

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – February 3, 2025**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2025, 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 seven committee members responded: Chair Paul Frank, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik.

**Also Present:**

Jessica Vealitzek, President  
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel  
Alex Ty Kovach  
John Nelson  
Ken Jones  
Kevin Kleinjan

Pati Vitt  
Dan Stearns  
Rebecca Snyder  
Mary Kann  
Ron Davis  
Alyssa Firkus

Julie Gragnani  
Debbie Boness  
Natalie Kahn  
Paula Ali  
Kim Mikus Croke

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

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Roberts to approve the open and closed session minutes of January 6, 2025. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were passed for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment** (non-agenda matters) – Nick Sauer, Lake Barrington – asked the committee to consider adding the Fox River Preserve addition property to its list of sites to be improved with the recent referendum dollars.

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach reported on the following:

- Preservation Foundation statistics and update;
- Recent real estate closings; current total acres is 31,290;
- Bob Ross exhibit was attended by 11,333 people; admission and store sales of \$99,260;
- Profiles in Excellence event was attended by over 150 people;
- Statistics update on Horizons, social media, golf gift card sales;
- Awards received from Illinois Park and Recreation;
- New invasive species in Lake County: Oriental Weatherfish and Round Goby;
- Status of federal grants; \$5.4 million yet to be reimbursed;
- Museum programs offered in two languages.

**8.0 Correspondence** – None

**9.0 Unfinished Business** - None

**10.0 New Business** – None


**11.0 Miscellaneous Business** – None

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Clark to go into closed session for the purpose of: 1) reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings; 2) discussing the purchase or lease of real property; and 3) 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 9:19 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:35 a.m.

**13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session** – None

**14.0 Adjournment** – Chair Frank noted that the next meeting is a joint committee meeting scheduled for March 6, 2025 and adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Julie Gragnani  
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 3-31-2025