

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – February 6, 2023**

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

1.0 Call to order – Chair Paras Parekh called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and six committee members responded: Chair Paras Parekh, Vice Chair Carissa Casbon, Marah Altenberg, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Esiah Campos connected on Zoom at 1:22 p.m.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President	Mike Tully	Julie Gragnani
Adam Schlick	Pati Vitt	Paula Ali
Gina Roberts	John Nelson	Maureen Shelton
Diane Hewitt	Ken Jones	Helena Keller
Mary Ross Cunningham	Mary Kann	Skip Goss, Waukegan Port District
Paul Frank (at 1:55 p.m.)	Rebekah Snyder	Kim Mikus Croke
Alex Kovach	Nan Buckardt	Mick Zawislak, <i>Daily Herald</i>
Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>	Steve Neaman	
Randy Seebach	Ron Davis	

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chair Casbon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Casbon to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 – open and closed sessions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

6.0 Public Comment (for items not on the agenda) – Lynn Goodel on Zoom, asked for the status of the Lakewood construction project. Director Randy Seebach noted that construction on improvements north of Ivanhoe Road should begin around June 2023. Equestrian riders can continue to use trails south of Ivanhoe Road.

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- 2023 Budget document was awarded the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award
- Creation of a Native Gardeners Club by the environmental educators
- Special Park Districts Forum hosted by the District will be held on June 19-22
- Job Fair on March 16 at Greenbelt Cultural Center; Maple Syrup Festival on February 25
- Museum special exhibition: Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad
- Annual History Symposium was held virtually in January with 179 in attendance
- 40th 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
- 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 new Grants Specialist 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 – Director Kovach mentioned a letter that went to the Board over the weekend from the League of Women Voters requesting a Committee of the Whole to get more information regarding the Waukegan Port District’s request for District land for their airport project.

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Waukegan Port District (WPD) regarding the proposed runway replacement and at Waukegan National Airport – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach gave a presentation showing WPD’s request for 52.3 acres of District land for airport runway replacement to comply with FAA safety standards. Various maps showed the location of the new runway as well as a multi-use trail that WPD would build within Waukegan Savanna to mitigate the project, as well as the tunnel under Green Bay Road IDOT would build to allow the runway to go overhead. He explained that the District is participating as a cooperating agency with the FAA through the environmental assessment section 4(f) process, in order to be able to review and comment on the draft environmental assessment in advance of it being released for public review. Participation as a cooperating agency does not compel the District to enter into any agreement with WPD. The FAA requires a MOA between the Forest Preserve District, WPD, and FAA in order to be eligible for federal funding, and to get to the point of releasing the environmental reports and holding public hearings. The MOA is non-binding.

During the presentation, committee member Campos joined the meeting via Zoom at 1:22 p.m. Member Campos stated that he was unable to attend in person due to employment purposes. Chair Parekh asked if there was any objection to Mr. Campos attending remotely and no objections were made. Chair Parekh declared member Campos present.

Staff recommended proceeding with the MOA in order to advance the process to the release of the environmental assessment and a public hearing. If the project were to proceed, an intergovernmental agreement would then be negotiated which would outline all of the District’s terms. Mr. Kovach responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Parekh asked for public comment; the following people spoke:

- Paula Trigg, Waukegan Port District Board – in favor of project ✓
- Pete Manhard, Lake County Transportation Alliance Board – in favor of project ✓
- Kevin Considine, Lake County Partners – in favor of project ✓
- Mary Fran Troha, Lake Co. League of Women Voters – against project ✓
- Jill Lenihan, Waukegan – against project ✓
- Keith Turner, Waukegan Alderman – in favor of project ✓
- Barbara Klipp, Midwest Sustainability Group – against project
- Douglas Ower, Sierra Club – against project
- Susan Zingle, Wadsworth – against project
- Sam Beard – against project
- Mary Mathews (Zoom) – against project

Each committee member made comments stating their position. Chair Parekh called for a roll call vote and the motion to recommend approval passed by a vote of AYES: (5) Campos, Casbon, Hunter, Parekh, Pedersen; NAYS: (2) Altenberg, Wasik. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Purchase Shade Shelter Materials for the Duck Farm off-leash dog area to Cunningham Associates, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$46,292.00 – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach noted that the shade shelters are part of the plan to improve accessibility for the site. Planning & Land Preservation Director Randy Seebach gave an overview of the bidding process and summarized the contract using a site map. He responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion to approve passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 18.62-acre property in Newport Township known as the Brownlee Property for approximately \$297,920.00 as an addition to Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserve - Executive Director Kovach gave an overview of the property and noted that a 2021 purchase and sale agreement was contingent on securing a US Forest Service grant, which was not awarded. Another grant has been applied for through the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, which would cover around \$238,336 of the purchase price. The remainder will come from the District’s Future Grant Match Fund. If this grant is not awarded, the termination clause in the purchase and sale agreement will go into effect. Motion by member Casbon, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. With a voice vote being had, the motion to approve passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.





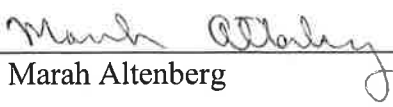

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – the committee took a break at 2:48 p.m. Following the break, there was a motion by member Hunter, second by member Casbon 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 a vote of: AYES: 7, NAYS: 0. Member Santos then signed off of Zoom. The committee went into closed session at 2:56 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:32 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Chair Parekh adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Paras Parekh, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Marah Altenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Esiyah Campos					