

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 6, 2023**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, February 6, 2023, at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to Order** – Chair Vealitzek 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, Jessica Vealitzek, Vice Chair, Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth, Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Adam Schlick and Member John Wasik.

**Also Present:**

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	John Nelson	Kim Mikus
Paul Frank (Zoom)	Randy Seebach	Sandy Meyers
Alex Ty Kovach	Rebekah Snyder	Tamela Lockett
Mike Tully	Pati Vitt	Maureen Shelton
Nan Buckardt	Debbie Boness (Zoom)	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Ron Davis	Beth Fredrick (Zoom)	
Mary Kann	Kevin Kleinjan	
Steve Neaman	Mike Zahalka	

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

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Clark to approve minutes from the January 9, 2023, meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Ty Kovach introduced Ron Davis, the District's new Public Safety Director. He then presented his report on:

- 2023 Budget document was awarded the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award;
- Creation of a Native Gardeners Club;
- Special Park Districts Form hosted by the District will be held on June 19-22;
- Job Fair on March 16 at Greenbelt Cultural Center;
- Museum special exhibition: Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad;
- Upcoming Maple Syrup Festival;
- Annual History Symposium was held virtually in January with 179 in attendance;
- 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Profiles in Excellence was held on February 5 with keynote speaker Dr. China Jude;
- Photos of winter pictures taken by the public in the preserves posted on social media;
- 13 new roadside banners have been designed for display at various locations this spring;
- 20 grants have been submitted totaling more than \$11 million since the new Grants Specialist was hired;
- 2022 was the most successful year of fundraising since the Foundation was established in 2007;
- Overall donor retention in 2022 was strong at 48%.

**8.0 Correspondence** – None

**9.0 Unfinished Business** – None

**10.0 New Business**

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving an Exhibition Loan Agreement with Landau Traveling Exhibitions, LLC for the District's rental of a special exhibit titled *Childhood Classics: 100 Years of Children's Book Illustration*, in the sum of \$32,500.00. - Motion by member Wasik, second by member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Chief Operations Officer, Mike Tully introduced the recommendation. Director of Education, Nan Buckardt explained the exhibit in further detail and responded to a question. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding multiple-year contracts for mowing and landscape maintenance at multiple district sites to Fleck's Landscaping in the Contract Price of \$32,814.00; Brightview Landscapes LLC, in the Contract Price of \$359,637.20; and TGF Enterprises, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$276,846.00. - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Director of Operations and Infrastructure, John Nelson further expounded on the contracts and the six sites that it encompasses. Mr. Nelson explained that the contracts are based on 28 mows per year. The recent average has been 25-27 mows per year. The committee and staff members discussed reducing the amount of turf and restoring it to a natural habitat. The District's Habitat Classification System is used to identify these areas. This is also done in any Master Planning process. Mr. Nelson then showed two charts based on the Habitat Classification System, ranking all of the sites and the amount of turf at each site. Of the 30,790 acres classified, there is 967.59 of turf, equivalent to 3.1% of the district's holdings. Mr. Nelson will email these charts to the committee members. A further discussion ensued regarding several individual preserves. As part of the discussion, staff is to report back to the committee at a future meeting with some options for less turf at Independence Grove Forest Preserve. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for District-Wide Invasive Plant Management at (a) Eastern Preserves to Tallgrass Restoration in the Contract Price of \$113,600.00; and (b) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$90,331.20. - Motion by member Knizhnik, second by member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully introduced the recommendation. Director of Natural Resources, Pati Vitt explained the recommendation in further detail. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.







11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – None

12.0 **Closed Session** — None

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

14.0 **Adjourn** –With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 _____ Jessica Vealitzek, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Sara Knizhnik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Mary Ross Cunningham, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Adam Schlick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Michael Danforth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			