

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – January 7, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, January 7, 2019. 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 (arrived 1:10)  
Judy Martini  
Linda Pedersen  
Jessica Vealitzek

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President

**Also Present:**

Ann Maine  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Jim Anderson  
Ken Jones  
Steve Neaman  
Jim Ballowe  
Nan Buckardt  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith  
Mary Kann  
John Tannahill  
Rebekah Snyder  
Sue Hawkins

**Also Present:**

Leslie Berns  
Sarah Klein  
Pati Vitt  
Kelly Schultz  
Kim Mikus  
Julie Gagnani  
Matt Norton – *Legal Counsel*  
Don Wilson  
Grant Benjamin  
Susan Pribyl  
Jack Cahill  
Liza McElroy  
Jeff Smith  
Rebecca Grill

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

**3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**4.0 Public Comment:** Susan Pribyl, volunteer with the Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance, spoke about the issue of erosion along the Long Lake lakeshore on Forest Preserve property, impacting the water quality, and asked that the District consider shoreline stabilization on its property.

**5.0 Executive Director Report** – Executive Director Kovach distributed and summarized his report. Member Martini noted that she had asked CMAP about trading credits from one watershed to another and they didn't get back to her. Director Jim Anderson replied that he would follow up with them and try to get an answer for her. Mr. Anderson then introduced Pati Vitt, new Manager of Ecological Restoration; and Kelly Schultz, new Stewardship Ecologist II. Mr. Anderson spoke briefly about working with rare species and responded to questions. Director Katherine Hamilton-Smith introduced Sarah Klein, Major and Planned Gifts Manager; and Kim Mikus, Communications Specialist.

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Martini to approve the open session and closed session minutes from November 5, 2018. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**7.0 Correspondence**

**7.1 Letter from the Village of Lake Villa requesting the partial annexation of District property to create contiguity to the Heffernan property** – Mr. Kovach showed the area on a map and noted that the Heffernan property owners have requested that their property be annexed into the Village. Since it's not contiguous to the Village, it cannot be annexed into the Village unless the Forest Preserve permits the annexation of a portion of Bluebird Meadow Forest Preserve. Mr. Kovach noted that the Village and the District signed an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) which states that the District cannot talk with prospective property sellers about acquisition within the Village without its prior permission. Mr. Kovach asked for direction from the committee to talk to the Village about annexation and the IGA and come back to the committee

next month. A general discussion ensued and Attorney Norton added that he was not aware of any other covenants like this. The District has allowed annexation in rare situations when there is some benefit to the District in doing so, with protections so that the District is not subject to zoning codes, taxes or special assessments. After discussion it was the consensus of the committee to proceed in having a conversation with the Village.

## **8.0 New Business**

8.1 For Information Only: Review Highland Park County Club conversion conceptual plan – Director Randy Seebach introduced Liza McElroy, Jeff Smith, and Rebecca Grill from the Park District of Highland Park. The Park District has requested the Committee review and comment on a concept plan they prepared for alternate land use of the Country Club parcel, which is part of Skokie River Woods. Mr. Seebach gave a history of an IGA in place between the Forest Preserves, Park District, and Village of Highland Park. As part of the IGA, the District contributed \$1 million toward the purchase of the west parcel and three perpetual conservation easements (one over each parcel); and would make possible a future trail connection to Fort Sheridan. The golf course is no longer economically feasible, and the Park District developed a plan for converting the area to natural areas with hiking and biking trails. A general discussion ensued and Park District officials responded to questions from the committee. Mr. Kovach added that the site is in Commissioner Paul Frank's district and he is fully supportive of the alternate use plan. The next step will be an open house for public input and support, then back to the Board in the spring for final review and potential approval.

8.2 Approve Change Order No. 3 to Contract with V3 Construction Group, Ltd. for Public Access Improvements at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve, increasing the Contract Amount by \$5,560.00 – Mr. Seebach summarized the details of Change Order No. 3 for the repair of some areas of erosion discovered during construction. The engineer recommended the repairs while the contractors are on site, which include replacing damaged section of drain tile and installing new riprap. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

8.3 Recommend approval of Resolution to purchase an approximately 0.2-acre property in Lake Villa Township known as the County of Lake, Trustee property for \$1.00 as an addition to Fourth Lake Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach summarized the recommendation to purchase the parcel through the County's Green Book bid process. Motion by member Martini, second by member Simpson to recommend approval as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

8.4 Review of the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan – Mr. Kovach distributed the approved 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and noted that recommended changes to the CIP would be presented at the January 28 joint committee meeting. He provided background information and reviewed the Projects Status Report, which divided projects into categories of 1) ongoing capital improvement projects; 2) public access/miscellaneous projects; and 3) habitat restoration projects. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. During discussion comments were offered on options for renting out the second floor of the General Offices building, and the consensus of the committee was to refer the matter to the Finance Committee to explore options. During the habitat restoration presentation, member Vealitzek suggested contacting agencies in Minneapolis regarding their management of buckthorn, as when she lived there, there was widespread public knowledge about controlling buckthorn. Member Martini asked about the process for adding the Long Lake shoreline erosion issue onto the list for funding and Mr. Kovach noted that it would be considered at the January 28 joint meeting.

8.5 Presentation on history of the District's Land Preservation activities – Mr. Kovach gave a time-lapsed PowerPoint presentation showing land purchases creating preserves made by the District since its inception to the present.

**9.0 Old Business – None**




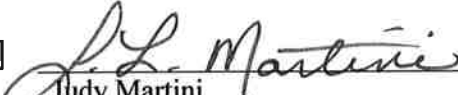


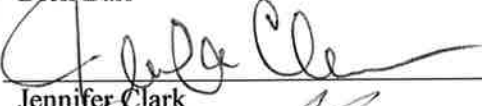
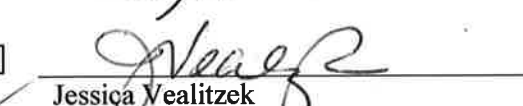

Attorney Norton gave an overview of the rules and procedures for going into closed session for the purpose of discussing land acquisitions, and the need for confidentiality.

**10.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Simpson 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 the following vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 3:20 p.m. and returned to open session at 4:28 p.m.

**11.0 Next scheduled meeting:** Joint meeting on January 28, 2019; regular meeting February 4, 2019.

**12.0 Adjourn** – With no further business, motion by member Simpson, second by member Clark to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 John Wasik, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Julie Simpson, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Judy Martini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Dick Barr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Jessica Vealitzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Adam R. Didech	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			