

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee  
August 28, 2017 - Open Session Minutes**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, August 28, 2017. The meeting was held at the District's Operations & Public Safety Facility, 19808 West Grand Avenue, Lake Villa, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Chair Carol Calabresa called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Calabresa, Chair  
Paul Frank (1:16 pm)  
Sandy Hart  
Linda Pedersen  
Craig Taylor  
Tom Weber  
Jeff Werfel  
Terry Wilke

**Absent:**

Sid Mathias

**Also Present:**

Ann Maine, President (1:10 pm)  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Steve Neaman  
Jim Anderson  
Nan Buckardt  
John Nelson  
John Tannahill  
Mary Kann

**Also Present:**

Ken Jones  
Rebekah Snyder  
Leslie Berns  
Julie Gragnani  
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel  
Mick Zawislak, Daily Herald  
Sharon Osterby, SMC  
Mike Warner, SMC  
Barb Thompson

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Wilke 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 his report and commented on fee waivers authorized by the President in August; the Preservation Foundation's new officers; Fred Fest, Fall Classic golf outing at ThunderHawk; recent grants received; eclipse viewing event; social media data from the July flooding; IACFPD quarterly meeting hosted by the District; legislative update; new toilet building at Grant Woods; DPR Trail closures for repair work; updates on projects at Nippersink and Middlefork; and distributed the executive summary for the Green Infrastructure Model and Strategy.

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Wilke, second by member Weber to approve the open and executive session minutes from July 31, 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 bill for June 2017 was circulated for signature approval.

**9.0 Old Business** – None

**10.0 New Business**

**10.1 Presentation on clearing projects** – Director Jim Anderson gave a presentation summarizing current habitat restoration projects. Group 1 included carry-over projects from 2016; Group 2 included new projects. During the presentation, Mr. Anderson and Leslie Berns responded to questions. Following the presentation a general discussion ensued and President Maine noted that there are various people in the preserves doing research and the data is being published. This information needs to be compiled and disseminated. Mr. Anderson noted that his staff will be working on this.

Director Anderson continued with a presentation on the history of the North Mill Creek restoration project and outlined several safety issues that exist at the dam and spillway. The Illinois EPA rejected the District's original proposal to dewater Rasmussen Lake in order to restore the creek. Mr. Anderson summarized the modified plan, which included partial lake dewatering with a 14-acre lake to catch sediment during the restoration. A second phase will include dewatering the 14 acres and removal of a low-head dam that was discovered at the north end during dewatering. He added that all permits are now in hand for the entire project. He responded to questions and a general discussion ensued.

10.2 Recommend approval of Ordinance amending FY 2017/18 Appropriations Ordinance, FY 2017/18 Budget, and Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan to approve funding for Ethel's Woods-North Mill Creek Project— Mr. Anderson summarized the request to move all funds for the project into the current budget cycle so that grant funds and dollars allocated to the project in future fiscal years are available this fiscal year so that the entire contract can be awarded. He responded to questions and a general discussion continued. Motion by member Pedersen, 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.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for North Mill Creek Channel Restoration Phase 2 at Ethel's Wood's Forest Preserve to Applied Ecological Services, Inc., Brodhead, Wisconsin in the Contract Price of \$4,007,893.63 – 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.

10.4 Policy direction regarding request from Village of Lake Barrington to allow bicycle access on trails at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve –Director Randy Seebach explained an agreement with the Village in 1989 containing Village limitations and conditions on the development of land now known as Grassy Lake Forest Preserve. In the agreement, the Village required that dogs and bicycles be prohibited on the trails; the IGA has been amended twice with the latest amendment allowing dogs on leash at the Village's request, and to add a stipulation that the Village pay all costs for improvements to existing paths and changes to signage and brochures should the Village desire to allow bicycling in the future. Since the trails' completion in 2002 the District has received numerous requests from residents to allow bicycles, and they have been directed to contact the Village since this was its restriction. Last month the District received a formal request from the Village to allow bicycles on Preserve trails as a test, with the caveat that the Village be allowed to revert back to the present status in the event they receive complaints that cyclists are not sharing the trail, or if other issues surface. Staff has concerns and asked the committee for policy direction on the allowance of bicycles on the trails, whether to continue discussions with the Village, whether there are other desired revisions to the IGA, and whether to authorize negotiations on a third amendment to the IGA or to negotiate an entirely new IGA to replace existing agreements.

Attorney Matt Norton added that it is time to attempt to lift some of the restrictions in the IGA because at the time of the IGA the county's population was under 600,000, which placed restrictions on what the District could do on its own property. Mr. Seebach and Mr. Norton responded to questions and comments, and a general discussion ensued. President Maine felt that bicycles should not be allowed north of the Kelsey Road parking lot (on the former Hurd property) because it would encourage speeding down the large hill, especially with mountain bikes going off-trail. Mr. Seebach added that a lot of money has been spent on restoration, benches and landscaping, and the intent in this area is to have a quiet experience. He suggested putting a bike rack at the existing parking lot so riders could leave their bikes there and continue on foot. The committee reached a consensus that they were against the Village's request to revert back to no bicycles if it doesn't go well; once a scope of release has been granted regarding bicycles, there would be no going back. President Maine reminded the committee that there are other restrictions in the IGA that need to be addressed

in addition to the trail restrictions. After further discussion it was the consensus of the committee to have legal counsel begin negotiations on revising or replacing the IGA.





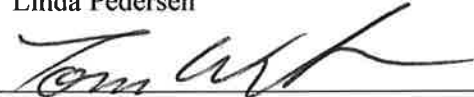

10.5 Policy direction regarding request from Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for Partial Release of Easement and Easement Holder's Consent to Temporary Construction Easement over an access easement held by the District at Heron Creek Forest Preserve, and to authorize negotiation of intergovernmental agreement with IDOT – Director Seebach summarized the property on a map and explained IDOT's request to the District to partially vacate an easement and sign an Easement Holder's Consent to Temporary Construction Easement. He noted that there would be no impact to the District if the easement is vacated. Member Taylor encouraged moving forward to assist in the widening of Route 22. The consensus of the committee was to proceed.

11.0 **Executive Session** – Motion by member Werfel, second by member Pedersen to go into executive session for the purpose of reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and erasure of verbatim recordings; and for 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 2:37 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:45 p.m.

12.0 **Next scheduled meeting:** October 2, 2017

13.0 **Adjourn** – With no further business before the committee, Chair Calabresa adjourned the meeting at 3:45 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"/>	 Sidney Mathias, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Frank	<input 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"/>
 Terry Wilke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			