

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee
June 4, 2018 - Open Session Minutes**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Planning Committee met on Monday, June 4, 2018. The meeting was held at Lakewood Forest Preserve, 27230 Forest Preserve Road, Wauconda, Illinois.

- 1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum physically present, Chair Carol Calabresa called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Carol Calabresa, Chair
Sid Mathias, Vice Chair
Paul Frank (at 1:13 pm)
Sandy Hart
Tom Weber (at 1:08 pm)
Jeff Werfel
Terry Wilke

Absent:

Linda Pedersen
Craig Taylor

Also Present:

Ann Maine, President
Chuck Bartels
Judy Martini
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Steve Neaman
Jim Anderson
John Nelson
Mary Kann
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Nan Buckardt

Rebekah Snyder
Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, Legal Counsel
Jen Sazama
Greg Townsend
Frank Volm
Armando Abrego
Nick Huber
Susan Hall
Jeff Sloom
Mick Zawislak, Daily Herald
Mike Adams, Lake Co. Health Dept.

Public signed in: Grant Benjamin, Susan Pribyl, Jack Cahill, Eiss Fischer, Katie Chorland, Sharon Becker, Gloria and Tony Charland, Tessa Waters, Marta Guzman.

- 2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Calabresa led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

- 4.0 Public Comment** – There was no public comment for matters not on the agenda.

5.0 Executive Director Report

Operations and Infrastructure Director John Nelson introduced his staff in attendance: Frank Volm, Crew Chief; and Armando Abrego, Maintenance Worker. Executive Director Kovach distributed his report and commented on:

- \$20,000 grant received from REI, a new corporate donor;
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant received for up to \$25,000;
- The Preservation Foundation has only \$7,000 to go to reach its annual fund goal of \$100,000;
- In 2015 and 2016, PDRMA lowered its members' total contributions by nearly \$4.8 million through use of the rate stabilization fund;
- Over 2,500 people participated in the maple syrup programs;
- Distributed a report from CMAP, who will make a presentation at the June Board meeting;
- Annual native plant sale was a big success and set records for number of customers and total sales;
- Civil War School Days was attended by more than 700 students;
- 88 Blandings Turtle hatchlings were released on May 23, World Turtle Day; and was covered by several media outlets;
- 2,885 acres burned in the 2018 spring burn season; cumulative total for the year was 4,448 acres;

- President Maine approved a picnic shelter fee waiver in consideration of a Green Gift bench donation at Heron Creek Forest Preserve.

6.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Mathias, second by member Wilke to approve the open and executive session minutes from April 2 and April 30, 2018. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

7.0 Correspondence - None

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Squaw Creek Watershed Implementation Plan Update – Mr. Kovach reviewed the three areas the Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance asked for collaboration on in their letter presented to the committee at the April 2 meeting: 1) Mitigation/prevention of erosion of north shore of Long Lake in Grant Woods Forest Preserve; 2) Stream bank stabilization and erosion control on Eagle Creek in Grant Woods and Squaw Creek in Ray Lake Preserve; and 3) identification and monitoring of farm leases on District properties within Squaw Creek and Eagle Creek watersheds. Jim Anderson gave a presentation outlining the goals of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan and explaining the District's activities within the watershed already completed. Since 2004 the District acquired 1,321 acres in the watershed, increasing the open space by 5%; removed 755 acres of agricultural operation; and restored 1,740 acres, which Mr. Anderson reviewed in detail. Commissioner Martini noted that several residents were in attendance representing Long Lake, Public comment was given by the following:

- Susan Prible and Grant Benjamin, Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance – handed out a Request for Collaboration and summarized what the Alliance and its volunteers are doing at Long Lake to improve the water quality. They requested a District contract person they could contact for various issues.

Commissioner Martini asked what the process should be going forward and how to address the erosion on the District's portion of the shoreline. Mr. Anderson noted that the District's efforts with vegetation did not work as planned due to heavier lake traffic than anticipated. He noted a 90-ft. section of shoreline that is a critical issue because of mature oaks at the top of the bluff. Mr. Kovach added that the District is fully committed on funding and resources. This project would have to be taken through the capital planning process; and as that area's elected official, Commissioner Martini would be the Alliance's point of contact for the Committees and Board. President Maine added that the process is that the project would need to be brought to the Committee for consideration in adding it to the capital project list. Mr. Anderson reiterated that staff remains active with overall planning efforts within the watershed.

