

**Lake County Forest Preserves
Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3, 2025**

On Monday, February 3, 2025, the District's Legislative Committee met at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1. **Call to Order** – With a quorum physically present, Vice Chair Parekh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed electronic attendance for Chair Sandy Hart due to County business and Member Ann Maine due to personal illness.
2. **Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Sandy Hart (Zoom), Vice Chair Paras Parekh, Member Marah Altenberg, Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Ann Maine (Zoom) and Member Adam Schlick. Absent: Member Diane Hewitt.

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, <i>President</i>	Ron Davis	Pati Vitt
Alex Ty Kovach	Alyssa Firkus	JoEllen Carlucci
Rebekah Snyder	Mary Kann	Maureen Shelton
John Nelson	Kevin Kleinjan	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
		Derek Blaida, <i>Legislative Consultant (Zoom)</i>

3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Schlick led the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. **Addenda to the Agenda** – None
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Member Knizhnik, second by Member Altenberg to approve the minutes from July 23, 2024. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The minutes were circulated for signatures.
6. **Public Comment** – None
7. **Correspondence** – None
8. **Unfinished Business** – None
9. **New Business**

9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the 2025-2026 Legislative Program for the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Motion by Member Altenberg, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Rebekah Snyder, Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships, reviewed the program with the committee. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

9.3 State Legislative Update – Legislative consultant Derek Blaida provided an update on the current legislative session and the State's \$3 billion budget deficit. This deficit does not include the Tier II Safe Harbor pension issue or the Northeastern mass transit issue. President Vealitzek asked about Representative Moeller's bill from the last legislative session regarding a process for private wetlands. Mr. Blaida responded that the bill has not been refiled. He will look into why it didn't advance last session and report back to Director Snyder.

10. Miscellaneous Business – Director Snyder distributed a handout on the status of the District's federal grants and reviewed the list with the committee. Executive Director Ty Kovach noted that on the 10-year CIP staff will identify those projects that are eligible for grants. Director Kovach informed the committee that the District is exploring the possibility of engaging a Federal Lobbyist. Vice Chair Parekh requested staff check with other Forest Preserve Districts to see what they are currently doing regarding a Federal Lobbyist.

11. Closed Session – Motion by Member Altenberg, second by Member Knizhnik to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:19 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:24 p.m.

12. Potential Action Following Closed Session – None

13. Adjournment – Vice Chair Parekh noted that the next meeting is March 31, 2025 and with no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen E. Shelton
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Committee Secretary

Date Approved: March 31, 2025