

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – January 5, 2026**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, January 5, 2026, at the Lake County Forest Preserve District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and five committee members responded: Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik. Absent: Chair Paul Frank, Michael Danforth.

**Also Present:**

Jessica Vealitzek, President	Kevin Kleinjan	Julie Gragnani
Kevin Hunter	Matt Ueltzen	Natalie Kahn
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Alicia Fullerton
Alex Ty Kovach	Rebekah Snyder	Debbie Boness
John Nelson	Steve Neaman	Paula Ali
Ken Jones	Ron Davis	Mick Zawislak, Daily Herald

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by Roberts, second by Casbon to approve the open and closed session minutes of December 1, 2025. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

**6.0 Public Comment** (non-agenda matters) – None

**7.0 Correspondence** – None

**8.0 Unfinished Business** - None

**9.0 New Business**

**9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Civiltech Engineering, Inc. for Phase II Engineering Services for Public Access Improvements within Lake Carina Forest Preserve, in the Contract Price of \$214,267.05** – Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach made opening remarks and Planning Director Kevin Kleinjan summarized the project, including public access improvements to existing infrastructure, and redesign of the existing grass path, providing connection to the Des Plaines River Trail. Director Kleinjan responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

**9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Construction of Recreational Facilities at Lakewood Forest Preserve to Premier Design + Build Group, LLC, in the Contract Price of \$3,905,468.07** – Motion by Roberts, second by Casbon to approve the recommendation. Director Kleinjan summarized the project scope, noting that the contract includes a new all-season shelter, open-air shelter, parking lot, evaporator toilet and sidewalks. Also, the exterior of the existing dairy barn will

be modified to remove additions and return the barn to its original configuration. Director Kleinjan responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 0.82-acre property in Unincorporated Grant Township, known as the A. Woodville property, for \$37,000.00 as an addition to Grant Woods Forest Preserve – Motion by Casbon, second by Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Land Preservation Director Ken Jones summarized the property, noting that the District will redeem the tax sale certificates and pay any property taxes as of the closing date. The District will also be responsible for removal of any debris and personal property remaining on the property. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.


**10.0 Miscellaneous Business** – None

**11.0 Closed Session** – Motion by Roberts, second by Pedersen to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:35 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:41 a.m.

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

**13.0 Adjournment** – Vice Chair Clark noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2026 and adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Julie Gragnani  
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 2-2-2026