

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2020**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Legislative Committee met on Monday, January 6, 2020. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices at 1899 West Winchester Road in Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order -With a quorum present, Chair Didech called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Adam R. Didech, *Chair*
Jennifer Clark, *Vice Chair*
Dick Barr (11:07)
Judy Martini
Julie Simpson
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, *President*
John Wasik (11:05)
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Nan Buckardt
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Mary Kann
Steve Neaman
John Tannahill
Rebekah Snyder

Allison Frederick
Jackie DeMasi
Maureen Shelton
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*
Mike Grady, *SAG*
Grant Benjamin, *Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance*

Absent:

Linda Pedersen

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Didech led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approval of Minutes - Motion by member Simpson, second by member Clark to approve the open and closed session minutes from the November 4, 2019 Legislative Committee. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment - There was no public comment.

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda

Chair Didech asked for a motion to add to the agenda the Executive Directors Report. Motion by member Martini, second by member Clark. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and Executive Director Kovach distributed his report and commented on:

- 2019 Grants and Donations totaling over \$5.5 million;
- Strategic Plan Objective 6 - refreshed District logo;
- Celebration of Souls exhibit at Dunn Museum closed on January 5th; next exhibit opening January 24th will feature artwork of Waukegan artist Reima V. Ratti;
- Steering Committee will meet on March 9th to review draft objectives for Board approval in April;
- 2019 Incident Rate was 7.33 – down from the 2015 rate of 11.08;
- Fort Sheridan Cemetery jurisdiction was transferred to the U.S. Veterans Administration;
- Annual volunteer recognition event on February 1st at Greenbelt Cultural Center.

6.0 Correspondence – None

7.0 State Legislative Update – Chair Didech welcomed the District's legislative consultant Mike Grady of Strategic Advocacy Group (SAG). Mr. Grady provided a legislative update to the committee, highlighting the following:

- The State Senate President has announced his retirement;
- Both the Illinois House and Senate are back in session on January 28;
- Electoral primary is on March 17;
- The Governor's key priorities are a large ethics reform package and the Fair Tax Proposal;
- Update on the District's potential Minimum Tax Rate Cap and Design-Build legislation.

8.0 Old Business – None

9.0 New Business

9.1 Policy Direction to update previously identified projects that will be actively promoted by the District for funding through the State’s recently approved Capital Bill. Mr. Kovach highlighted all of the changes and responded to questions. Member Barr stated that he was opposed. The consensus of the committee was to proceed.

9.2 Policy Direction on whether to seek an amendment to the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act to allow, if first approved by referendum, the District to levy a tax for repairing and altering capital improvements to enhance accessibility of District services, programs, and activities, including improvements required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Kovach explained that the District recently completed a review of its entire system of preserves, facilities, programs and policies to check for compliance with the most current state and federal accessibility standards, including Americans with Disabilities Act standards. There is approximately \$5 million of identified accessibility projects that are unfunded. Staff is seeking policy direction whether to seek introduction of legislation amending the Act to insert similar language, which, if signed into law, would allow the District to ask Lake County voters to approve a tax levy specifically for implementing the accessibility improvements. Mr. Kovach and Mr. Grady responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was not to proceed at this time.

9.3 Approve a motion to retain as confidential all Committee closed session minutes not previously released, in accordance with The Open Meetings Act and the District’s Policy on Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Records. Motion to approve by member Clark, second by member Simpson. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

10.0 Closed Session – None

11.0 Next meeting – The next schedule meeting is March 2, 2020.

12.0 Adjourn – With no further business; Chair Didech declared the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

APPROVED:

Yea Nay

Yea Nay

Adam R. Didech, Chair



Linda Pedersen

Jennifer Clark, Vice Chair

Julie Simpson

Yea

Dick Barr

Jessica Vealitzek

Judy Martini