

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – May 6, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, May 6, 2019. The meeting was held at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Chair John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Members Present:

John Wasik, Chair
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair
Dick Barr
Diane Hewitt
Judy Martini (via phone)

Absent:

Jennifer Clark
Adam Didech
Linda Pedersen
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President
Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Steve Neaman
Ken Jones
Leslie Berns
Nan Buckardt
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Jeff Slood

Also Present:

Mary Kann
John Nelson
Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, *Legal Counsel*
Harry Urbina
Jack Cahill
Don Wilson
Lynn Goodell
Dan Venturi, *Lake Villa Township*

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Hewitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Wasik established attendance via phone for member Judy Martini due to “personal illness or disability” in compliance with the District’s Electronic Attendance Policy.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Barr to approve the minutes of the open session and closed session minutes from ~~March 4, 2019~~ *APRIL 1, 2019*. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment – Lynn Goodell, representing Lake County Mounted Posse, requested larger signs on the equestrian trails prohibiting bicycles and dogs; and noted a trail washout by Schwerman Road, exposing a pipe.

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Executive Director Report –Executive Director Kovach introduced Henry Urbina, Safety Manager. He reported on the following and responded to questions:

- Volunteer efforts to rescue and transplant native plants; spring burn season;
- Winter deer management program summary and distributed venison recipes offered at food banks;
- Data on the Dunn Museum’s first year of operations;
- Summer Day Camp; annual Plant Sale; NACPRO award;
- Community Stewardship Challenge Grant award for Greenbelt Forest Preserve;
- \$500,000 donor pledge for habitat restoration at Grant Woods; and a grant proposal submitted to Wildlife Conservation Society for restoration at Grant Woods;
- Lake Forest Preservation Foundation award for the Middlefork bridge project;
- YCC lottery on April 27; Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon on May 19; upcoming diversity training;
- Distributed the Waukegan National Airport draft project schedule;
- Distributed Daily Herald article on the District’s golf courses.

Chair Wasik asked about access at Almond Marsh for the birders. Mr. Kovach noted that staff will have a conversation with Audubon and noted that we need to be careful about providing access because it would have to be ADA accessible, which would be very expensive.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 Letter from Lake Villa Township requesting an existing grass trail at Grant Woods Forest Preserve be converted to a gravel trail – Mr. Kovach summarized the request to improve the existing grass section of the Chain O'Lakes Bike Path to gravel. This trail section connects the existing Grant Woods trails to Fairfield Road and the section of trail recently completed by Lake Villa Township (Township). They requested that the project be moved up in the District's priority list. Mr. Kovach noted that this project is already on the District's unfunded project list at an estimated cost of \$500,000, but there are no funds available to complete it. Dan Venturi, Township Supervisor, spoke about looking for grant money and stressed the importance of the 1,900-ft. trail that helps connect four forest preserve properties, several subdivisions and a school. He asked the committee to consider moving the trail connection up the list as a priority project to be completed in the next few years.

Member Martini noted that she and member Pedersen fully support pushing the project up the list and hoped some grant funds earmarked for Grant Woods could be used for this. Mr. Kovach noted that donor money for Grant Woods was for a specific use. The first step would be to look at engineering to get a more accurate project cost. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Mr. Venturi added that the Township has already invested in the trail going north, but felt a future trail connection going to the east could be developed to connect to forest preserve property, and they would be willing to work together on that.

8.0 Old Business

8.1 For Information Only - Wauconda Township Cemetery – Mr. Kovach showed the cemetery on a map and explained there is an existing "cartway" easement for access and maintenance from Route 120, but it cuts through private property and passes through sections of ADID Wetlands and Buffer. In negotiations with the Township, the existing easement would be extinguished and the District would grant the Township an access easement to the cemetery from Wilson Road. In exchange, the District will receive the northern two-thirds of the Township's cemetery property, where there are no graves, and will perform maintenance of the Township's property estimated to be minimal.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Janes Ravine Bridge Rehabilitation to MAG Construction Co., Highland Park, Illinois in the Contract Price of \$83,706.20 – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.2 Recommend approval of Resolution Approving Dedication of 279.2 Acres of Grant Woods Forest Preserve as Nature Preserve Buffer and 3.3 acres of Grant Woods Forest Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve, all adjacent to the existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve at Grant Woods Forest Preserve - Motion by member Barr, second by member Martini to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving Dedication of 354 Acres at Broberg Marsh and 355.4 Acres of Schreiber Lake Bog at Lakewood Forest Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve - Motion by member Simpson, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

9.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving Dedication of 366.1 Acres of Ethel's Woods Forest Preserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve - Motion by member Martini, second by member Simpson to approve

the recommendation as presented. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

Mr. Kovach briefly summarized the three dedications, noting that dedicating these lands will provide a higher level of natural resource protection in perpetuity.

9.5 Policy direction regarding authorizing staff to engage with the Board of the Preservation Foundation of the Lake County Forest Preserves on the establishment of a fundraising goal and designation of proceeds for the Foundation's Endowment Fund – Mr. Kovach gave an overview, noting that the Finance Committee gave direction to proceed with establishing an endowment. \$20 million by year 10 was selected as an attainable number. Funds will be used for seed dollars for securing grants. If the Preservation Foundation gives their support, a Resolution will be presented to the District Board for approval. He responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to proceed with the endowment.

10.0 **Closed Session** – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Simpson to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into executive session at 1:50 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:08 p.m.

11.0 **Next meeting:** Joint Committee meeting on June 3, 2019.

12.0 **Adjourn** – With no further business, motion by member Barr, second by member Simpson to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

APPROVED:

AYE NAY

AYE NAY



John Wasik, Chair

☒ ☐

Diane Hewitt

☐ ☐



Julie Simpson, Vice Chair

☒ ☐



Judy Martini

☒ ☐



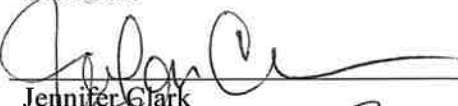
Dick Barr

☒ ☐



Linda Pedersen

☒ ☐



Jennifer Clark

☐ ☐



Jessica Vealitzek

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Adam R. Didech

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