

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – January 31, 2022**

On Monday, January 31, 2022, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the January 7, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the District President attached to the Agenda, the Planning Committee met via Audio and Video conference and at the Lake County Forest Preserve District's General Offices.

**1.0 Call to order** – Chair Wilke called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and seven committee members responded: Terry Wilke, Chair; Carissa Casbon, Diane Hewitt, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik. Vice Chair Marah Altenberg connected at 1:03 pm. Absent: Dick Barr.

**Also Present on Zoom:**

Angelo Kyle, <i>President</i>	Beth Frederick
Mike Tully	Lisa Roberts
Nan Buckardt	Kevin Kleinjan
Mary Kann	Becky Mathis
Steve Neaman	Eileen Davis
John Nelson	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Rebekah Snyder	Shari Roggee-Fidler, <i>Farm Foundation</i>
John Tannahill	
Pati Vitt	

**Also Present in Meeting Room:**

Alex Ty Kovach  
Randy Seebach  
Ken Jones  
Jeannie Korando  
Maureen Shelton

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Casbon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Hewitt second by member Pedersen to approve the minutes from January 3, 2022. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 7, NAYS: 0.

Chair Wilke introduced Pati Vitt, the New Director of Natural Resources.

**6.0 Public Comment** (for items not on the agenda) – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach presented his report on:

- Winter Sports update, including sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and the District's cleared walking paths;
- Hike Lake County participation;
- Summer Adventures registration opens February 1;
- Ansel Adams exhibit attendance;
- Received \$1.5 million to support the Endowment Campaign;
- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Net Zero Energy Building Program Grant was awarded;
- Received notification of a \$100,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to continue invasive species control work at Greenbelt Forest Preserve;
- Preservation Foundation's successful fall direct mail campaign and Annual Fund;

- Program participant survey attributed 80% of registrations to District's Facebook marketing;
- Video engagement on District's Facebook account up 157%;
- Waukegan Airport Management MOA to be available towards the end of February;
- Missing person search activity at Old School Forest Preserve;
- 25 Year Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program certification Anniversary Plaque for Countryside Golf Club.

## 8.0 Correspondence - None

## 9.0 Unfinished Business - None

## 10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of an Ordinance approving a long-term license agreement with The Farm Foundation for driveway access over a portion of the Casey Trail and Greenway property for the purposes of accessing the Casey Farm property and their proposed Innovation and Education Center. - Motion by member Wasik, second by member Roberts to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach showed the committee the location on a map and summarized the recommendation. Roll call vote being had, the motion to approve passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an Easement Agreement with the County of Lake for a permanent easement for an existing sewer line at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach showed the committee the location on a map and summarized the recommendation. Roll call vote being had, the motion to approve passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Policy direction regarding a request from Lake County Public Works Department for a temporary construction easement for work to an existing sewer line along Linden Avenue at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. Using a map, Mr. Kovach summarized a request from Public Works for a temporary construction easement on District property for the replacement of approximately one-half mile of an existing sanitary sewer line located along Linden Avenue on the eastern portion of Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve. Committee consensus was given to proceed.

10.4 Policy direction regarding the potential relocation or removal of the Cramer and Borland cabins at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area. Randy Seebach, Director of Planning and Land Preservation explained that in 1996, a portion of the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area was designated as a National Register of Historic Places for its social and architectural significance from 1923 to 1945. There were ten existing buildings, including four cabins, that were designated as contributing to the time period of significance. For over 30 years, two of the contributing cabins, known as the Cramer and Borland cabins have been used as classrooms for environmental education programming. There is a total of five cabins at Ryerson that are currently on the District's removal list. District staff discussed the plans for the new education facility to be built where the Classroom Cabins are with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA). The IHPA requested that the District look into alternatives to the full removal. Mr. Seebach noted that if a building is on the National Register of Historic Places it does not, by itself, prevent the building's owner from demolishing the building. According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the demolition of the Classroom Cabins will likely impact the District's ability to secure future IDNR grants for Phase II of the new education facility. Staff is seeking direction from the Committee on whether to explore three options. 1). Relocation of the Classroom Cabins on site, 2). Soliciting proposals for the sale of the Classroom Cabins off-site 3). Demolition of the Classroom Cabins.

Mr. Seebach responded to questions. Member Wasik asked what the District's process is to determine if a building has historic significance. Randy responded that with these cabins the District hired an archaeologist trained in historic preservation and evaluation and a report was provided to the District. Member Wasik requested the archeological report be shared with the Committee. The consensus of the Committee was to proceed.

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**

**12.0 Closed Session –** Motion by member Wasik, second by member Pedersen to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property, and setting a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:37 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:52 p.m.

**13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None**

Member Wasik requested the District consider a naming ceremony for Manitou Creek. Executive Director Kovach responded that the District is working on it.

**14.0 Adjournment –** Chair Wilke noted that the next meeting is February 28, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Wilke, Chair			J. Kevin Hunter		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair			Linda Pedersen		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Barr			Gina Roberts		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carissa Casbon			John Wasik		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Diane Hewitt					

**Secretary's Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 4, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, February 28, 2022. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 8 (Altenberg, Barr, Casbon, Hewitt, Hunter, Pedersen, Wasik, Wilke)  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSENT: 1 (Roberts- absent)

*Maureen E. Shelton*  
 Committee Secretary