

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Strategic Planning Steering Committee
October 21, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves Strategic Planning Steering Committee met on October 21, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

Members Present:

President Angelo Kyle, Chair
John Wasik, Vice Chair
Jennifer Clark, Commissioner
Paul Frank, Commisisoner
Jessica Vealitzek, Commissioner
Lindsay Birt (at 9:50 am)
Alyssa Firkus
Betsy Hough
Angela Larsen (at 9:05 am)
John Rogner (at 9:05 am)
Lydia Scott
Judith Stockdale
Pati Vitt

Also Present:

Dianne Russell, *Institute for Conservation Leadership*
Judy Martini, Commissioner
Alex Ty Kovach
Jim Anderson
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Nan Buckardt
Mary Kann
Rebekah Snyder
Laurel Diver
Julie Gagnani
Sarah Klein
Brook McDonald
Grant Benjamin

Members Absent:

Ann Maine, Commissioner

1.0 Call to Order – President Angelo Kyle, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Paul Frank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3.0 Approval of Minutes: July 17, 2019 – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Wasik to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

4.0 Public Comment – None

5.0 Strategic Planning – Chair Kyle turned the meeting over to Dianne Russell with the Institute for Conservation Leadership. Following introductions, Ms. Russell gave a summary of the work done since the first meeting and outlined today's agenda, noting that the goal today is to lightly frame up possible priorities, and at the next meeting in December the focus would be on making choices. Executive Director Kovach gave an overview of the steps taken so far including the recent partner summit, which was attended by nearly 60 people.

Ms. Russell summarized the recent all-staff meeting and distributed the summarized themes and notes from both the all-staff and Partner Summit meetings. She reviewed the top seven priority themes from the all-staff meeting and responded to questions and comments. Time was spent individually reflecting on anything that surprised them; and what stood out as the two or three most important things they learned from the staff input. The committee then talked in pairs to write down priority items on notecards. Ms. Russell reviewed everyone's notes and the committee and staff discussed the District's broader projects beyond our boundaries.

Mr. Kovach explained who the participants were at the Partner Summit and Ms. Russell summarized the themes from that meeting. The Committee then talked in pairs discussing what surprised them and what stood out as the most important things learned, followed by a group review and discussion.

Commissioner Judy Martini commented on the lack of references to tourism and the Forest Preserve's importance to tourism in Lake County and felt that the County's economy is heavily dependent on the Forest Preserves. A general discussion ensued followed by a 15-minute break.

At 10:55 a.m. Mr. Kovach introduced Brook McDonald, President of the Conservation Foundation, who gave a presentation on recently gathered polling data of six area counties including Lake. He gave an overview grant funding for the polls how the data is collected, and who was surveyed. Since 1993, 90% of northeastern Illinois referenda have passed, including 100% of all forest preserve referenda. Following the presentation Mr. McDonald responded to questions and comments. Ms. Russell asked the committee to comment on what stood out to them in the presentation. They broke into small groups to have lunch and come up with 5 or 6 top priorities for the next 5 years.

Commissioner Paul Frank left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Following small group discussions, each of the three small groups reported on their top priorities. Mr. Kovach commented on District strategies for reprogramming dollars to maintain what we have, and that the District would look to amending the Downstate Forest Preserve Act for the ability to go for a referendum for operating dollars.

Ms. Russell explained that the committee will land on the priorities at the December meeting. The next assignment would be to interview 3 to 5 people with a set of 3 questions from ICL, with the responses to be put into Survey Monkey online. Mr. Kovach made closing remarks.

6.0 Next Meeting – December 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

7.0 Adjourn – Motion by member Clark, second by member Hough to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 1:12 pm.

Approved:

| | Yea | Nay | | Yea | Nay |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  Angelo Kyle, <i>Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ Angela Larsen | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ John Wasik, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  Ann B. Maine | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ Lindsay Birt | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  John Rogner | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Jennifer Clark | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ Lydia Scott | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Alyssa Firkus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  Judith Stockdale | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Paul Frank | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  Jessica Vealitzek | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  Betsy Hough | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  Pati Vitt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |