

Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, December 4, 2023

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, December 4, 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. Request to attend the meeting via audio/video was received from Member Danforth due to employment purposes, and there were no objections. Chair Vealitzek declared Member Danforth present.
- 2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth (via Zoom), Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Adam Schlick and Member John Wasik. Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Kim Mikus
Alex Ty Kovach	Dan Stearns	Michael Zahalka
John Nelson	Pati Vitt	Nataly Garcia Campos
Nan Buckardt	Debbie Boness	Maureen Shelton
Ron Davis	Beth Frederick	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Mary Kann	Alyssa Firkus	Susan Pribyl (Zoom)
Steve Neaman	Kevin Kleinjan	
Randy Seebach	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	

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 Member Schlick, second by Member Wasik to approve minutes from the November 6, 2023 Operations Committee. 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:

- Recognition of Directors retirement and introduction of the new Education Director, Alyssa Firkus, effective 12/16/23;
- Grants and donations through the Preservation Foundation to the Education Department over the past 8 year;
- Giving Tuesday social media campaign raised over \$9,000 to support the Foundation;
- Currently \$6.6 million in the endowment fund;
- Foundation events and November board meeting;
- Foundation Board awarded \$38,177 in Annual Fund grants to the Forest Preserves, and the Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan;
- College of Lake County has obtained a full occupancy permit for the Prairie Café at Brae Loch Golf Club;
- Environmental Educators' partnership with Meadowview School in Grayslake;
- Dunn Museum staff took part in Native American Heritage Month event at Libertyville High School;
- Successful advertising campaign promoting the Beer Garden at Independence Grove;
- Staff presented the Healthy Hedges program to master gardeners at the University of Illinois Extension office in Grayslake;
- Next exhibit at Dunn Museum will be Managing Healthy Landscapes;
- Gallery light fixtures were recently upgraded to LED in the museum;
- The new net-zero grounds maintenance shop is now under construction at Lakewood with an estimated completion in early summer 2024.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving a Statement of Organizational Support for the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a two-year contract for wastewater pumping for all preserves to Lizard Express, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$56,250.00. Motion by Member Wasik, second by Vice Chair Cunningham 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.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Tree Removals along the Des Plaines River Corridor to (a) Clean Cut Tree Service Inc. in the Contract Price of \$86,592.00 and (b) Trees “R” Us Inc. in the Contract Price of \$43,309.40. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Director of Natural Resources, Dr. Pati Vitt summarized the recommendation and responded to questions. She explained the type of trees that will be removed and the optimum time to do the removal. Dr. Vitt noted that the dead trees that are not a potential hazard are left for habitat. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to the National Auto Fleet Group for the Purchase of two Ford electric cargo vans in the amount of \$113,180.00. Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation. Director of Facilities, Dan Stearns responded to questions on the range of the electric vans and the life expectancy. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the disposal of surplus District equipment, furnishings and other items through a public auction process. Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation and responded to questions on the auction process and the live and on-line auction services the District uses. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.6 Provide policy direction regarding Ebike Rules. Mr. Nelson explained that at the November 6, 2023 Operations Committee meeting the committee reviewed and discussed 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. Following discussion, the Committee requested staff to present to the Committee a policy direction request regarding the use of Class 2 and Class 3 Ebikes. There was concern with whether Class 3 Ebikes, when using motor-assistance at speeds up to 28 mph, could be controlled or limited in some manner. Mr. Nelson noted that the Illinois Vehicle Code requires each Class 3 low-speed electric bicycle shall be equipped with a speedometer that displays the speed the bicycle is traveling in miles per hour. Class 3 Ebike riders will have the means of limiting their speed to 20 mph. Director of Public Safety Ron Davis responded to a question on how his staff would monitor the speed limit. A request was made for more speed limit signs. A general discussion ensued.

Director of Planning and Land Preservation Randy Seebach noted that the trails are primarily designed for recreation in a natural setting, which is not the same as might be designed specifically for the fastest bicycle speeds possible.

Susan Pribyl provided public comment in favor of allowing Class 2 and Class 3 Ebikes.

Staff was given policy direction by the committee to prepare revisions to the General Use Ordinance to allow use of Class 2 and Class 3 Ebikes, for further consideration by the Committee and Board.




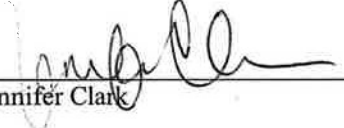
11.0 Miscellaneous Business - Chair Vealitzek thanked Randy Seebach and Nan Buckardt for their service.

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 9:42 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"/>	 _____ Sara Knizhnik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Mary Ross Cunningham, Vice Chair	<input checked="" 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"/>			