Lake County Forest Preserves
Finance Committee Minutes – March 3, 2022

On Thursday, March 3, 2022, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 4, 2022 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the District President attached to the Agenda, the Finance Committee met via Audio and Video conference and at the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s General Offices.

1.0 Call to Order - Chair Julie Simpson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call - Committee Secretary Sandy Meyers called the roll and eight committee members responded: Julie Simpson, Chair, Paul Frank, Vice Chair, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, J. Kevin Hunter, Ann Maine, Paras Parekh, and John Wasik. Committee member Sandy Hart arrived at 1:04 p.m.

Also Present:
Angelo Kyle, President  Rebekah Snyder  Kim Mikus-Croke
Alex Ty Kovach  John Tannahill  Mark Petitgoue
Mike Tully  Pati Vitt  Maureen Shelton
Nan Buckardt  Dan Stearns  Sandy Meyers
Mary Kann  Debbie Boness  Matt Norton, Corporate Council
Steve Neaman  Laurel Diver
John Nelson  Beth Frederick

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Maine led a Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Maine to approve the minutes of February 3, 2022. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8; NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach provided a report and responded to questions on the following:
- The Reforestation Program and receipt of first payment of $20,910 for enhanced carbon credits;
- Grant of $135,000 from Natl. Fish & Wildlife Fed., to support BGI partnerships’ work enhancing plant diversity;
- Museum Educator Sarah Salto created program called Low-Sensory Hour at the Museum, to run on March 19, 2022;
- Maple Syrup Hikes in person;
- The Education Dept.’s Ask an Educator LIVE data indicates a cumulative reach of more than 56,000 people;
- Final weeks of Ansel Adams: Early Works; last day of exhibit is Sun., March 27, 2022;
- Solar panel installation at the Welcome Center of the E. L. Ryerson Conservation Area is complete;
- Preservation Foundation Board of Directors approved $30,600 grant to expand YCC program model; private foundation to match and exceed over three years;
- Grant of $161,000 from IL Public Museum Capital Grant program, to fund needed HVAC improvements and climate-controlled display cases;
- Winter issue of Horizons mailed in February;
• Media & Community Relations Specialist Kim Mikus-Croke’s Daily Herald article on how District’s team keeps preserves safe and well-maintained;
• Public Affairs worked with the Education Dept. to build a website landing page for new Summer Adventures;
• Preliminary Draft Environmental Assessment for the Waukegan Airport expected in late March or early April;
• Special Park Districts Forum hosted by LCFPD on June 19 through June 23, 2023;
• Disaster Proclamation expires before March 8 Board of Commissioners meeting; meeting will be in person at the County Building.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Approve Invoices and Requisitions – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Wasik to approve the legal bill for December 2021. The motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0.

10.2 Approve Title Reclassification – Motion by Vice Chair Frank, second by member Maine to approve title reclassification. The motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0.

10.3 Recommend Approval of an Ordinance Approving an Interim License Agreement with Possibility Place Nursery to Provide Plants and Support Services for an Online Annual Native Plant Sale, and Authorize Either Party, by April 1, 2022, to Suspend the Five-Year License Agreement – Motion by member Hart, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Following discussion, the motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0; and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.4 Recommend Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Reinders, Inc., in the Amount of $120,342.30, for the Purchase of Two Toro Groundsmaster 3500-D Rotary Bank Mowers, and One Toro Greensmaster TriFlex 3300 Unit – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Vice Chair Frank asked whether District staff had evaluated commercial-grade electric-powered motors, citing decreased maintenance and operating costs. Superintendent of Golf Course Grounds Operations Mark Petitgoue responded that bank mowers not offered in electric. Vice Chair Frank discussed man hours, cutting ratios, and the possibility of adding FTEs to justify the use of greener equipment. Member Wasik agreed that policy should favor Zero Emissions. Motion by member Vice Chair Frank, second by member Hart, to postpone a decision until Committee can have a holistic discussion on green fleet, to be revisited at the April 7 Finance Committee meeting. Following discussion, the motion to postpone passed by a roll call vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0.

10.5 Recommend Approval of a Resolution Awarding Contracts for District-Wide Plant Protectant Chemicals to BTSI; Chicagoland Turf; Clesens, Inc.; Conserv FS; Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc.; Pendleton Turf Supply, Inc.; Reinders, Inc.; and, VanDiest Supply Company, in a Total Amount not to Exceed $342,900 – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Maine to approve the recommendation. The motion to approve passed by a roll call vote of: AYES: 7, NAYS: 2; 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 Adjournment - With no further business, Chair Simpson declared the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Julie Simpson, Chair

Paul Frank, Vice Chair

Carissa Casbon

Michael Danforth

J. Kevin Hunter

Ann B. Maine

Paras Parekh

John Wasik

Sandy Hart