

Fort Sheridan – Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting *April 14, 2010*

On April 14, the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve Master Plan Advisory Committee met to continue working toward a consensus on future public uses for the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve. The meeting was conducted by Susan Parks, an independent facilitator.

The facilitator presented several possible development scenarios: an 18-hole course; a 9-to-12-hole course blended with some natural areas and public access; a forest preserve with natural areas, trails and public access; and holding off on a decision to see if the economy and the golf market improve. These scenarios were based on comments made by the committee at its February meeting and comments submitted in writing by the public.

From those choices, the committee singled out for further exploration the scenario of a 9-to-12-hole course, blended with natural areas and public access. Members discussed preferences for the course, including that it offer a unique golfing experience to attract enough rounds to be financially sustainable and that it be environmentally certified. Members also felt that the public should have access to the bluffs and lakeshore, and that the historic status of the parade ground should be respected.

The committee agreed to have the Forest Preserve golf marketing consultant work with staff members from the committee's represented governments and a professional golf course designer to analyze the feasibility of constructing and operating a 9- to 12-hole course at the site.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at the Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest, IL, pending completion of the golf course analysis work.

The committee's purpose is to present a recommendation on preferred public uses at the preserve to the Forest Preserve Board. Committee members include representatives from neighboring cities and park districts, Forest Preserve Commissioners from those communities, the Fort Sheridan Homeowners Association, the U.S. Department of the Army and the 10th District Congressional office.