

Lake County Forest Preserve District - JOINT MEETING
Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee; Planning & Restoration Committee
October 31, 2016 - Open Session Minutes

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee and Planning & Restoration Committee met jointly on Monday, October 31, 2016. 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 of both committees, Chair Carol Calabresa called the Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee to order and Chair Bonnie Thomson Carter called the Planning & Restoration Committee to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Land Preservation & Acquisition
Committee Members Present:**

Carol Calabresa, *Chair*
Steve Mandel, *Vice Chair*
Bonnie Thomson Carter
Tom Weber (10:35 am)
Jeff Werfel
Terry Wilke

Absent:

Linda Pedersen

Planning & Restoration

Committee Members Present:

Bonnie Thomson Carter, *Chair*
Nick Sauer, *Vice Chair*
Carol Calabresa
Bill Durkin
Sandy Hart
Diane Hewitt
Sid Mathias
Craig Taylor
Tom Weber

Also Present:

Ann B. Maine, President
Steve Carlson
Mary Ross Cunningham
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Jim Anderson
Ken Jones
Rebecca Hegner

Others Present: Steve Neaman, John Nelson, Nan Buckardt, Mary Kann, Katherine Hamilton-Smith, Rebekah Snyder, Julie Gragnani, Phil Hogan, Matt Norton, Richard Riley, Michael Douchant, Mick Zawislak.

- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Craig Taylor led the pledge of allegiance.
- 3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 4.0 Public Comment** – None
- 5.0 Executive Director Report** – Executive Director Kovach distributed a report and commented on:
- Update on two-year safety performance plan;
 - Update on Des Plaines River Trail Challenge and future focus on marketing efforts;
 - *Natural Legacies* newsletter for planned giving;
 - Distinguished Budget Presentation award received from Government Finance Officers Association;
 - Update on public access construction and trail projects;
 - Accreditation from Chicago Wilderness for Excellence in Ecological Restoration at MacArthur Woods;
 - Deer removal program goes from November 21 to March 27;
 - Hawkfest was held on October 14-15 focusing on birding as an economic driver for regions.
 - A discussion ensued regarding the recent request for an archery field at Pine Dunes.
- 6.0 Correspondence** - None
- 7.0 New Business – Planning & Restoration Committee**
- 7.1 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Taylor, second by member Sauer to approve the Planning & Restoration Committee minutes from October 3, 2016. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

7.2 Natural Resources Department Report – Director Jim Anderson distributed and summarized statistics regarding the District’s controlled burn season. He noted that the goal is to conduct controlled burns on 20% of the District’s total acres. He noted that both dams have been removed on the Des Plaines River, and reported on Phase 1 of the GLFER project at Fort Sheridan. He responded to questions and a general discussion ensued.

7.3 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Oak Woodland Clearing Phase 2 at Kettle Grove Forest Preserve to JH Landworks, Wauconda, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$59,675.00 – Motion by member Sauer, 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 Finance and Administrative Committee. Chair Carter requested that village trustees and administrators be copied on project notification letters that go out to mayors.

8.0 New Business – Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee

8.1 Payment Approvals – The August 2016 Holland & Knight legal bill was circulated for signature approval later in the meeting.

8.2 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Mandel, second by member Werfel to approve the Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee open and closed session minutes from October 3, 2016. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

8.3 Recommend approval of Resolution approving License Agreement with Village of Lake Villa Permitting Use of Designated Trails at Sun Lake Forest Preserve to Access Existing Public Utility Easement – Director Randy Seebach introduced Phil Hogan, Survey Technician. He then summarized a recommendation for a long-term license agreement with the village of Lake Villa for their use of District trails at Sun Lake to access their easement for bringing Lake Michigan water to local residents. Mr. Seebach and Attorney Matt Norton responded to questions. Motion by member Weber, second by member Carter to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee.

8.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an Amendment to an Easement Agreement with the Village of Lincolnshire at Half Day Forest Preserve – Director Seebach summarized the need for an amendment to the easement agreement with the village of Lincolnshire, to allow the Village to make improvements along the trail including brush removal, ditch stabilization, permanent planting beds and landscaping; and to correct a legal description in the original agreement. President Maine noted brush removal includes buckthorn and Mr. Seebach added that the plantings will be native plants and the Village will provide maintenance of the beds. A general discussion ensued, followed by a motion by member Mandel, second by member Carter to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance and Administrative Committee.

