

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – February 4, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, February 4, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Chair John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**Members Present:**

John Wasik, Chair  
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair  
Dick Barr  
Jennifer Clark  
Adam Didech  
Diane Hewitt  
Judy Martini  
Linda Pedersen  
Jessica Vealitzek

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President

**Also Present:**

Alex Ty Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Jim Anderson  
Ken Jones  
Steve Neaman  
Nan Buckardt  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith  
Mary Kann  
John Nelson

**Also Present:**

Rebekah Snyder  
Allison Frederick  
Matt Ueltzen  
Helena Keller  
Jordan Wagner  
Julie Gragnani  
Steve Byers, *Illinois Nature Preserves*  
Matt Norton, *Legal Counsel*  
Doug Wambach, *Legal Counsel*  
Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*

**2.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**4.0 Public Comment** - None

**5.0 Executive Director Report** –Executive Director Kovach introduced staff in attendance: Jordan Wagner, Allison Frederick and Matt Ueltzen. He then summarized his report:

- ComEd renewed its \$20,000 grant for education programming;
- Job Fair on February 16 and Profiles in Excellence on February 17;
- New York Times article on the Marvelocity exhibition;
- Distributed “Healthy Hedges” brochure with information on replacements for European buckthorn privacy screens. Allison Frederick provided additional information and Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson responded to questions.
- Chicago Region Trees Initiative Master Plan 2050 Goals;
- Annual Volunteer Recognition event for District volunteers on February 9.

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Clark, second by member Martini to approve the open session and closed session minutes from January 7, 2019. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**7.0 Correspondence**

**7.1 Letter Village of Wadsworth Trustee** – Mr. Kovach summarized a letter from James Zegar, a Trustee from the Village of Wadsworth, submitting resolutions from the Village of Wadsworth, Newport Township and Newport Township Fire Protection District, which oppose further land purchases by the Forest Preserve District in Newport Township that could hinder commercial development in the area. Mr. Kovach showed a map of the area. A general discussion ensued; member Hewitt noted that this has been a common complaint over the years and felt the Forest Preserves should not obtain municipalities' approval for making land purchases. Mr. Kovach added that land purchased in this area in the last several years has been from willing sellers and was marketed for sale. He noted that the Village Administrator spoke at the November 2018 Board meeting voicing the same concerns. Mr. Kovach offered to meet with officials to obtain a better understanding of comprehensive development plans for Newport Township. Discussion

continued and Mr. Kovach responded to questions. Member Barr commented that he wants to see development of good relationships with the local municipalities and felt there are ways to work together and keep the conversations open.

## **8.0 Old Business – None**

## **9.0 New Business**

9.1 For Information Only: Presentation by Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserve Commission – Mr. Kovach introduced Steve Byers from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), who gave a presentation on the partnership that has existed between the District and INPC. He provided background information on the history and mission of INPC. In Lake County, INPC manages 45 sites totaling 10,500 acres; 21 of those sites are within the Forest Preserves. He explained how the fragmented landscape is a threat to endangered and threatened species. Dedicated nature preserves provide the highest level of protection in perpetuity and he gave an overview of the criteria for selecting sites for dedication. Mr. Byers responded to questions and following the presentation, Mr. Kovach noted that a recommendation to dedicate a portion of Captain Daniel Wright Woods will be presented to the Committee in March.

9.2 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding a Contract for Phase II Engineering Services for the Millennium Trail-U.S. Route 45 Underpass and Trail connecting Ethel's Woods and Raven Glen Forest Preserves to Civiltech Engineering, Inc., Itasca, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$310,202.00– Mr. Kovach introduced the recommendation, noting that this engineering will position the District for a CMAP 80/20 grant on the project to receive a favorable “shovel ready” rating during the application review process. Director Randy Seebach explained the three phases of engineering required for federal projects and provided additional information on the advantages of having a shovel ready project and its ability to receive grant funding. He summarized the project on a map and noted that the District's section of trail will be able to operate independently until other sections of trail are completed. Mr. Seebach responded to questions regarding the grant process, the RFP/bid process for professional services, and annual maintenance costs on the trails. Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Martini to recommend approval of the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.3 Recommend approval of an Ordinance Vacating a portion of Romero Avenue within Fourth Lake Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach summarized the vacation on a map. This portion of the (unbuilt) road right-of-way is surrounded on three sides by District property, allowing the District to vacate it. Motion by member Clark, second by member Hewitt to recommend approval of the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.



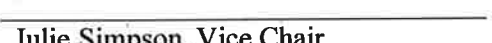


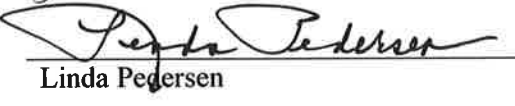



Mr. Kovach showed a map of the Green Infrastructure Model, which staff uses when looking at properties to acquire. During the strategic planning process three 10,000-acre ecological complexes were identified for maintaining biodiversity, and was later revised to four complexes. Director Jim Anderson explained the maps in further detail outlining where the District should focus its preservation and restoration efforts. He gave an overview of the process used to develop the map, following up on Chicago Wilderness' plan, and briefly highlighted each of the four ecological complexes.

**10.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Didech, second by member Simpson to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 2:05 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:35 p.m.

11.0 Next meeting: March 4, 2019.

12.0 Adjourn – With no further business, motion by member Clark, second by member Didech to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 John Wasik, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Julie Simpson, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Judy Martini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Dick Barr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Jennifer Clark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Jessica Vealitzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Adam R. Didech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			