

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – April 4, 2022**

On Monday, April 4, 2022, 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** – Vice Chair Marah Altenberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and six committee members responded: Vice Chair Marah Altenberg; Carissa Casbon, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik. Members Dick Barr and Diane Hewitt arrived after the roll call at 1:05 p.m. Absent: Terry Wilke.

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, <i>President</i>	Steve Neaman	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Jessica Vealitzek (on Zoom)	John Nelson	Julie Gragnani, <i>Committee Secretary</i>
Alex Ty Kovach	Rebekah Snyder	Mick Zawislak (on Zoom)
Mike Tully	Pati Vitt	Garnet Miller
Randy Seebach	Ken Jones	Norma Zamudio
Nan Buckardt	Kevin Kleinjan	Monica Echeverria
Mary Kann	Debbie Boness	

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

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Roberts to approve the minutes from February 28, 2022; and closed session minutes from August 2, August 30, November 1, December 6, 2021; and January 31, 2022. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. All minutes were circulated for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment** (for items not on the agenda) – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Staff introduced new employees Garnet Miller, Kimberly Jones, Norma Zamudio and Monica Esheverria. Executive Director Kovach presented his report on:

- Sergeant Scott Banaszynski graduated from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety;
- Winter building removal of nine buildings totaling 14,600 sq ft.; and demolition permit for former museum building at Lakewood is being closed out;
- Ansel Adams exhibit's total attendance was 10,245; and traveling Marvelocity exhibit completed its first run in Canton, OH;
- Our Voice is Black History exhibit has received a 2022 NACPRO award;
- Expanded Earth Week programming by environmental education staff;
- District staff has completed a Land Acknowledgement statement recognizing the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

**8.0 Correspondence** - None

**9.0 Unfinished Business** - None

**10.0 New Business**

**10.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Hydrologic Restoration Design Services at Lakewood Forest Preserve to Hey and Associates, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$46,500.00** - Motion by member Roberts, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Director

Kovach showed the location on a map and summarized the contract to provide a hydrological analysis to aid in restoration work in accordance with the Lakewood Master Plan. With a voice vote being had, the motion to approve passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Policy direction regarding a requested amendment to a Conservation Easement to permit the mowing of equestrian trails – Mr. Kovach showed a map of Middlefork Savanna and the conservation easement. The new owner of the land, subject to the easement, has asked if the District would consider amending the easement to clarify the owner’s right to private equestrian use of the property, and specifically grant the right to mow equestrian trails. Staff felt the request seems reasonable. After a brief discussion the direction of the committee was to proceed in working with Counsel and the property owner to draft an amendment to the conservation easement.

10.3 Policy direction regarding whether to proceed with a potential grant application to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and/or the preparation of a master plan for the Adlai E. Stevenson Historic Home, Service Building, and property – Mr. Kovach and Director Rebekah Snyder gave the background, noting that the direction of the Finance Committee in March 2020 was to investigate opportunities for grants to finance some or all of the needed renovation work on the Stevenson buildings and to ask the low bidder to extend its bid through the May 12, 2020 Board meeting date, and they complied. Director Snyder noted that no grant opportunities were identified. And, due to the Covid pandemic the bid extension expired with no action taken. A joint committee meeting was held at Stevenson in May 2021 to reconsider renovations of the buildings in conjunction with the annual review of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Discussion included the \$700,000 estimate for exterior renovations to the home, and the \$400,000 estimate to renovate the exterior of the service building. The Committees recommended funding \$100,000 in the 2022 CIP to develop a master plan for the Stevenson Home and surrounding landscape, ceasing discussion of renovations. Directly after the meeting an appeal to the State of Illinois was made for grant funding, which was later approved in the state budget.

Director Rebekah Snyder explained that in February 2022 staff received an invitation to formally submit a grant application to the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, for the \$1.1 million grant. She spoke with the grant officer and found there was no specific due date to submit the application. Staff sought direction on 1) whether to proceed with the grant application, which would commit the District to the long-term ownership and maintenance of Stevenson Home and service building (and if so, what would be the project scope); and 2) whether to proceed with a master plan of the site, either with applying and obtaining the grant and renovating the buildings, or not applying or receiving the grant but keeping the buildings, or demolishing the buildings. The purpose of the master planning would be to identify more energy efficient operations for the buildings, more efficient parking operations, opportunities for improved public access (including ADA compliance) and potential alternative uses for the property including alternate methods for honoring Mr. Stevenson’s legacy if the buildings are demolished.

Mr. Kovach noted that the direction of the Operations Committee earlier in the day was to do the master planning first since there doesn’t seem to be an associated time deadline for the grant. They had concerns about long-term maintenance costs for a wooden structure. A lengthy discussion ensued and staff responded to questions. During discussion, member Roberts did not support keeping the buildings and supported an exhibit at the Dunn Museum replicated from the Stevenson Library. Mr. Kovach added that there could be IDNR museum grant funds for an exhibit; and an outdoor self-guided exhibit experience could be done on the site. Operations Committee Chair Jessica Vealitzek added that her committee had interest in moving the library as an exhibit, but there was not appetite for applying for the grant, as the ongoing maintenance costs would not be sustainable. Mr. Kovach felt that staff could contact the State saying we are working on this but it might be awhile. He also noted that the Stevenson

Center on Democracy has been dissolved and the District has no identified use. In the last 20 years, over \$2.2 million has been spent on renovations and repairs to the buildings. Following discussion, the consensus of the committee was to proceed with the master planning and they concurred with the Operations Committee.

Motion by member Hunter, second by member Roberts to take and approve Item 10.4 and 10.5 together:

10.4 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Borland Cabin at Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area with Mark S. Miller in the purchase price of \$100.25.

10.5 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Cramer Cabin at Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area with Burnham Group LLC in the purchase price of \$10.00.

Director Randy Seebach summarized the proposals received to remove the two cabins to make way for the new education building at Ryerson. These agreements will be contingent on the Board approving the construction contracts for the new building; recently received bids are 20 to 25% higher than budget, but staff is developing a strategy to stay within the budget. Mr. Seebach responded to questions. With a voice vote being had, the motion to recommend approval of the two Resolutions passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

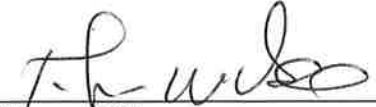

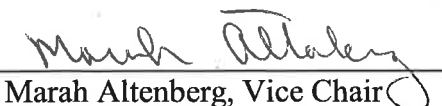

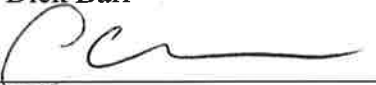
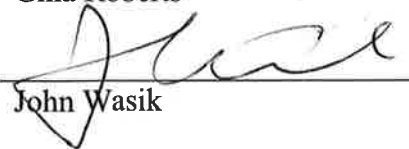
11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – None

12.0 **Closed Session** – None

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

14.0 **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Altenberg noted that the next meeting is May 2, 2022 and adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Terry Wilke, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Barr	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gina Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diane Hewitt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			