9.0 New Business

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Drainage Modification Planning Services at Lakewood Forest Preserve to Hey and Associates, Inc., Volo, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$46,800.00 Mr. Kovach summarized the project and Jim Anderson responded to questions. Motion by member Weber, second by member Hart 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.

9.2 Recommend approval of Ordinance Vacating a portion of Garcia Drive within Fourth Lake Forest Preserve - Mr. Kovach summarized the project. Motion by member Weber, second by member Werfel 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 Village of Third Lake for Gravel Surfacing of Existing Trail Connection to Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve – Director Randy Seebach summarized the project and responded to questions. The Village will reimburse the District

for materials, and will pay for a portion of the labor. The District will provide the rest of the labor, engineering, permitting, and administration of the project. A general discussion ensued and President Maine asked that when the trail is closed to put up a split rail fence with a sign to redirect trail users. Mr. Kovach summarized the process of how the project got on the CIP. Motion by member Werfel, second by member Hart 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.

9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for 2018 Planting and Landscape Work at Multiple Preserves to Nettle Creek Nursery, Inc., Morris, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$140,365.00 – Director Seebach summarized the project to take place at Middlefork, Fort Sheridan and Waukegan Savanna, and responded to questions. Motion by member Mathias, second by member Hart 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.

9.5 For Information Only – Lakewood Master Plan Update – Mr. Kovach provided background information, noting that in the planning process there is an emphasis on efficiencies and long-term cost savings. Director Seebach distributed a master plan update and gave a presentation of data compiled on Lakewood. He gave a background of the preserve, explaining that a land use plan was approved by an advisory committee in 2007 but was never presented to the Board. He reviewed the existing site and infrastructure assessment, noting that most parking lots are less than 25% full the majority of the time, and there are multiple entrances and roads requiring additional maintenance and patrol. He reviewed the existing preserve trails and picnic shelters and added that the dog exercise area does not comply with ADA standards. It was noted that habitat restoration and conservation activities at Lakewood are ongoing.

He then reviewed the assessment of the existing buildings, noting that Lakewood Farms did not have sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Teich Archives building no longer retains historic integrity due to significant alterations over time. The maintenance facility/granary would be cost prohibitive to upgrade and bring to code. The museum bull barn/addition could possibly be converted to a 4-season shelter. The dairy barn is historically significant to Lake County as Lakewood Farms and if restored, could qualify for listing on the National Register according to Williams Architects. It has architectural and historical interest and staff recommended saving it for funding opportunities for repurposing and restoration. He then reviewed the estimated annual maintenance and operating costs for trails, roads and parking lots, restrooms, mowed turf, building operation; totaling an estimated \$1.33 million annually, not including snow plowing, patching or major repairs. He showed simulations of how the preserve would look without the old buildings and showed a timeline for the planning process including initial planning, concept alternatives and preliminary concept plan, open house later this fall, final concept in late winter of 2019 for a Board approval of a master plan. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Mr. Seebach noted that during the process, building demolition costs will be presented to the committee along with the conceptual plans. President Maine commented on the opportunity at Lakewood for increasing accessibility and providing more open space. Commissioner Bartels mentioned trying to save the cupulas for re-use in the new designs.





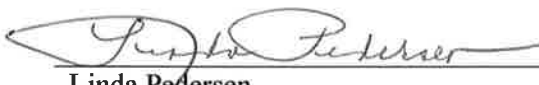
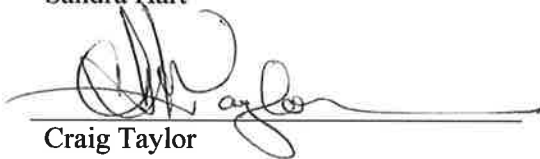


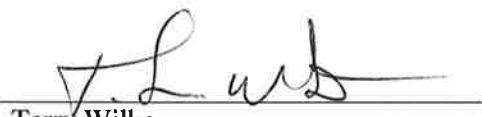
In closing, Mr. Kovach asked the committee to contact staff with any additional questions, concerns or suggestions. Chair Calabresa added that it is now time to re-evaluate and re-purpose Lakewood; and asked the audience members if there was any public comment; none was offered.

10.0 Executive Session – None

11.0 Next scheduled meeting: August 6, 2018

12.0 Adjourn – With no further business, Chair Calabresa adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Approved:

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Carol Calabresa, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sidney Mathias, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Paul Frank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Sandra Hart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 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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