

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – November 6, 2023**

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

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum observed, Vice Chair Carissa Casbon called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Electronic attendance was requested by member Esiah Campos due to employment and there were no objections.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and five committee members responded: Vice Chair Carissa Casbon, Marah Altenberg, Esiah Campos (via Zoom), Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Member Kevin Hunter arrived at 1:07 p.m. Absent: Paras Parekh

Also Present:

Alex Ty Kovach	Steve Neaman	Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel	Rebekah Snyder	Paula Ali
Randy Seebach	Mary Kann	Kim Mikus Croke
Ken Jones	Ron Davis	Kevin Kleinjan
Pati Vitt	Nan Buckardt	Kevin Galindo
John Nelson	Dan Stearns	

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Wasik to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 joint committee meeting. 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 – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Forestry crew completed clearing buckthorn and other invasive species at two preserves;
- The Fall 2023 Burn Season has begun; program received a \$15,700 grant from Illinois Habitat Fund;
- Deer management begins November 6th; bumblebee monitoring recap for the year;
- Volunteer restoration work is occurring with 48 certified volunteer burn crew members;
- Chiwaukee Prairie – Illinois Beach – Lake Plain Partnership Force of Nature Award;
- Resident comments on this year's Hike Lake County Program;
- Recap of fall school field trips and Dunn Museum YouTube channel video on Illinois state fossil;
- Dinosaurs: Fossils Exposed exhibit visited by 1,200 people so far;
- Preservation Foundation recent events to connect with new donors and long-time friends;
- Foundation's annual report was released; Fall 2023 Horizons magazine is now available;
- Recent social media posts; and campaign to promote Fox River Marina's winter boat storage;
- Beer Garden at Independence Grove concluded its 3rd season, exceeding budget by 8%;
- Current Endowment statistics; update on grant for Heron Creek Forest Preserve;
- Introduction of new staff: Kevin Galindo, Land Use Administrator

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 For Information Only – Request for a water control structure on District property at Sequoit Creek Forest Preserve – Chief Operations Officer John Nelson noted that residents have raised concerns over low water levels at East and West Loon Lake, and summarized a request from Loon Lakes Management Association (LLMA) for permission to install a temporary water level management structure on District property at the northwest corner of East Loon Lake where the water exits at Sequoit Creek; and then in the long-term, install a permanent fixed water level management system. Mr. Nelson noted that with a natural outfall, water level in the lakes is highly variable. LLMA has an MOA with the Lake County Health Department stipulating specific requirements for expenditure of SSA-8 taxes, for example, any management using SSA-8 taxes must be approved by IDNR because of the known presence of state-listed endangered or threatened species. There is more legwork that would need to be done by LLMA and the USACOE before staff would seek policy direction from the Committee on a license or easement. There is also an option to place the structure to the south on private property that needs to be explored. Mr. Nelson responded to questions. Public comment was given by Matt Ashbacher, Committee Chairman, Loon Lakes Water Management Committee of the Loon Lakes Management Association.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Hydrologic Restoration Design Services for Lakewood Forest Preserve to Hey and Associates, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$44,000.00 – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach noted that this contract will provide a hydrological analysis of Lakewood that was altered by past agricultural use and development and will aid in restoration per the approved master plan. Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt provided additional description. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Approve Change Order No.7 to Contract with Boller Construction Company, Inc. for installation of ADA operated door modifications at the new Ryerson Education Center, increasing the Contract Amount by \$2,717.57 - Motion by member Hunter, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach noted that the change order is for a modification to the first set of vestibule doors so they can be on an automatic timer, which then requires two sets of ADA push buttons to operate the doors. Planning Director Randy Seebach responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Policy direction regarding potential transfer to the Round Lake Area Park District, of ownership, operation and maintenance of a former portion of the Millennium Trail between Kestrel Ridge Forest Preserve and the Round Lake Area Park District's (RLAPD) Fairfield Park – Mr. Kovach noted that a portion of the Millennium Trail was re-routed and Director Seebach explained the background and showed the area on a map. District staff met with RLAPD to see if they were interested in taking ownership, operation and maintenance of the vacated section of trail resulting from the re-routing, since it runs through their Fairfield Park. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and the consensus of the committee was to continue discussions with RLAPD regarding the transfer of ownership, operation and maintenance of the trail section and to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement allowing for the assignment of the District's ComEd recreational lease to RLAPD and extinguish the District's existing trail easement with RLAPD through Fairfield Park.

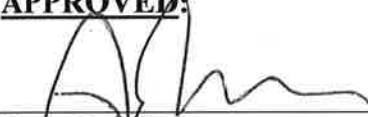

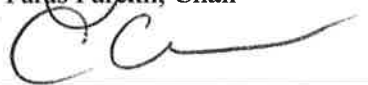
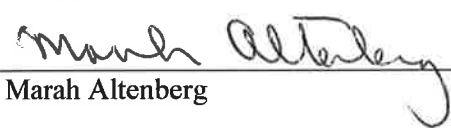

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session –Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hunter to go into closed session for discussing the purchase or lease of real property; and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:47 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:02 p.m. Member Pedersen left the meeting during closed session at 1:55 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Vice Chair Casbon adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Paras Parekh, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Pedersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Marah Altenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Esiah Campos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			