

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – February 2, 2026**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, February 2, 2026, at the Lake County Forest Preserve District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Chair Paul Frank called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and all seven committee members responded: Chair Frank, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik.

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, President

Adam Schlick

Ann Maine (on Zoom)

Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel

Alex Ty Kovach

John Nelson

Ken Jones

Kevin Kleinjan

Mary Kann

Pati Vitt

Dan Stearns

Rebekah Snyder

Steve Neaman

Alyssa Firkus

Ron Davis

Julie Gragnani

Kim Mikus Croke

Kevin Galindo

Debbie Boness

Paula Ali

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by Clark, second by Casbon to approve the open and closed session minutes of January 5, 2026. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – None

7.0 Correspondence – None

8.0 Unfinished Business - None

9.0 New Business

9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Architectural Services for the Adlai E. Stevenson II Home and Service Building to Hezner Corporation, in the Contract Price of \$82,500.00

Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach made opening remarks and Facilities Director Dan Stearns summarized the series of building studies that will be done for ADA requirement to the Historic Home, service building; and building shell rehavilitation for the service building and potential grant funding. The study findings will help determine the master plan options. Director Stearns responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

Member Danforth left the room at 9:20 a.m.

9.2 Policy direction regarding an updated request from the Lake County Public Works Department (LCPW) to enter into a new easement agreement that would extinguish two existing easements and grant a new easement allowing for replacement and relocation of existing force main sewer lines within Cahokia Flatwoods Forest Preserve – Land Preservation Director Ken Jones summarized the original

request for the north-south easement that the committee previously approved, and the revised request submitted after LCPW determined it would be more advantageous to create a new easement for both the north-south and east-west force mains and extinguish the original easement. Mr. Jones responded to questions and the direction of the committee supported a new easement agreement.

9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 29.4-acre property in unincorporated Fremont and Ela Townships, known as the Jarnowski property, for \$2,100,000.00 as an addition to Lakewood Forest Preserve – Motion by Casbon, second by Wasik to approve the recommendation. Director Ken Jones summarized the property and noted that the residence and outbuildings will be inspected to determine if they can be used for District purposes. Buildings with no programmatic use will be demolished. Director Jones and Planning Director Kleinjan responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

Member Danforth returned to the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution naming the LEH Limited Partnership and Har-Bar Inc. Properties as the “_____ Forest Preserve.”– Motion by Clark, second by Casbon to approve the recommendation. Land Preservation Director Ken Jones summarized the list of recommended names for the new preserve and played soundbytes for the pronunciation of each of the Potawatomie names. A general discussion ensued and the committee reached a consensus on “Mshkodé” Forest Preserve, which means “prairie”. Motion by Roberts, second by Casbon to amend the original motion, choosing the name “Mshkodé”. With a voice vote being had, the original motion – as amended - passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

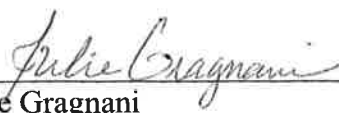
10.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

11.0 Closed Session – Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to go into closed session for the purpose of 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: 7, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:56 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:56 a.m.

12.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

13.0 Adjournment – Vice Chair Clark noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.; and will be a joint meeting with the Finance and Operations Committees. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gragnani
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 3-5-2026