

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, November 6, 2023**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, November 6, 2023 at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order –Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Adam Schlick and Member John Wasik. Absent: Member Michael Danforth.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Garnet Miller (Zoom)
Alex Ty Kovach	Pati Vitt	Gabrielle Wilcheski
John Nelson	Debbie Boness	Michael Zahalka
Nan Buckardt	Beth Frederick (Zoom)	JoEllen Carlucci (Zoom)
Ron Davis	Alicia Fullerton	Nataly Garcia Campos
Alex Eichman	Kevin Kleinjan (Zoom)	Maureen Shelton
Mary Kann	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Steve Neaman	Jamie Medina	
Randy Seebach	Kim Croke	

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance –Chair Vealitzek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes - Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Schlick to approve minutes from the August 28, 2023, Operations Committee open and closed sessions and the October 2, 2023 Joint Committee open session. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

6.0 Public Comment – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Chief Operations Officer John Nelson introduced a new staff member, Ranger Police Officer Gabrielle Wilcheski.

Executive Director Ty Kovach presented his report and responded to questions on:

- Forestry crew completed clearing buckthorn and other invasive woody species at two preserves;
- The Fall Burn Season has begun; this program received a \$15,700 grant from Illinois Habitat Fund;
- Deer management begins on November 6th;
- Rusty-patch bumblebee monitoring recap for the year;
- Volunteer restoration work is occurring at two dozen locations;
- The Chiwaukee Prairie - Illinois Beach- Lake Plain Partnership Force of Nature Award;
- Residents comments on the Hike Lake County Program;
- Recap of fall school field trips;
- Environmental Educator participation in Hispanic Heritage Month;
- Dunn Museum YouTube channel video on Illinois state fossil;
- Preservation Foundation recent events to connect with both new and existing donors;
- Preservation Foundation's 2022 Annual Report was released;
- Recent successful social media posts and campaign to promote Fox River Marina's winter boat storage;
- The fall 2023 issue of *Horizons* magazine is now available online;
- Beer Garden at Independence Grove concluded its 3rd season, exceeding budget by 8%;
- Current endowment statistics;
- The Illinois Clean Energy grant for Heron Creek Forest Preserve.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding contracts for the purchase of grounds materials for a two-year period to Potsie's, Inc.; Waupaca Sand and Solutions; Thelen Materials, LLC; Super Aggregates; and Central Tree and Landscape Mulch, LLC. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Sister Bay Furniture for the purchase of new outdoor patio furniture for the Thunderhawk Golf Club Clubhouse Patio in an amount not to exceed \$92,312.00. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the recommendation. Director of Golf Operations Alex Eichman summarized the recommendation and responded to questions. Director Eichman described the types of tables and chairs that will provide seating for sixty. He explained that the furniture is made from recycled plastic materials with a metal core for stability. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Small Invasive Tree and Shrub Control Program at Multiple Preserves, to Integrated Lakes Management in the Contract Price of \$464,250.00. Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Clark to approve the recommendation. Director of Natural Resources Pati Vitt summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.4 Approve the award of four farm licenses at Brae Loch, Lake Marie, Oak Hickory and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves to the highest qualified bidders. Chair Vealitzek asked for a motion to approve license agreements for 4-year farming licenses in forms approved by the Executive Director or his designee with (1) Jeff Bohmann at Brae Loch Golf Club; (2) Terry Bros. Grain Farm at Lake Marie Forest Preserve; (3) Terry Bros. Grain Farm at Oak Hickory Forest Preserve; and (4) Elfering Farms at Pine Dunes Forest Preserve. Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Director Vitt presented and explained the farm licensing process and requirements. She responded to questions on herbicides and what the USDA-NRCS allows, and on regenerative farming, noting that the District encourages it but does not require it. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.
- 10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a two-year Contract for Janitorial Services to E.B.M., Inc. in the annual amount of \$111,133.92. Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the item. Director of Facilities Dan Stearns summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.6 Recommend Approval of a Resolution Approving Operating Documents for the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County. Motion by Member Schlick, second by Member Clark to approve the recommendation. Director of Education Nan Buckardt summarized the recommendation explaining the documents are necessary for the upcoming American Alliance of Museums reaccreditation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.7 Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Public Safety Department Policies and General Orders Manual General Order ADM 11 – Personal Appearance and Uniform Regulations. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the recommendation and explained the amendment to the personal appearance section, specifically tattoos and body art. Public Safety Director, Ron Davis explained the changes in more detail and responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.8 Ebike Rules - For Information Only. – Mr. Nelson explained that at the October 11, 2023 Board of Commissioners meeting, Commissioners (in response to a public comment) asked staff to review the District’s rules pertaining to Ebikes. He described the State law, and the District regulation of Ebikes under the General Use Ordinance. Currently, the General Use Ordinance allows Class 1 Ebikes, but not Class 2 or Class 3 Ebikes. He noted that local restrictions and permissions for Ebikes vary throughout Lake County and across similar agencies. Mr. Nelson discussed the rules and the enforcement. He read some recent Ebike public comments that the District has received. Mr. Nelson responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The Committee requested better signage and directed staff to come back to the Committee with a policy direction request regarding the use of Class 2 and Class 3 Ebikes. There was some concern regarding Class 3 Ebikes, specifically whether Class 3 Ebikes, when using motor-assistance at speeds up to 28 mph, could be controlled or limited in some manner.






11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – None

12.0 **Closed Session** – None

13.0 **Potential Action Following Closed Session** – None

14.0 **Adjourn** –With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 _____ Jessica Vealitzek, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Safa Knizhnik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Mary Ross Cunningham, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Adam Schlick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Michael Danforth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			