

**Lake County Forest Preserves  
Finance Committee Minutes – April 7, 2022**

On Thursday, April 7, 2022, the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s Finance Committee met at the District’s General Offices in Libertyville, Illinois.

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

**2.0 Roll Call** - Committee Secretary Julie Gragnani called the roll and seven committee members responded: Julie Simpson, Chair, Paul Frank, Vice Chair, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, Kevin Hunter, Ann Maine, and John Wasik. Member Sandy Hart arrived at 1:22 p.m. Member Paras Parekh was absent.

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, <i>President</i>	Pati Vitt	Debbie Boness
Linda Pedersen	Alex Eichman	Sandy Meyers
Alex Ty Kovach	Beth Frederick	Monica Escheverria
Mike Tully	Laurel Diver	Norma Zamudio
Nan Buckardt	Russ Chamberlin	Garnet Miller
Mary Kann	Mark Petitgoue	Kimberly Jones
John Nelson	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Council</i>	Mariela Najera
John Tannahill	Julie Gragnani	

**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 March 3, 2022; and closed session minutes from 2020, 2021 and January 6, 2022. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

**6.0 Public Comment** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Report** –Executive Director Kovach reported on the following and responded to questions from the committee:

- Chief John Tannahill to retire January 2023; will conduct a nationwide search for his replacement.
- Administration Director Mary Kann introduced new department employees Norma Zamudio and Monica Esheverria; Mr. Kovach introduced new grant specialist Garnet Miller; Deputy Finance Director Beth Frederick introduced new department employees Mariela Najera and Kimberly Jones.
- Sergeant Scott Banaszynski graduated from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.
- Restroom at Fort Sheridan’s main parking lot burned down; suspicious; investigation underway.
- Ryerson building bids came in over budget; staff will look for efficiencies and a \$200,000 pledge was received that staff is looking to match, which will help close the gap.
- 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, Ohio.
- 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.
- April 26, 2022 Open House regarding Fort Sheridan Cemetery

## **8.0 Correspondence – None**

## **9.0 Unfinished Business**

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract to purchase two Toro Groundsmaster rotary bank mowers and a Toro Greensmaster TriFlex unit to Reinders, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$120,342.30 Motion by member Danforth, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Chief of Golf Operations Alex Eichman gave a presentation on the Spring 2022 golf equipment purchases, in response to the Committee's request to have staff investigate electric options vs. gas-powered equipment. At current pricing the District would spend \$288,000 more to replace the current Tri-flex with electric models, and there would only be 90 minutes of use between each 2-hour charge. Also, electric versions of bank mowers are at least 5 years away from production. Mr. Eichman stood by his original recommendation and reviewed the golf car fleet and Green Practices already being followed at all golf courses. Mr. Eichman responded to questions and a general discussion ensued, including a 10-year replacement plan to include additional electric equipment. Following discussion, with a voice vote being had, the motion passed with member Frank voting Nay.

## **10.0 New Business**

10.1 Recommend approval of Ordinance amending the 2022 Budget to reflect Carryovers for Projects budgeted but not completed in 2021– Motion by member Maine, second by member Frank to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach summarized the carryover items and resulting amended budget. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Approve additions, deletions and reclassifications in the Administration and Natural Resource Departments – Motion by member Hart, second by member Frank to approve title changes. Director Kann summarized the recommended job title additions, deletions and reclassifications. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Approve title additions, deletions and reclassification in the Education Department – Motion by member Maine, second by member Casbon to approve title changes. Director Kann summarized the recommended job title additions, deletions and reclassifications, and Education Director Nan Buckardt responded to questions. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.4 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for a Classification and Total Compensation Study to Gallagher Benefit Services, Inc. in an amount not exceed \$43,000.00 – Motion by member Casbon, second by Vice Chair Frank to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach noted that the last study was done back in 2015 with the County and it is now time for a new study to ensure that the District is consistent with the market. The study will cover non-union positions only, including pay and benefits. Director Kann responded to questions. Following discussion, with a voice vote being had, the motion passed with members Danforth and Hunter abstaining. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Approve temporary residential License Agreements for two Wildlife Monitoring Technicians working contractually for the District – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Hunter to approve the agreements. Mr. Kovach summarized the need for temporary housing for two technicians working for the District under contract. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.6 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 noted that staff recently heard from the Illinois Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity regarding whether the District was ready to submit a grant application and scope of work for the \$1.1 million the State budgeted for renovations at

Stevenson House and property. Mr. Kovach 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 at 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 CIP program review. 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, and \$1.1 million was later approved in the state budget.

President Kyle added that the consensus of both the Operations and Planning Committees earlier in the week was to proceed with a master plan in order to get a better handle on what the costs would be; and to hold off on the grant application since it appeared that there was no definitive deadline for submitting it. A general discussion ensued; member Maine felt the District should proceed in applying for the grant as well as develop a master plan. Mike Tully noted that he had a conversation with the District's lobbyist regarding the likelihood of getting approval to adapt the grant funds for use on the master plan; this would have to be determined. During discussion, the committee members were in agreement with member Maine. In response to questioning, Mr. Kovach noted that accepting the grant funds essentially commits the District to keeping and maintaining the buildings, which would change the scope of a master plan.

Member Frank left the meeting at 2:25 p.m. Attorney Norton noted that this could next be a policy direction matter for the full Board since two committees had unanimously said to hold off on the grant and do a master plan, and the consensus of this committee is to apply for the grant now and work on a master plan.

Public comment was given by:

- Susan Benjamin – spoke in favor of the District preserving the Adlai E. Stevenson Historic Home.
- Jeanne Sylvester – spoke in favor of the District preserving the Adlai E. Stevenson Historic Home.

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**



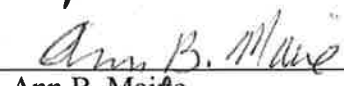
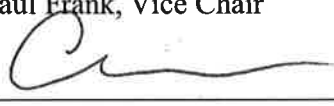
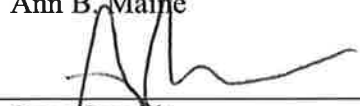
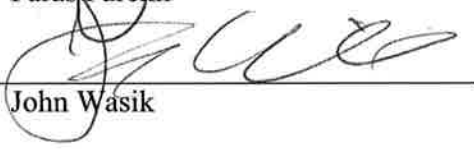
**12.0 Closed Session – None**

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

**14.0 Adjournment -** With no further business, Chair Simpson declared the meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

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**APPROVED:**

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 Julie Simpson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul Frank, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Ann B. Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Paras Parekh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Danforth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sandy Hart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			