

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR MAY MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 14, 2025**

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at the District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to Order** – President Jessica Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed electronic attendance for Commissioners Marah Altenberg, Sara Knizhnik, and Mike Danforth, all due to employment.

**2.0 Roll Call of Commissioners** – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 11 Commissioners responded present: Casbon, Clark, Hewitt, Hunter, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek, and Wasik.

Commissioner Hart arrived at 9:05 a.m. Commissioner Altenberg connected on Zoom at 9:06 a.m. Commissioner Frank arrived at 9:08 a.m. Commissioner Knizhnik connected on Zoom at 9:15 a.m. Commissioner Danforth did not appear on Zoom at any time during the meeting. Absent: Campos, Cunningham, Danforth, Pedersen.

**3.0 Moment of Silence** – President Vealitzek initially dispensed with a moment of silence, however the Board returned to this item and observed a moment of silence for the passing of of employee Ken Bratz.

**4.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – President Vealitzek led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5.0 Addenda to Agenda** – None

**6.0 Public Comment** – None

**7.0 President’s Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments**

- Proclamation to Helena Keller, Executive Assistant, for 25 years of service. **EXHIBIT No. 6185.**
- Summarized Proclamations presented to eight volunteers on May 10 for 25, 30, and 40 years of volunteer service.
- Served as a panelist for discussion on environmental stewardship hosted by League of Women Voters of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Area.
- Toured preserves in the northwest part of Lake County with Vice President Roberts. Showed a new HD aerial drone video of Lotus Country Preserve.
- Attended event with Commissioner Wasik and District staff hosed by the Children and Nature Network and National League of Cities in Waukegan.
- Attended IAPD Legislative Conference in Springfield and met with legislators at the Capitol.
- Invited to attended monthly Green Coalition meeting to discuss Route 53.
- Attended 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual YCC Rockegan Fundraiser; and Lake County Partners Big Event.

**7.1 Presentation by Frank Harrison, Appraiser – Harrison & Associates** – Frank Harrison gave a background on his experience in appraisal services with the District over the years, and provided an update on the real estate markets in the Lake County area. He responded to questions and comments from several Commissioners.

**7.2 Executive Director’s Report** - Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Opening month at the golf courses; update on the endowment; restoration grant at Greenbelt Forest

- Preserve; A Night With Alex Ross – exhibition preview event on June 28<sup>th</sup>;
- Restoration workday at Lake Forest Academy; 2024/Spring 2025 Prescribed Burn program;
  - Plant and pollinator monitoring efforts; Field Day at Spears Woods in Cook County;
  - Ranger Police finding small child who wandered away from home; rescued capsized kayaker in Des Plaines River;
  - Wildlife Ecologist served on panel at Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep career exploration event;
  - District field trips taught in Spanish; Educators led guests to identify birds during spring migration;
  - Museum's new exhibit, National Geographic: The Greatest Wildlife Photographs opens May 24;
  - International exposure with Alex Ross: Heroes & Villains upcoming special exhibition, and recap of the national campaign for the exhibition launched on May 6;
  - Special Acorns to Oaks tour of the Operations & Public Safety facility in April;
  - Spanish language version of the Fishing Guide is now available;
  - Social media post celebrating \$1 million donation to the Every Acre Strong campaign;
  - Closed on properties that expand the Raven Glen and Lotus Country Preserves;
  - The physical fitness equipment at the inner loop trail at Old School will be removed due to its age;
  - Illinois Extension Master Naturalist program will kick off in August in Lake County;
  - Commissioner training on Ethics, FOIA, Social Media and Open Meetings Act (OMA) on June 10 following the County Board meeting.

Commissioner Knizhnik disconnected from Zoom during the Executive Director Report at 9:51 a.m.

There was a brief discussion regarding the old physical fitness equipment at Old School Forest Preserve.

