Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – January 6, 2020

The Lake County Forest Preserves’ Planning Committee met on Monday, January 6, 2020. The meeting was held at the District’s General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Chair John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Members Present:  
John Wasik, Chair  
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair  
Dick Barr  
Jennifer Clark  
Adam Didech  
Diane Hewitt  
Judy Martini  
Linda Pedersen  
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Ken Jones  
Steve Neaman  
John Nelson  
Jim Anderson  
Mary Kann  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Also Present:  
Allison Frederick  
Jackie DeMasi  
Julie Gragnani  
Lynn Goodell  
Don Wilson  
Roberta Harms  
Marie Storter

Also Present:  
Angelo Kyle, President  
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel  
Alex Ty Kovach

Also Present:  
Ken Hoffman  
Kim Mikus Croke  
Jeff Sloat  
Becky Mathis  
Sue Hawkins

Also Present:  
Robert Lang  
Skip Schaefer  
Sheila Watson  
Don Schaefer  
Grant Benjamin  
Elaine Ramesh

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Clark, second by member Hewitt to approve the open session and closed session minutes from December 2, 2019. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment for matters not on Agenda - None

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Executive Director’s Report – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- 2019 Grants and Donations totaling over $5.5 million;
- Strategic Plan Objective 6 - Refreshed District logo;
- Celebration of Souls exhibit at Dunn Museum closed on January 5th; next exhibit to feature artwork of Waukegan artist Reima V. Ratti;
- Sunset walk for Winter Solstice was attended by 130 people;
- Steering Committee will meet on March 9th to review draft objectives for Board approval in April;
- 2019 Incident Rate was 7.33 – down from the 2015 rate of 11.08;
- Fort Sheridan Cemetery jurisdiction was transferred to the U.S. Veterans Administration;
- Annual volunteer recognition event on February 1st at Greenbelt Cultural Center.

7.0 Correspondence - None
8.0 Old Business

8.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the Master Plan for Public Access Improvements and Habitat Restoration at Lakewood Forest Preserve – Planning Director Seebach distributed an executive summary and gave a presentation on the final Lakewood Master Plan, noting that the Plan was presented to the other standing committees and no changes were recommended. The Plan is consistent with the four planning goals by providing a more compact and efficient design with infrastructure that is right-sized, offering a significant reduction in the annual operating costs, is ADA compliant, is respectful of the site’s sensitive natural resources and provides the appropriate balance between competing interests. He gave an overview of the Plan’s public access and habitat restoration improvements and a Phase 1 implementation plan, which is funded almost entirely through the District’s approved Capital Improvement Plan and an anticipated grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Other items will be phased in as funding becomes available. Mr. Seebach responded to questions, followed by public comments:

- Lynn Goodell—against removing trees and in favor of more policing of bicycles;
- Marie Storter—equestrian trails are dangerous;
- Robert Lang—against master plan, don’t change it; why can’t snowmobiles go on Millennium Trail;
- Sheila Watson—trails are dangerous with bikes and dogs, keep it as it is;
- Don Schaefer—thanked the committee for allowing snowmobiling;
- Elaine Ramesh, Equestrian Coalition of McHenry County—there is no balance among all the users;

Following public comment, a discussion ensued and Committee members provided additional comments. Motion by member Vealitzek, second by member Simpson to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed with member Hewitt opposed. Member Martini asked to change her vote to “Present” and there was unanimous consent from the Committee to allow the vote change. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Architectural and Engineering Services for the Grounds Maintenance Facility at Lakewood Forest Preserve to Williams Architects, Itasca, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed $383,700.00 – Motion by member Clark, second by member Vealitzek to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach summarized the selection process used to select a firm to design a Net-Zero Building, and responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed with member Martini voting “Present”. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Real Estate Exchange Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation to grant approximately 0.85 acres of permanent and temporary easements on Grand Avenue at Duck Farm Forest Preserve in exchange for fee-simple ownership of a 5.6-acre parcel north of Olde Half Day Road adjacent to Half Day Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach distributed a revised document that included making the District’s due diligence period after the resolution is approved by the Board but before the agreement is signed by the District. He showed the properties on maps, gave an overview of the exchange agreement and responded to questions. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Martini to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

Member Simpson left the room at 2:19 p.m. and returned at 2:22 p.m.

10.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Clark to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the District, and setting a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into closed session at 2:20 pm and returned to open session at 2:40 pm.
11.0 **Next meeting:** February 3, 2020

12.0 **Adjournment** – With no further business, Chair Wasik declared the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

John Wasik, Chair
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair
Dick Barr
Jennifer Clark

Diane Hewitt
Judy Martinez
Linda Pedersen
Jessica Mealitzek

Adam R. Didech