

**Lake County Forest Preserves  
Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 25, 2023**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Special Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, July 25, 2023. The meeting was held at Independence Grove Forest Preserve, Visitors Center, 16400 West Buckley Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to Order** -With a quorum present, Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and three committee members responded: Sandy Hart, Chair, Gina Roberts, Vice Chair and Linda Pedersen. Absent: Diane Hewitt and Paras Parekh.

**Also Present:**

President Angelo Kyle	Alex Eichman	Derek Blaida, <i>Legislative Consultant</i>
Marah Altenberg	Mary Kann	Mitchell Remmert, <i>IAPD</i>
Mary Ross Cunningham	Steve Neaman	Gary Gibson, <i>Lake County</i>
Jennifer Clark	John Nelson	Robin Grooms, <i>Lake County</i>
Kevin Hunter	Randy Seebach	Cassandra Hiller, <i>Lake County</i>
Sara Knizhnik	Dan Stearns	Matt Meyers, <i>Lake County</i>
John Wasik	Pati Vitt	Lisa Woolford, <i>Friends of the Forest Preserves Treasurer</i>
Jessica Vealitzek	Erika Stergos	Grant Benjamin, <i>Friends of the Forest Preserves</i>
Alex Ty Kovach	Jeanna Martinucci	Susan Pribyl, <i>Friends of the Forest Preserves</i>
Mike Tully	Kim Croke	Mary Edly-Allen, <i>IL State Senator</i>
Rebekah Snyder	Maureen Shelton	Laura Faver Dias, <i>IL State Representative</i>
Nan Buckardt	Sandy Meyers	Adriane Johnson, <i>IL State Senator</i>
Ron Davis	Mike Grady, <i>Legislative Consultant</i>	Stephanie Hallgren, <i>Representative Morgan's Office</i>

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval Minutes** - Motion by Vice Chair Roberts, second by Pedersen to approve minutes from May 1, 2023. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment** – Chair Hart asked if there was anyone attending who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no responses.

**7.0 Correspondence** – None

**8.0 Unfinished Business** – None

**9.0 New Business**

9.1 Presentation and Discussion on a Potential 2024 Capital Referendum. – Rebekah Snyder, Director of Community Engagement and Partnerships, gave a presentation explaining that in June 2023 the District's board of commissioners directed staff to place a question on the ballot for November 2024 for a capital referendum to support projects and land acquisition at the forest preserves. She noted the District is still facing operating challenges. That the District is down 29 positions since 2009. The 10-year operating budget projection indicates expenses will exceed revenues in six years without any new funding.

The presentation outlined the high-level referendum goals of equitable distribution of resources across the county; reduced operating costs; complete what we've started; take care of what we have; improve ecosystem services to support quality of life in Lake County; and support the District's Long Range Strategic Plan.

Using maps, Director Snyder provided examples of some of the proposed referendum public access improvement projects and habitat restoration projects. She then reviewed the land preservation goals and ecosystem services examples. Ecosystem services are estimated at \$8,000 per restored acre. For informational purposes Director Snyder showed an example of the referendum to include \$90 million for projects and habitat restoration and \$65 - \$165 million for land preservation. With a potential total referendum amount ranging between \$155 million and \$255 million.

In closing, Director Snyder provided next steps in the process. November 2024 would be the first of three planned referenda in a 10-year period. The District will introduce state legislation to amend the Downstate Forest Preserve Act to increase the maximum tax rate. The effort to amend the Act can take place at the same as the referendum process, but they are not directly connected.

9.2 Presentation on the Spring Legislative Session and Preview of the Fall Legislative Session. Legislative consultant Derek Blaida provided an update on the State budget, the current legislative session, and the upcoming fall session.

Chair Hart thanked everyone for attending and asked the State Legislators or their staff present to introduce themselves. The following stood up to introduce themselves:

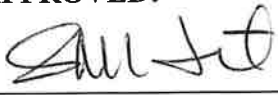




- Mary Edly-Allen, Illinois State Senator, District 60
- Laura Faver Dias, Illinois State Representative, District 62
- Adriane Johnson, Illinois State Senator, District 30

Chair Hart then introduced the Forest Preserve Commissioners in attendance.

10.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – None

11.0 **Adjourn** – With no further business, Chair Hart declared the meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Yea</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 Sandy Hart, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Paras Parekh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Gina Roberts, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			