

**Lake County Forest Preserves
Finance Committee Minutes – April 3, 2025**

On Thursday, April 3, 2025, the Lake County Forest Preserve District's Finance Committee met at the District's General Offices in Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – With a quorum present in the room, Chair Gina Roberts called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and four committee members responded: Chair Gina Roberts, Vice Chair Ann Maine, Diane Hewitt, and Linda Pedersen. Marah Altenberg and Sandy Hart joined the meeting after the roll call at 1:04 p.m. Absent: Angelo Kyle

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, President	Alex Eichman	Michael Bonn
Alex Kovach, Executive Director	Alyssa Firkus	Julie Gragnani
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Dan Stearns	Sandy Meyers
John Nelson	Pati Vitt (on Zoom)	Maureen Shelton
Mary Kann	Kevin Kleinjan	Kim Mikus-Croke
Rebekah Snyder	Jamie Medina	Matt Mulligan

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Chair Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hewitt to approve the minutes of February 6, 2025 open and closed sessions; and March 6, 2025 joint committee meeting. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Public Comment for items not on agenda – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- 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 Unfinished Business - None

9.0 Correspondence – None

10.0 New Business:

10.1 Invoices and Requisitions – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Altenberg to approve the legal billing for the month of January 2025. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the invoice was circulated for signatures.

10.2 Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget to carry over projects budgeted but not completed in Fiscal Year 2024 - Motion by member Hart, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the recommendation and pointed out a typo in the staff memo reading "FY 2024" that was corrected to read "FY 2025". With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Ordinance was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by \$53,515.94 for updates to interior exhibits and enclosures at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area Welcome Center Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Maine to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach introduced the recommendation and Education Director Alyssa Firkus gave an overview of some preliminary concepts. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Ordinance was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to Purchase Axon Taser 10s and Related Components to Axon Enterprise, Inc. in the amount of \$106,920.00 amortized over five years. (Repeals prior Resolution) - Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Hart to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach introduced the recommendation and Chief Operations Officer John Nelson explained that the previous Resolution approved a contract to lease the equipment but the contract is actually for purchase of the equipment, therefore this Resolution reflects the correction. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Resolution was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving Change Order No. 1 to the Contract with The Strategic Advocacy Group, LLC for legislative consulting services, increasing the Contract Amount by an amount not to exceed \$33,121.00 - Motion by member Maine, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Community Engagement & Partnerships Director Rebekah Snyder summarized the change order for additional legislative services at the federal level. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Resolution 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 - Chair Roberts noted that the next meeting is May 8, 2025 and adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Julie Gragnani
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 5-8-2025