

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – December 2, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, December 2, 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
Judy Martini
Linda Pedersen
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel
Alex Ty Kovach

Also Present:

Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Ken Jones
Steve Neaman
John Nelson
Jim Anderson
Mary Kann
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Nan Buckardt
John Tannahill
Rebekah Snyder
Jeff Slood
Becky Mathis

Also Present:

Kim Mikus Croke
Lynn Goodell
Julie Gragnani
Robertta Harms
Patricia Yanuzzi
Sarah Veras
Don Schaefer
Donna O'Brien
Lynn Fairfield
Cindy Kozlowski
Nancy Jacoby
Sheila Watson
Luray Wilkinson

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

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Didech to approve the open session and closed session minutes from November 4, 2019. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment for matters not on Agenda

- Nancy Jacoby – commented on the deer management program at Lakewood Forest Preserve. Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson summarized the purpose of the deer management program and the permitting requirements with Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.
- Sheila Watson – commented on night hunters at Lakewood Forest Preserve

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Executive Director's Report –Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Hastings Lake trail connection under construction, should open early 2020;
- Rollins Savanna trail connection to Dada Road nearly complete;
- Daily Herald article by Kim Mikus regarding Lyons Woods Forest Preserve;
- Celebration of Souls event at Dunn Museum on December 6th;
- Next Strategic Planning Committee on December 18th at 10:00 a.m.;
- The 2020 10-Year Capital budget is \$86 million -- \$38 million of that is from grants and donations;
- Continuing progress on the Endowment's coordination phase;
- The Foundation's events in the past year.

7.0 Correspondence - None

8.0 Old Business

8.1 Review preliminary final plan of the Lakewood Master Plan – Planning Director Seebach gave a presentation on the preliminary Lakewood Master Plan. The plan will reduce the number of access points, parking stalls and hard surfaces, buildings, picnic shelters, toilets and mowed lawn areas. The total distance of trails will be reduced from 36.3 to 33.2 miles. The preliminary plan includes a significant reduction in the overall maintenance and operating costs from approximately \$1.1 million to an estimated \$589,000 per year. He explained the reconfigured equestrian-only trails and the area south of Ivanhoe Road no longer includes the multi-use shared trail that was included in the previous concept plans. In place of the multi-use trail, biking and dog walking will be permitted on a separate dedicated trail. When the two trails are alongside each other, they will be separated by a physical barrier such as a fence and natural features including tall grasses and shrubs. The restoration plan would result in 2,272 acres or 80% of the preserve fully restored. He reviewed Phase 1 of the plan, which will be implemented with the \$5.1 million of available funding, consisting of \$4.2 million in the CIP, \$315,000 in tree funds from LCDOT, \$100,000 from the Preserve Tree Planting Fund, and a \$400,000 IDNR/OSLAD grant. He reviewed the unfunded improvements to be phased in as funding becomes available, which includes several grant opportunities. He asked for the committee's permission to proceed with presenting the plan to the Finance and Operations Committees, and to post on the District's website. Mr. Seebach responded to questions from the committee members, followed by public comments.

Prior to start of public comments, member Vealitzek advised the committee and the public in attendance that she would need to leave the meeting at 2:05 pm for a previously scheduled parent-teacher conference, and asked the public to email her with any other questions or concerns. Public comments were given by:

- Nancy Jacoby--need solid base for equestrian trails; concern for dogs near horses and flooding;
- Sheila Watson--leave the equestrian trails alone, keep multi-use trails away;
- Luray Wilkinson--leave the equestrian trails alone, keep multi-use trails away;
- Donna O'Brien--Lakewood is the only place in the area with substantial horse trails;
- Lynn Fairfield--leave equestrian trails alone, keep multi-use trails away, use crushed limestone;
- Lynn Goodell--keep dogs away from horse trails, add better regulation signage; add bathroom and hitching post by Gilmer Road;
- Roberta Harms-- leave the equestrian trails alone, retain trail loops, keep multi-use trails away;
- Sarah Veras--trains horses there because it's safe; retain trail loops; concern for dogs near horses;
- John Schafer--wanted to know if the relocated equestrian trailer parking lot will accommodate snowmobile trailers.

Following public comment, Chair Wasik noted that safety is the District's priority, and thanked the public for attending. Committee members provided additional comments and Chair Wasik asked for consensus to move the master plan along to the Finance and Operations Committees. The consensus was to proceed, but asked that the safety concerns raised regarding the equestrian and multi-use trails be further addressed.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contracts for Native Seed for Grant Woods Forest Preserve and Plant Plugs for Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve to Applied Ecological Services, Brodhead, WI (\$35,697.70); Cardno, Inc., Walkerton, IN (\$27,456.58); Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona, MN (\$66,330.07); and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Spring Grove, MN (\$56,411.68)– Motion by member Barr, second by member Clark to approve the recommendation as presented. Executive Director Kovach explained the funding sources for the two projects and Jim Anderson responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.2 Policy direction regarding potential negotiation of an agreement with the Village of Arlington Heights regarding Wilke Road trail connection at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve – Planning Director Seebach gave an overview of the history of this request for a safe trail connection. The Village of Arlington Heights has received federal funding for pedestrian improvements to the intersection of Lake Cook Road and Wilke Road, for which the District provided a letter of support. Staff asked for direction to engage in negotiations for a contract or other agreement that would allow the trail connection work to occur on District property, while providing the District with typical rights it has when it contracts for public improvement projects on its property. There would be no cost to the District except maintaining the portion of the connection on District property to the right-of-way line. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a brief discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to proceed.



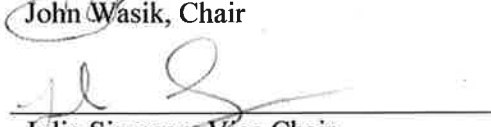

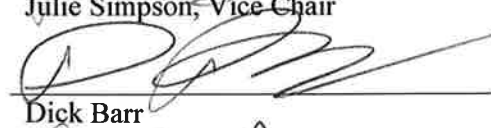
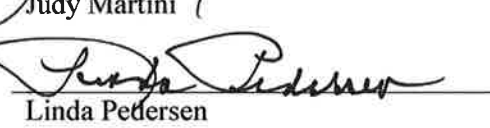



9.3 Recommend approval of a Revised Ordinance Regarding Licenses and Easements– Mr. Kovach explained the revisions needed to the Ordinance, including identifying additional review processes for State protected lands; wordsmithing; adding authority to issue short-term permits to certain private parties for uses reasonably related to forest preserve purposes; and revisions to reflect departmental and committee restructuring that occurred in 2017. Motion by member Barr, second by member Didech to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.0 **Closed Session** – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Clark to go into closed session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into closed session at 2:43 pm and returned to open session at 3:39 pm.

11.0 **Next meeting:** January 6, 2020

12.0 **Adjournment** – With no further business, motion by member Barr, second by member Didech to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 3:39 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"/>			