

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting
Monday, February 4, 2019**

The Operations Committee met Monday, February 4, 2019 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.

Commissioners Present: **Also Present:**

Jessica Vealitzek, *Chair*

Bill Durkin, *Vice Chair*

Ann B. Maine

Craig Taylor

Terry Wilke

Alex "Ty" Kovach

Mike Tully

Jim Anderson

Jim Ballowe

Nan Buckardt

Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Rebekah Snyder

Dan Stearns

Maureen Shelton

Douglas Wambach, *Corporate Counsel*

Absent:

Mary Ross Cunningham

Brent Paxton

Mary Kann

Steve Neaman

John Nelson

- 2.0 **Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Durkin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 3.0 **Public Comment** – No Public Comment

- 4.0 **Addenda to the Agenda** – Item 9.1 is being removed from the Agenda due to an unresolved insurance issue.

- 5.0 **Executive Director Comments**

Executive Director Kovach distributed his report and commented on:

- ComEd renewed its \$20,000 grant for education programming;
- Job Fair on February 16 and Profiles in Excellence on February 17;
- New York Times article on the Marvelocity exhibition;
- Distributed "Healthy Hedges" brochure with information on replacements for European buckthorn privacy screens. Natural Resources Director Jim Anderson provided additional information and responded to questions.
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative Master Plan 2050 Goals;
- Annual Volunteer Recognition event on February 9.

- 6.0 **Correspondence** – None

- 7.0 **Approve Minutes**

Approve the January 7, 2019 Operations Committee meeting minutes. Motion by member Durkin, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

- 8.0 **Old Business** – None

- 9.0 **New Business**

- 9.1 **Recommend Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Research Services for a Countywide Awareness, Attitude and Usage Survey to aQity Research & Insights, Inc., Evanston, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$39,000.00.** Motion to defer by member Wilke, second by member Maine. Voice vote being had, the motion to defer passed unanimously.

- 9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Invasive Plant Management at Multiple Forest Preserves (a) for Sun Lake Teasel Management Crew to Native Restoration Services, Inc., Lake Bluff, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$19,750.00, (b) for the Southeast Invasive Plant Management Crew to Liberty Prairie Restorations, LLC, Libertyville, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$118,400.00, and (c) for Districtwide Invasive Plant Management Crew to Red Buffalo Nursery, Richmond, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$132,000.00.

Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation. Motion by member Durkin, second by member Wilke. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the full board.

- 9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the 2019 Reforestation Watering at Multiple Forest Preserves (Grassy Lake, Lakewood, Lyons Woods, Ray Lake, and Van Patten Woods) to McGinty Bros., Inc., Long Grove, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$36,780.00. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. He explained that the low bidder was rejected as non-responsive because the bid did not contain the required commitment letters regarding insurance coverage and bonding. Staff recommended awarding the contract to the second lowest bidder. Motion 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 a Contract for the Maintenance Shop Remodel at Van Patten Woods Forest Preserve to Stuckey Construction Company, Inc., Waukegan, Illinois, in the amount of \$149,000.00. Mike Tully summarized the recommendation. Motion by member Taylor, second by member Durkin. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously and will be forwarded to the full board.

- 9.5 For Information Only – Greenbelt Cultural Center Presentation –Facilities Director Jim Ballowe introduced Dan Stearns, Superintendent, Recreational Facilities. They presented an operational overview on the Greenbelt Cultural Center, including staff's four goals of sustainability, public accessibility, competitive pricing and engaging the community. Their presentation showed operational losses from 2006 through 2018. Mr. Ballowe explained how expenses have been reduced by 56% since 2015 and summarized the strategies used over the years to try to increase revenues. A new manager is now on site and revenue projections are up. Money has been invested to update the technology and create a new bride room. The overall goal is to keep reducing the subsidy provided by the District for the facility and reach a break-even point by 2023. He spoke about the fee structure and pricing strategies that will be developed, and new ways to engage with the community. He spoke of marketing and branding efforts planned, including developing a new logo and identity, updating promotional materials and developing a social media presence. Mr. Ballowe and Mr. Stearns responded to questions.

10.0 Closed Session – None

11.0 Next Meeting – March 4, 2019

12.0 Adjourn – With no further business; Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

APPROVED:

Yea Nay

Yea Nay



Jessica Vealitzek, Chair

☒ ☐

Brent Paxton

☐ ☐



Bill Durkin, Vice Chair

☒ ☐

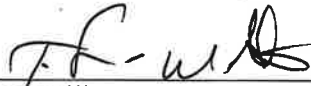


Craig Taylor

☒ ☐

Mary Ross Cunningham

☐ ☐



Terry Wilke

☒ ☐



Ann B. Maine

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