

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2020**

The Operations Committee met Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Lake County Forest Preserves General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order -With a quorum present, Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, *Chair*
Mary Ross Cunningham
Ann B. Maine
Terry Wilke

Absent:

Bill Durkin, *Vice Chair*
Brent Paxton
Craig Taylor

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, *President*
Sandy Hart
Jennifer Clark (10:31 a.m.)
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Jim Anderson
Nan Buckardt
Mary Kann
Steve Neaman
John Nelson
Randy Seebach
John Tannahill

Rebekah Snyder
Debbie Boness
Andrew Osborne
Seleena Kuester
Dan Stearns
Sara Page
Kim Mikus
Maureen Shelton
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*
Tony Castellano
Kate Wagner
Rory Wagner
Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Wilke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approve Minutes - Approve the January 6, 2020 Operations Committee meeting minutes. Motion to approve by member Wilke, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment – There was no public comment for items not on the agenda.

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Executive Director Comments - Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- The District won two Gold Awards in the 2020 AVA Digital Awards;
- Illustrations by the Assistant Public Affairs Manager featured in the Daily Herald;
- Summer camp registration already at 50% capacity;
- Profiles in Excellence, February 9th at 2pm at Greenbelt Cultural Center;
- Recent grants and donations;
- \$200,000 pledge to the Ryerson classroom project (unfunded CIP project) from an anonymous donor; will be used for a master plan; will require a budget amendment;
- Update on Blanding's Turtle recovery program;
- Fort Sheridan lakefront erosion following the January storm event. Natural Resources Director Jim Anderson made a presentation showing the damage and possible options for repair that will be sustainable in the long term. He responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Mr. Anderson added that he plans to meet with and hopes to partner with other Agency's along the coastline.

7.0 Correspondence – None

8.0 Old Business – None

9.0 New Business

9.1 Provide Policy Direction on whether the District should eliminate the long-standing prohibition on dogs in the recreational core area of Independence Grove.

Public comment was given by resident Kate Wagner, who was representing herself and several nearby neighbors of Independence Grove, who would like to be able to walk their dogs on leash there. She stated that they are open to a compromise, such as a trial period allowing them to walk their dogs on leash during off hours.

Mr. Tully informed the Committee that he and Mr. Kovach met with the requesting neighbors and explained why the rule had been established prior to the opening of Independence Grove and why staff feels that rule has served the District well. At the end of the meeting, the homeowners wished to bring this request to the Board, and it was explained to them that the appropriate venue to hear this request would be the Operations Committee.

Mr. Tully stated that the prohibition on dogs in the recreational core area of Independence Grove was established prior to the opening of Independence Grove. Dogs are allowed at Independence Grove, outside of the recreational core. They are allowed, on leash, on the Des Plaines River Trail, and off leash at the Independence Grove Dog Exercise. When Independence Grove was being planned, staff recommended, and the Board agreed, to not allow dogs in the recreational core for a number of reasons. The biggest reason was the large visitation numbers. It was anticipated, that visitation at this preserve would be much higher than any preserve in the District. Actual attendance is more than all other preserves combined. The core recreational area is unlike any other preserve with acres of irrigated turf and formalized landscaped areas. There is a concern that dogs off leash, and unattended dog waste, could be at best an irritant, and at worst, a danger, to the large crowds of picnickers, walkers, cyclists and children using the preserve, as well as to attendees at large special events.

Mr. Tully noted that dogs are welcomed, on leash, at almost all Forest Preserves. Exceptions are the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area, golf courses, and the equestrian trail area at Lakewood.

A general discussion ensued and staff responded to questions. Member Maine felt that staff articulated very well why this shouldn't be allowed and she does not support a trial period. Member Wilke requested more signage and bag stations across all preserves. Commissioner Hart spoke in support of a trial period, allowing dogs on leash at Independence Grove.

The consensus of the Committee was to follow staff's direction and continue to not allow dogs in the recreation core of Independence Grove.

9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a two-year CompleteLink Discount Agreement for Telephone Services with AT&T Corp. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. Motion to approve by member Maine, second by member Cunningham. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with CivicPlus for Applicant Tracking and Recruitment Services (i) extending the term of the Agreement for two years, to end on February 27, 2022, (ii) allowing the District to exercise three one-year renewals (subject to potential price escalations), and (iii) deleting services that are no longer needed by the District, reducing the annual contract cost. Member Maine informed the committee that she attended the recent Diversity Committee meeting and was concerned if changes coming out of that meeting would work with this system. Mr. Kovach responded that several of the changes coming from the Diversity Committee have already been put in place. There are three potential changes that could possibly affect the applicant tracking system. Mary Kann, Director of Administration responded to additional questions. The next Diversity Committee will be scheduled for August of 2020. Motion to approve by member Maine,

second by member Wilke. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.

- 9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution Awarding one-year Contracts with options for two one-year extensions, for Public Safety Department uniforms and equipment to each of the following vendors: (i) Ray O'Herron Company, Inc., Danville, Illinois, and (ii) Galls, LLC, Lexington, Kentucky, in amounts not to exceed \$33,000.00 in total, for both contracts, in year one and not to exceed funds budgeted and appropriated for uniform and equipment expenditures during the extensions. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution and responded to questions. Motion to approve by member Cunningham, second by member Wilke. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee
- 9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the exterior renovation project at the Adlai E. Stevenson Historic Home to Workmasters, Inc. Des Plaines, Illinois, in the contract amount of \$597,838.00. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. John Nelson, Director of Operations and Infrastructure responded to questions. Member Wilke requested a larger discussion on structures, particular to the ones that don't serve the District core mission. Member Maine reminded the committee the importance of Education and Cultural History to the District. Staff will revisit the buildings list at an upcoming committee meeting. Motion to approve by member Cunningham, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.
- 9.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a two-year Contract for landfill disposal of demolition debris to Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. Mr. Nelson responded to questions. Motion to approve by member Cunningham, second by member Wilke. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Finance Committee.
- 9.7 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Herbicide Purchases to Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc., DeForest, Wisconsin; and Van Diest Supply Co., Chatham, Illinois, in a total combined amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. Motion to approve by member Wilke, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Full Board.
- 9.8 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Invasive Plant Management 2020 at Multiple Preserves for (a) Sun Lake Teasel Management project to Red Buffalo Nursery, Richmond, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$14,025.00, (b) Buffalo Creek Teasel Management project to Liberty Prairie Restorations, Libertyville, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$13,260.00, (c) East Invasive Plant Management to Liberty Prairie Restorations, Libertyville, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$85,312.50, (d) West Invasive Management to Red Buffalo Nursery, Richmond, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$96,118.75. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. Jim Anderson, Director of Natural Resources, responded to a question. Motion to approve by member Wilke, second by member Cunningham. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the Full Board.
- 9.9 Approve the award of a farm license at the Oak-Hickory property to the second-highest qualified bidder. Mr. Tully summarized the Resolution. Motion to approve by member Wilke, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

10.0 Closed Session – None.

11.0 Next Meeting – March 2, 2020

12.0 Adjourn – With no further business, motion by member Cunningham, second by member Maine, to adjourn. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

Yea Nay

Yea Nay




Jessica Nealitzek, Chair

Brent Paxton



Bill Durkin, Vice Chair

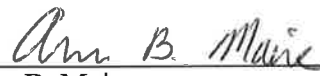


Craig Taylor

Mary Ross Cunningham



Terry Wilke



Ann B. Maine