

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 1, 2021**

On Monday, February 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the January 8, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2020-1, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the District’s Operations Committee met via audio and video conference and 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 seven committee members responded: Jessica Vealitzek, Chair; Bill Durkin, Vice Chair, Jennifer Clark, Mary Ross Cunningham, Ann Maine, Craig Taylor and Terry Wilke.

**Also Present:**

|                               |                |                                       |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Angelo Kyle, <i>President</i> | Nan Buckardt   | Christine Miller                      |
| Paul Frank                    | Mary Kann      | Jim Siefken                           |
| Linda Pedersen                | Steve Neaman   | Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i> |
| Gina Roberts                  | John Nelson    | Maureen Shelton                       |
| Alex Ty Kovach                | Randy Seebach  | Mark Coe                              |
| Mike Tully                    | Rebekah Snyder | Shari Coe                             |
| Jim Anderson                  | Debbie Boness  |                                       |

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

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Clark to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2021 Operations Committee meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0.

**6.0 Public Comment** – Chair Vealitzek asked if there was anyone attending who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no responses.

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach presented his report and commented on:

- Preservation Foundation’s recent Development and Finance Committee meetings and engagement with a direct mail firm in late 2020 to help secure new donors;
- 2021 Profiles in Excellence on February 6, and will be presented in a virtual format;
- The Dunn Museum will reopen its doors on February 13;
- Winter issue of Horizons is now available;
- Request by AbbVie to set up the Greenbelt Cultural Center as a COVID-19 vaccination location for local teachers and other eligible people in that area;
- Preserve visitors, Instagram and Facebook use continue to be at an increased level;
- Various projects in progress;
- North Mill Creek Restoration project received an award from the American Council of Engineering Companies.

## **8.0 Correspondence**

8.1 Girl Scout Silver Award Request. Mike Tully, Chief Operations Officer summarized the letter from Addi Prickett who is working on her Girl Scout Silver Award. Addie was interested in helping the District create and install mile markers on Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve trails as her project. Mr. Tully has been in touch with Addi and her mother, and explained that it would not be an appropriate project because of the equipment needed. Also with the new connection to the Millennium Trail, the type of signage needed has not yet been determined. The District does have projects at the seed nursery and Addi can work with the nursery staff on those projects to achieve her Silver Award.

8.2 Review of neighboring homeowner's concerns about the public's use of the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve lakefront. Chair Vealitzek, asked for any public comment. Public comment was given by adjacent Fort Sheridan property owner, Mark Coe. Mr. Coe apprised the committee of his concerns about large crowds, swimming, use of his private driveway, vandalism, disregard of signage, littering, parking lot overrun, and patrons asking to use his bathroom.

Mr. Tully reminded members that at the October 5, 2020, Joint Committee Meeting the Commissioners were informed of an email from Shari Coe, an adjacent neighbor at Fort Sheridan, regarding concerns about the public use of the lakefront. Staff stated at that time that the concerns would be discussed at a future Operations Committee meeting. Mr. Tully explained that Ms. Coe's complaints can generally be grouped into three categories: public safety concerns; ordinance violations; and private property trespass and damage. The public safety concerns that consist of the no swimming rule, visitors climbing and jumping off stones and man-made structures into the water. Staff and a representative from the Park District Risk Management Agency visited the site and determined the rules and regulations signs were clear and adequate. Though signage was adequate, additional signage will be added. The District has no duty to actively enforce these rules, and is not liable for any injury arising out of non-intended or non-permitted use. The District has had no serious injuries or accidents reported at Fort Sheridan. The Ordinance violations are littering and visitors allowing their dogs to be off leash. Ranger Police Officers do address dogs off leash at the preserve on a regular basis, and issue citations for violations. As for preserve visitors trespassing on and even damaging private property, this is within the primary jurisdiction of the City of Highland Park Police Department. District Ranger Police officers are authorized under State law to arrest a trespasser if they personally witness the trespass.

Mr. Tully also noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic other public beaches and most public swimming pools were closed, as well as day camps, youth sports, summer school and other activities that normally compete with a day at the beach. The Fort Sheridan lakefront has always been popular in the summer, but visitation was at record levels nearly every day in 2020.

Mr. Tully addressed Mr. Coe's parking concerns and informed the committee that parking is considerably smaller than the old gravel parking lot. The District does ticket when parked illegally in our lot. The District does not have jurisdiction outside the preserves. Our rangers do communicate with the Highland Park Police Department. Chair Vealitzek mentioned a letter from Commissioner Frank. Mr. Kovach explained that the letter requested that the District have a conversation about parking with other units of government in the area that have similar issues. Mr. Kovach and Mr. Tully intend on facilitating those conversations. Commissioner Taylor suggested that if the Highland Park Police Department has an Explorer program, perhaps they could partner with them for additional patrol. Mr. Tully to discuss this when he meets with them.

Shari Coe then provided public comment, reiterating her and her husband's concerns.

## **9.0 Unfinished Business – None**

## **10.0 New Business**

- 10.1 Recommend approval of an Ordinance approving an interim License Agreement with Possibility Place Nursery to provide plants and support services for an online annual Native Plant Sale. – Motion by member Maine, second by member Cunningham to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Nan Buckardt, Director of Education responded to questions. Jim Anderson, Director of Natural Resources responded to a question in regards to last year’s fall sale. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Currie Motors Commercial Center for the Purchase of three 2021 Ford Utility Police Interceptors vehicles in the amount of \$110,595.00. – Motion by member Clark, second by member Durkin to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. John Nelson, Director of Operations and Infrastructure and Commander Jim Siefken responded to questions. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Currie Motors Commercial Center for the Purchase of seven 2021 Ford vehicles in the amount of \$203,823.00. – Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Maine to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of a Contract to purchase one 2021 Ford F-550 Truck from Sutton Ford Commercial Truck Center in the Contract Price of \$79,506.00. – Motion by member Durkin, second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for District-Wide Invasive Plant Management for (a) East Invasive Plant Management Project to Liberty Prairie Restorations in the Contract Price of \$91,560.00 and (b) Sun Lake Teasel Management Project and West Invasive Plant Management Project to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$106,875.00. – Motion by member Maine, second by member Durkin to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Mr. Anderson responded to questions in regards to this project. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Invasive Plant Control at (a) Cuba Marsh to McGinty Bros., Inc. in the Contract Price of \$27,930.00, (b) Middlefork Savanna to Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$46,024.00, and (c) Grassy Lake to McGinty Bros., Inc. in the Contract Price of \$29,925.00. – Motion by member Taylor, second by member Durkin to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Mr. Anderson informed the committee that both of these projects are partnerships. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.
- 10.7 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for the Purchase of Trees and Shrubs for various Forest Preserves to (i) Possibility Place Nursery in the Contract Price of \$37,781.70; and (ii) Majestic Oaks Nursery in the Contract Price of \$26,652.35. – Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the

recommendation. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

**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 10:04 a.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"/> |
| Jessica Vealitzek, Chair |                                     |                          | Ann B. Maine |                                     |                          |
| _____                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bill Durkin, Vice Chair  |                                     |                          | Craig Taylor |                                     |                          |
| _____                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jennifer Clark           |                                     |                          | Terry Wilke  |                                     |                          |
| _____                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |              |                                     |                          |
| Mary Ross Cunningham     |                                     |                          |              |                                     |                          |

**Operations Committee Secretary’s Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 5, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2021-4 and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Operations Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, March 1, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 7 (Clark, Cunningham, Durkin, Maine, Taylor, Vealitzek, Wilke)  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSENT: 0

*Maureen E. Shelton*  
 Committee Secretary