

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – November 2, 2020**

On Monday, November 2, 2020, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the October 16, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2020-59, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve 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 John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Chair Wasik asked committee members to verify their presence during the meeting by displaying their live video connection, and not a static screen with only their name and/or photo, at least during the initial roll call, when speaking, and when voting.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and eight committee members responded: John Wasik, Chair; Julie Simpson, Vice Chair; Marah Altenberg, Jennifer Clark, Diane Hewitt, Judy Martini, Linda Pedersen, and Jessica Vealitzek. (Member Barr was absent for the roll call but later joined the meeting.)

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President  
Paul Frank  
Alex Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Ken Jones

**Also Present:**

Jim Anderson  
Steve Neaman  
Mary Kann  
John Nelson  
Nan Buckardt  
John Tannahill

**Also Present:**

Julie Gragnani  
Rebekah Snyder  
Kim Mikus  
Debbie Boness  
Pati Vitt  
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

Motion by member Clark, second by member Hewitt to suspend the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures to the full extent necessary to allow Committee members to attend this meeting in accordance with Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, which allows all Commissioners to attend this meeting by video or audio conference.. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 8; NAYS: 0. Member Barr joined the meeting after this roll call vote.

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

**4.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Martini, second by member Barr to approve open session minutes from the October 5, 2020 joint committee meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9; NAYS: 0.

**5.0 Public Comment** – Chair Wasik asked if there was anyone listening who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. Lynn Goodell inquired about the timing of closure of Lakewood trails and shelters due to construction.

**6.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments:**

- Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation awarded two grants for Ryerson and Middlefork;
- The Foundation’s Development and Finance Committees met in preparation for the Foundation Board’s quarterly meeting on November 11;

- Over the winter, a District crew will be removing 14 vacant buildings previously approved for removal totaling approximately 53,919 sf;
- The Des Plaines River Trail has been designated a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of the Interior;
- The District's lighted trails at Old School and Lakewood opened November 1 and will remain open through March 14, 2021;
- Dunn Museum staff are in the final phase of revising and updating the Museum's Institutional Plan;
- Education staff is sharing virtually to high school students about careers in conservation;
- The fall 2020 issue of *Horizons* is all about exploration and getting outside in nature;

## **8.0 Correspondence - None**

## **9.0 Old Business - None**

## **10.0 New Business**

10.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Winter 2020 Woody Invasive Plant Clearing, Pilot Buckthorn Eradication Project at Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve to Native Restoration Services, Inc., Lake Bluff, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$35,455.74 – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the pilot project area using a map. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. There were no requests for public comment. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Policy direction regarding request for buffer plantings within County of Lake wetland mitigation bank at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve and to authorize negotiations of Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Long Grove and the County – Executive Director Kovach introduced the item. Planning Director Randy Seebach provided background information on the project and reviewed the County's wetland mitigation bank project located within the most western portion of the Preserve. As part of the mitigation bank plan, several low quality trees and shrubs were removed to make way for the new restoration areas. The project included construction of 1.1 miles of new trails with two neighborhood connections to the Country Club Estates subdivision. Since project completion in 2018, the County, District, and Village of Long Grove have received complaints from some Country Club Estates residents that the tree removals opened up unwanted views to Lake Cook Road and caused increased traffic noise. In an effort to respond to this, District staff prepared a buffer planning plan to screen the views and possibly reduce some noise. Staff asked the committee for direction on whether to contribute additional staff time and funds to procure and install the buffer plantings and negotiate an intergovernmental agreement that would be brought to the Planning Committee at a future meeting. The total cost estimate is approximately \$90,000 which would be split 3 ways between the County, Village and Forest Preserve. The District would select and purchase the plantings as its share, and the County and Village shares would cover the cost for the installation. Director Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Mr. Seebach noted that the planting would take place in spring 2022, and that the Army Corps of Engineers would need to approve the planting plan prior to moving forward. Following discussion, the consensus of the committee was to proceed. There were no requests for public comment.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving Easement Agreements with Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) for permanent utility easements accommodating existing electrical poles and lines along Schwerman Road at Lakewood Forest Preserve, and along Grass Lake Road at Sun Lake Forest Preserve – Motion by member Clark, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Executive Director reviewed the two locations where there are no easements in place with ComEd for their power poles. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Chair Wasik asked for public comment and there was no response. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

**11.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Martini, second by member Altenberg 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 closed session at approximately 1:42 p.m. and return to open session at 1:57 p.m.

**12.0 Next Meeting:** To be determined

**13.0 Adjournment** – With no further business, Chair Wasik thanked the committee for their work during the last two years; and declared the meeting adjourned at 1:58 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			Judy Martini		
_____	<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 checked="" 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					

**Planning Committee Secretary’s Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the December 11, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2020-74 and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, January 4, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 9 (Altenberg, Barr, Casbon, Hewitt, Martini, Pedersen, Roberts, Wasik, Wilke)  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSENT: 0

  
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 Committee Secretary