

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – February 28, 2022**

On Monday, February 28, 2022, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 4, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the District President attached to the Agenda, the Planning Committee met via Audio and Video conference and at the Lake County Forest Preserve District's General Offices.

1.0 Call to order – Chair Wilke called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded: Terry Wilke, Chair; Vice Chair Marah Altenberg; Carissa Casbon, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Members Dick Barr and Diane Hewitt arrived after the roll call. Absent: Gina Roberts.

Also Present on Zoom:

Angelo Kyle, *President*
Paras Parekh
Mike Tully
Nan Buckardt
Mary Kann
John Nelson
Rebekah Snyder
Steve Neaman

John Tannahill
Beth Frederick
Alyssa Firkus
Kim Mikus
Eileen Davis
Lisa Roberts
Maureen Shelton
Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*

Also Present in Meeting Room:

Alex Ty Kovach
Randy Seebach
Ken Jones
Debbie Boness
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hewitt to approve the minutes from January 31, 2022. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment (for items not on the agenda) – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach presented his report on:

- First payment received from City Forest Credits to provide enhanced carbon credits on their exchange, for the District's reforestation program;
- \$135,000 grant received from the National Fish & Wildlife Federation to support the BGI partnership's work with pollinator species;
- Museum Educator Sarah Salto's *Low-Sensory Hour at the Museum* program designed for families with autistic members that have stimulation issues;
- Maple Syrup Hikes are back in person this year at Ryerson Woods;
- The Education Department's 30 virtual *Ask An Educator LIVE* programs;
- *Ansel Adams: Early Works* is headed into its final weeks;
- Solar panel installation at the Welcome Center at Ryerson Woods is complete;
- The Preservation Foundation Board of Directors had its quarterly meeting on February 9;
- Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant program submission was approved; \$161,000 grant will fund HVAC improvements in the Museum Collections Care and Storage Facility;
- Winter issue of *Horizons* is out; includes program and Dunn Museum promotions;
- Public Affairs worked with Education to build a website landing page highlighting the new format of summer programming.
- Preliminary draft assessment for Waukegan Airport is still not available;
- 2023 Special Park Districts Forum update;
- March Board meeting is anticipated to be held in person at the County Building.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Construction Management Services for the Phase I construction of the proposed Environmental Education Facility at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area to Wight Construction Services, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$449,525.00 - Motion by member Casbon, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach showed the location on a map and Planning Director Randy Seebach reviewed the details of the contract. He gave an overview of the overall site plan and trail improvements. Wight will assist staff with the preparation of bid packages, bid evaluations, bid negotiations and will serve as the construction manager coordinating all aspects of the construction of the new building. Bidding would take place during the month of March with an anticipated construction start date in June. Roll call vote being had, the motion to approve passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution soliciting offers to purchase the Cramer and Borland Cabins at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area - Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach showed the location on a map and summarized the committee's prior direction to look at options other than demolishing the cabins, including determining the cost of relocating the cabins elsewhere in the preserve; and to solicit interest in purchasing and removing the cabins from the site. Director Seebach added that the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency requested that the District look at alternatives to full removal. Quotes for moving them 500 feet onsite ranged from \$102,000 to \$130,000; currently staff has not identified a use for the relocated cabins, and the buildings are nearly 80 years old. Two inquiries were received regarding the sale and relocation of the cabins; one was from a property owner in Mettawa; the other from a private outdoor school called Natural Discovery, which would use the cabins as classrooms and art programs. Board approval is required to authorize putting the cabins up for sale. If offers are received, a recommendation would come to the April Board. Director Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The cabins need to be moved from the current location by May 20 for the June 1 construction start date. Roll call vote being had, the motion to approve passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 For Information Only – VA Request for additional land at Fort Sheridan Using a map, Mr. Kovach summarized the request from the Veterans Administration for over 4 acres of District property for the cemetery expansion for columbaria. In exchange for the property, the VA would take over maintenance of the cemetery from the District in perpetuity. Mr. Kovach noted that once the cemetery fund is used up, another funding source would need to be found for cemetery maintenance, therefore, this exchange would benefit the District. Staff is working to find a site for a public open house that will be held in April. He showed illustrations of how the columbaria would look. Notification letters will go out to around 800 neighbors. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued, including right-sized parking at the preserve.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None


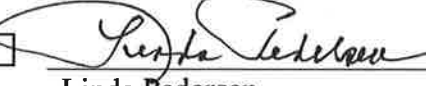


12.0 Closed Session – None

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Chair Wilke noted that the next meeting is April 4, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

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APPROVED:

| | <u>AYE</u> | <u>NAY</u> | | <u>AYE</u> | <u>NAY</u> |
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| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Terry Wilke, Chair | | | J. Kevin Hunter | | |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair | | | Linda Pedersen | | |
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| Dick Barr | | | Gina Roberts | | |
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| Carissa Casbon | | | John Wasik | | |
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| Diane Hewitt | | | | | |