

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee
April 4, 2016 - Open Session Minutes**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Land Preservation & Acquisition Committee met on Monday, April 4, 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 of the Committee present, Vice-Chair Steven Mandel called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Committee Members Present:

Steve Mandel, *Vice Chair*
Bonnie Thomson Carter
Linda Pedersen
Tom Weber
Jeff Werfel
Terry Wilke

Absent:

Carol Calabresa

Also Present:

Ann B. Maine, *President*
Craig Taylor
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Ken Jones
Steve Neaman
Jim Anderson
John Nelson

Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Mary Kann
Rebekah Snyder
Rebecca Hegner
Deb Boness
Julie Gragnani
Chris Butler
Matt Norton, *Holland & Knight*
Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*
Peter Rastrelli

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Pedersen led the pledge of allegiance.

3.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Wilke, second by member Werfel to approve the minutes from February 29, 2016, open and closed sessions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment – None

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Correspondence – None

7.0 Executive Director Report – Executive Director Kovach distributed a report and commented on:

- New committee room;
- Update on current budget process and 10-year projections;
- Catering firm for Greenbelt Cultural Center is no longer interested; staff is looking at strategies;
- Article from Illinois Parks and Recreation magazine regarding trends in golf; discussion ensued;
- Update on Preservation Foundation's planned giving newsletter recently mailed out;
- Meeting with Conserve Lake County on the Conservation at Home project at Ryerson Woods;
- Environmental Educator April Vaos recently named a Master Front Line Interpreter;
- GIV is nearly complete;
- Summary of winter restoration work; discussion ensued on doing better job at educating commissioners and the public on restoration projects;
- Joint committee meeting on May 2 at the Operations building.

8.0 Bills and Requisitions – Vice Chair Mandel circulated the January and February 2016 Holland & Knight invoices for signature approval.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution to purchase a 29.4-acre parcel of property in Fremont Township

known as the Diebold property for approximately \$911,400.00 as an addition to Ray Lake Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach illustrated the property on a map, contiguous to the White and Cuneo properties; price per acre is \$31,000. Motion by member Carter, second by member Pedersen 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. Director Anderson noted that staff has started thinking about restoration and the committee discussed Squaw Creek and the watershed.

9.2 Policy direction regarding request from Verizon Wireless to construct and operate a cell tower at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve and authorize staff to negotiate agreements – Mr. Kovach noted that Verizon Wireless indicated they are willing to negotiate a license or easement agreement based on the committee-approved list of terms by which the District would be willing to consider new cell tower agreements. He showed the location on maps and noted that there would be additional information needed including input from the County and Legal Counsel, and benefit to the public, but there is potential financial benefit to the District. Mr. Kovach asked for approval from the committee to continue negotiations with Verizon for a 75-ft. tower. Initial revenue would be \$15,000 annually, increasing 10% every 5 years, plus an annual rent share of \$6,000/yr. for each additional carrier. If negotiations prove fruitful, staff would present a license or easement agreement to the Committees for further review and consideration. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Member Carter noted that she was opposed and felt the Committee needs to know if alternate locations for the cell tower have been pursued. Vice Chair Mandel was concerned about public safety and would need more information on that. The consensus of the majority of the committee was that they were open to the idea but that the District should be the last option and the committee wants more information. President Maine recommended that the entire Board to be educated on this issue and that Verizon should make a presentation addressing the District's questions and concerns. The committee's direction was to continue with negotiations but more information is needed in order to make a final decision. Member Carter stated that she was in favor of getting the additional information, but remained opposed to having cell towers on District land.

9.3 Policy direction regarding request from Central States Tower III, LLC to construct and operate a cell tower at Countryside Golf Club and authorize staff to negotiate agreements – Mr. Kovach provided background and showed the proposed location of a 100-ft. cell tower on a map. Central States Tower indicated they could generally meet the committee-approved list of terms by which the District would be willing to consider new cell tower agreements. Initial revenue would be \$12,500 annually, increasing 10% every 5 years plus \$3,000 for an additional carrier.

Public Comment was given by Mundelein resident Peter Rastrelli, who was opposed to placing a cell tower on District land, wishing to preserve the charm of their property and their children's safety when playing outside. The consensus of the committee was to take the same action as item 9.2, to gather more information along with further negotiating before a decision is made. President Maine noted that the additional information needed to include any studies that have been done regarding any health risks. A general discussion ensued.

10.0 Old Business - None

11.0 Executive Session – Motion by member Carter, second by member Weber 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: 6, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 11:43 a.m. and returned to open session at 12:19 p.m.

12.0 Potential Final Action regarding Land Acquisition – None

13.0 Next scheduled meeting: May 2, 2016

4.0 **Adjourn** – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Werfel to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Approved:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
<u>Carol Calabresa</u> Carol Calabresa, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Tom Weber</u> Tom Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Steven W. Mandel</u> Steven W. Mandel, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Jeff Werfel</u> Jeff Werfel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Bonnie Thomson Carter</u> Bonnie Thomson Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Terry Wilke</u> Terry Wilke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Linda Pedersen</u> Linda Pedersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			