## **8.0 Unfinished Business – None**

### **9.0 Consent Agenda – Motion by Commissioner Hart, second by Commissioner Clark to approve the Consent Agenda, items 9.1 through 9.3:**

- 9.1 Approve Minutes: April 9, 2025 open and closed session
- 9.2 Approve Resolution awarding Contract to Purchase Four new Ford Police Vehicles to Hawk Ford of Carol Stream, in the Contract Price of \$187,100.00. **EXHIBIT No. 6186**
- 9.3 Approve Resolution awarding Contract for Maintenance Shop Renovations at Half Day Forest Preserve to Workmasters, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$492,669.00. **EXHIBIT No. 6187**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of:  
**AYES: 14, NAYS: 0**

## **10.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:**

### **10.1 Resolution Awarding Contract to Purchase a Toyota Hybrid Van**


Motion by Commissioner Schlick, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of a new Toyota Sienna Hybrid Van to American Vet Works, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$44,270.00. Roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6188**

### **10.2 Resolution Awarding Contract for Building Automation Control Upgrades**

Motion by Commissioner Schlick, second by Commissioner Hewitt to approve a Resolution Awarding a Contract for Upgrades to the Building Automation Controls at the Operations and Public Safety Facility to Trane U.S., Inc. through an Omnia Partners Contract, in the Contract Price of \$70,295.00. Roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6189**

- 10.3 **Resolution Awarding Contract for Cybersecurity Detection and Response Services**  
Motion by Commissioner Schlick, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve a Resolution Awarding a Three-Year Contract for Cybersecurity Detection and Response Services to CDW-Government, Inc. through an Omnia Partners Contract, in the Contract Price of \$221,880.00. Roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6190**
- 10.4 **Ordinance Awarding Contract for Maintenance Area Improvements and Amend Budget**  
Motion by Commissioner Schlick, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve an Ordinance Awarding a Contract for Maintenance Area Improvements at Countryside Golf Club to Maneval Construction Company, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$258,605.00, and Amending the FY 2025 Budget. Roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6191**
- 10.5 **Ordinance Approving License Agreement for Wetland Mitigation Bank at Ray Lake**  
Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Wasik to approve an Ordinance Approving a License Agreement with HGS, LLC for the Development and Operation of a Wetland Mitigation Bank at Ray Lake Forest Preserve. Natural Resources Director Pati Vitt summarized the project and responded to questions. Roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 14, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT NO. 6192**
- 11.0 **Petitions and Correspondence - None**
- 12.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – Commissioner Maine suggested opening The preserves at 6am during the high birding season, last weekend of April through third weekend in May.
- 13.0 **Closed Session** – None
- 14.0 **Potential Action following Closed Session - None**
- 15.0 **Adjournment** – With no further business before the Board, President Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Julie Gragnani  
Board Secretary

Date Approved 6-11-2025

# ROLL CALL

## LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)  
COUNTY OF LAKE)

REGULAR MAY 14 SESSION, 20 25

9:00 am

ROLL CALL		COMMISSIONERS	QUESTIONS																		
P	A		Consent Agenda	10.1 New Van		10.2 Bldg. Controls		10.3 Cyber Security		10.4 C-Side		10.5 Ray Lake									
			Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	Aye	Nay	
1		Altenberg, Marah	9:06 Zoom	✓																	
2		Campos, Esiah																			
3	✓	Casbon, Carissa		✓																	
4	✓	Clark, Jennifer		✓																	
5		Cunningham, Mary Ross																			
6		Danforth, Michael																			
7		Frank, Paul		✓																	
8		Hart, Sandra		✓																	
9	✓	Hewitt, Diane		✓																	
10	✓	Hunter, J. Kevin		✓																	
11		Knizhnik, Sara Frederick	Zoom 9:15/9:51																		
12	✓	Kyle, Angelo		✓																	
13	✓	Maine, Ann		✓																	
14	✓	Parekh, Paras		✓																	
15	X	Pedersen, Linda																			
16	✓	Roberts, Gina		✓																	
17	✓	Schlick, Adam		✓																	
18	✓	Vealitzek, Jessica		✓																	
19	✓	Wasik, John		✓																	
11		TOTALS		14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0											
		Notes:			LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE												

Hart - 9:05

Altenberg - 9:06

Frank - 9:08

Knizhnik - 9:15

Knizhnik left Zoom 9:51