9.0 Old Business

9.1 Policy Direction regarding requests from various cell tower companies to construct and operate cell towers at various Forest Preserve locations and to authorize staff to negotiate agreements – Executive Director Kovach noted that this item was brought to the committee on April 4, 2016 and an educational presentation was made to the Committee of the Whole on June 6. At that meeting the Committee wanted to know what other sites were considered for cell towers and why they wouldn’t work, and asked for more information on the safety aspects of cell towers.

Mr. Kovach showed images of ways to disguise cell towers and gave a chronological summary of cell tower leases that the District has had in the past. He presented information regarding the safety of cell towers, which indicated that exposure is within a safe level. He then presented details on the two sites where requests for cell towers have been made: 1) Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve on Schaeffer Road, and 2) Countryside Golf Club at the Route 60 and Hawley intersection. Staff noted that the only other area forest preserve district considering cell towers at this time is Cook County, at their brownfield sites.

The committee discussed the alternate cell tower sites considered and rejected by the tower operators at Buffalo Creek and Countryside, which were shown on maps. Staff proposed an alternative to the Route 60/Hawley intersection at Countryside at the maintenance building. A lengthy discussion ensued and President Maine felt that decisions should be made on a site-by-site basis, and reiterated that a public open house would be required of cell tower company. Member Carter felt that the District should have input at the public meetings and should be specific about how lease revenues would be used.

During the course of discussion, Commissioner Carlson left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.; and Commissioner Mary Ross Cunningham left the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The committee did not reach consensus to proceed at the Buffalo Creek site. At the conclusion of discussion, Mr. Kovach summarized the policy direction from the committee: proceed with negotiations at Countryside; do more research to maximize our return for use of the land; require public hearings; perform due diligence including re-buying of the lease, reinvest revenues for the most impact, make sure District land is the last resort; and bring back the options for the tower's appearance.

11.0 Executive Session – Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee: Motion by member Carter, second by member Mandel to go into executive session for the purpose discussing land acquisition matters. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. **Planning & Restoration Committee:** Motion by member Durkin, second by member Sauer 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: 9, NAYS: 0. The Committees went into executive session at 12:45 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:37 p.m.

At this time, the Holland & Knight August legal bill was circulated to the Land Preservation and Acquisition committee members for signatures.


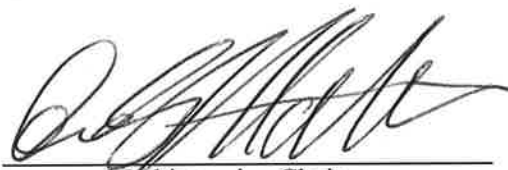
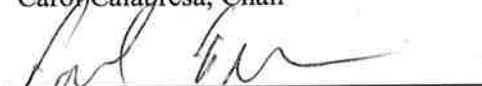
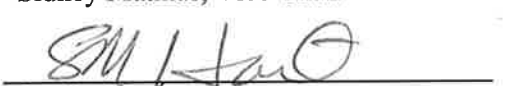
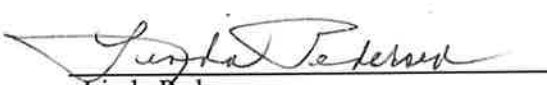

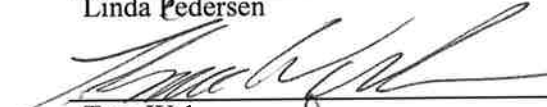
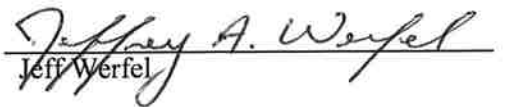

Chair Carter noted that this was her final committee meeting as a Commissioner, and made closing remarks. Commissioner Mandel also made closing remarks and thanked everyone. Chair Calabresa thanked the committee members for their work over the past two years.

12.0 Next scheduled meetings: To be determined.

13.0 Adjourn – With no further business, Chair Calabresa and Chair Carter declared the committees adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Approved:

Planning Committee:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Carol Calabresa, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sidney Mathias, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Paul Frank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sandra Hart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Linda Federsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Craig Taylor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Tom Weber	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Jeff Weyfel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Terry Wilke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			