

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 1, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Legislative Committee met on Monday, April 1, 2019. 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
Judy Martini
Linda Pedersen
Julie Simpson
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:

Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Jim Anderson
Mary Kann
Steve Neaman
Maureen Shelton
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

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

3.0 Public Comment - There was no public comment.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – There were no addenda to the agenda.

5.0 Correspondence – None

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

Executive Director Ty Kovach announced that the District's legislative consultant Mike Grady was attending the meeting via conference call and confirmed that he was on the line.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an amendment to the 2019 Legislative Program for the Lake County Forest Preserve District to amend the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act to change the threshold requirement for competitive sealed bidding. The committee gave policy direction at the previous meeting to proceed with this Resolution. Mr. Kovach noted that the District would like to pursue amending the statutory dollar level that triggers the formal bidding process to no more than \$50,000. Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer provided a follow up from the March 4 Legislative Committee meeting and explained that the County did not have this on their radar but, they are not opposed to the Forest Preserve pursuing it. Mr. Tully also added that the other forest preserves support this. Motion to approve by member Clark, second by member Simpson. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

7.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution amending the 2019 Legislative Program for the Lake County Forest Preserve District by adding, as an objective to the Program, to amend the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act for the purpose of potentially increasing the maximum allowable tax rates for the General Corporate and Land Development levies by no more than .02%. The committee gave policy direction at the previous meeting to proceed with this Resolution. Mr. Kovach noted that the District would like to change language in the Downstate Forest Preserve Act that will adjust the general corporate and land development levy rates to up to no more than .02%. If successful, this would enable the District to ask the voters if the District could increase its tax property tax levy beyond the Consumer Price Index (CIP) limit set by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) for a finite period. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Member Martini wanted to know what are the District's cost saving measures. Mr. Kovach explained the cost saving measures that have been put into place since 2009 and that the District looks for efficiencies wherever possible. Member Martini suggested, if needed a communication piece be prepared explaining what the District is doing to save the taxpayers money. Motion to approve by member Clark, second by member Vealitzek. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

- 7.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an amendment to the 2019 Legislative Program for the Lake County Forest Preserve District to seek legislation amending the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act for the purpose of providing clear authority and means for the District to remove the President because of misconduct, chronic absences, incapacity, or any other reason. Mr. Kovach noted that this item was forwarded to the Legislative Committee from the Rules Committee. The Rules Committee requested to have a rule for removal of the President and this would require an adjustment to the District's Legislative Agenda. During discussion, the Committee requested the following change to the Resolution:

Strike "because of misconduct, chronic absences, incapacity, or any other reason" and replace with cause.

Motion to amend Resolution by member Martini, second by member Barr. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Motion to approve as amended by member Martini, second by member Simpson. Voice vote being had, all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

- 7.4 Follow up on questions about pending legislation asked by the committee at the March 4, 2019 meeting. Mr. Tully provided the following information to the Committee:

- The County has no formal position on HB 307, they are monitoring it;
- SB 56 & SB 238, the District is concerned with erosion and water quality. If this bill were approved as written, the improvement would be nominal to the District concerns. Mr. Grady noted that SB 56 has a possible extension; the committee will be notified if it has been extended;
- SB 1184 has been amended, and it does not apply to Lake County;
- SB 1661 was a shell bill, which has now been filled in. The District would like to change their position from watch to support. The Committee concurred.

8.0 New Business – None

9.0 Closed Session – None


10.0 Next meeting – The next schedule meeting is May 6, 2019.

11.0 Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Member Martini, second by Member Clark. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

APPROVED:

Yea Nay

Yea Nay



Adam R. Didech, Chair

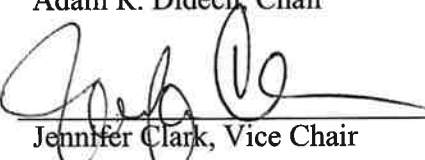
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Linda Pedersen

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Jennifer Clark, Vice Chair

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Julie Simpson

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Judy Martini

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