Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, April 5, 2021

On Monday, April 5, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the March 5, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2021-5, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the District’s Operations Committee met via audio and video conference and at the District’s General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order - Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll and six committee members responded:
Jessica Vealitzek, Chair; Bill Durkin, Vice Chair, Jennifer Clark, Mary Ross Cunningham, Ann Maine, and Terry Wilke.

Also Present:
Angelo Kyle, President                        Jim Anderson                                Andrew Osborne
Carissa Casbon                                Nan Buckardt                                Jim Siefken
Linda Pedersen                                Mary Kann                                  Kim Mikus
Julie Simpson                                 John Nelson                                Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel
Alex Ty Kovach                                Rebekah Snyder                             Maureen Shelton
Mike Tully                                    Debbie Boness

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes - Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Durkin to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2021 Operations Committee meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6; NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment – Chair Vealitzek asked if there was anyone attending who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no responses.

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach presented his report and commented on:
- Environmental Communications Specialist Brett Peto received 2021 Excellence in Interpretive Support Award from the National Association for Interpretation, Heartland Region;
- Dunn Museum: YouTube channel; opened for families during spring break; new lobby display;
- Maple syrup self-guided and virtual programs, 600+ students participated in virtual fieldtrips;
- District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA for the annual audit ending December 31, 2019;
- The District has been assigned a Triple A bond rating from Moody’s;
- Board training session on Ethics Ordinances and Sexual Harassment on April 9;
- Spring burn season has begun;
- COVID-19 continues to impact District staffing.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business
10.1 Approve and Accept New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections. – Motion by member Cunningham, second by member Maine to approve the recommendation. Nan Buckardt, Director of Education explained the Recommendation on documenting the COVID-19 event in history. Andrew Osborne, Superintendent of Educational Facilities explained that this rapid response collection represents the effects that COVID-19 had on the residents of Lake County. He gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the new donations. Mr. Osborne responded to questions. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6; NAYS: 0.

10.2 Approve an amendment to the existing Farm License Agreement at Ray Lake Forest Preserve. Motion by member Clark second by member Cunningham to approve the recommendation. Mr. Tully summarized the recommendation. Jim Anderson, Director of Natural Resources responded to questions. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6; NAYS: 0.

10.3 Policy direction on recommended revisions to District’s Fee Guidelines Matrix for preparation of the next Annual Fee Ordinance. Mr. Tully explained the changes in the Matrix to the committee. Committee consensus was given.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business
Member Maine asked about the Zoom meetings being recorded acknowledgement at the beginning of the Forest Preserves meetings and wondered why this isn’t being done at the County meetings. Attorney Norton responded that it is not legally required to give people notice that the meeting is being recorded.

Member Clark asked if the District would consider making the dog parks smoke free. Chair Vealitzek will consider bringing this request to an upcoming Operations Committee for further discussion.

12.0 Closed Session – None

13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjourn – With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Operations Committee Secretary's Note: Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the April 2, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2021-6 and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Operations Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, May 3, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 6 (Clark, Cunningham, Durkin, Maine, Sbarra, Vealitzek)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Wilke, joined meeting after the vote)

Maureen E. Shelton
Committee Secretary