest Preserve work through fundraising. In line with leadership goals, the Division focused on strategic partnerships in terms of partners doing work on their property, donating in-kind services, and included a few private donors, which contributed to the overall objective at Middlefork Savanna to make progress toward the 2900-acre buckthorn eradication initiative. In keeping with conservation goals, the largest grant in Lake County Forest Preserve history was acquired through the generosity of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to help fund the acquisition of the Cuneo Property.

Also consistent with Conservation goals, in conjunction with the Des Plaines River Watershed Working Group who was providing funding for the sampling of water on the main stem of the Des Plaines River, the Preservation Foundation Board elected to grant additional funds to include headwaters located on Forest Preserve property in an effort toward maximizing improvement of water quality. In relation to Public Access, the Foundation obtained a commitment to create a sizeable endowment based on the 100-year vision prioritizing the completion of regional trails and connections in communities and in maintenance of the trails we presently oversee.

Katherine Hamilton-Smith briefly presented on the impact of the restructure and creation of the new Public Affairs and Development Department and explained the goal of public messaging to have the public get actively involved in the work of the District by contributing through either volunteer hours, cash or pledges, and through will and estate planning. Highlights from 2016 included the Adopt a Turtle Program, the Des Plaines River Challenge and the Preservation Foundation Summer Tour, which included 25 stops to events such as farmers markets, outdoor art festivals, and large Lake County Forest Preserve District events.

Rebekah closed the presentation with a summation of a look forward into 2017 focusing on:

- * developing marketing tools to articulate programs geared toward giving opportunities
- * generating conversations with specific target groups / individuals where none exist to gain support
- * continue to develop the Preservation Foundation Board and assimilating the members from the dissolved Friends of the Lake County Discovery Museum
- * investing in donor acquisition / membership program

10.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 6, 2017.

11.0 ADJOURN

With no further business before the Committee, President Maine adjourned the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Helena Keller
Recording Secretary

Date Approved: 3-6-2017

