

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – March 31, 2025**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, March 31, 2025, at the Lake County Forest Preserve District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and six committee members responded: Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik. Absent: Chair Paul Frank.

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, President	Pati Vitt	Mike Bonn
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Julie Gragnani
Alex Ty Kovach	Rebekah Snyder	Debbie Boness
John Nelson	Mary Kann	Natalie Kahn
Ken Jones	Ron Davis	Paula Ali
Kevin Kleinjan	Alyssa Firkus	Kim Mikus Croke

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Pedersen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Wasik to approve the open and closed session minutes of February 6, 2025 and March 6, 2026. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on the following:

- Preservation Foundation endowment update and Lillard donation;
- Tree Canopy Monitoring Program; 2024 stewardship volunteer program recap;
- 2025 golf season is underway; Fox River marina boat launch is now open;
- Independence Grove 2025 season with beer garden, gatehouse and marina;
- Maple Syruping program recap; Dunn Museum admission for Libertyville Food Pantry;
- Every Acre Strong: The Community Campaign for Lake County Forest Preserves;
- Acorns to Oaks events in March hosted by the Foundation;
- Visiting members of the American Alliance of Museums as part of the accreditation process;
- Restoration Ecologist Ken Klick will retire in June after 30 years.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Approve Change Order No. 1 to Contract with Civiltech Engineering, Inc. for Phase 3 Engineering Services for the Millennium Trail-U.S. Route 45 Underpass Construction, increasing the Contract in the

amount of \$124,537.00 - Motion by member Roberts, second by member Danforth to approve the recommendation. Planning Director Kevin Kleinjan summarized the details of the change order, noting that a gas line relocation caused a delay and IDOT just approved the work in February. Director Kleinjan responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

At this time it was discovered that the audio and video on the Zoom connection had stopped. The meeting was paused at 9:15 a.m. to re-boot the equipment and re-start Zoom. Member Danforth left the room at this time. The meeting resumed at approximately 9:20 a.m.

10.2 Recommend approval of Resolution Awarding Contract for Pavement Patching and Crack Sealing at Multiple Forest Preserves to Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$195,000.00
Motion by member Roberts, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Director Kleinjan summarized the contract and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Policy direction regarding a request from Lake County Public Works (LCPW) to amend a current easement allowing for replacement and relocation of the existing sewer line within Cahokia Flatwoods Forest Preserve – Land Preservation Director Ken Jones summarized a request from LCPW to replace the force main located within an easement granted by the District in 1983, and to change its location so that it more closely aligns with the Des Plaines River Trail. The committee had no objections and gave direction to proceed with negotiating and preparing an updated easement and other matters related to the request.


11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Roberts, 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: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:25 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:42 a.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Vice Chair Clark noted that the next meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2025 and adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Gragnani
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 5-5-2025