

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – June 27, 2022**

On Monday, June 27, 2022, a Committee of the Whole of the Lake County Forest Preserve District convened at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order-** President Angelo Kyle called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**2.0 Roll call** – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 14 Commissioners responded: Altenberg, Casbon, Clark, Frank, Hunter, Kyle, Maine, Pedersen, Roberts, Sbarra, Simpson, Snarski, Wasik, Hewitt. Absent: Barr, Cunningham, Danforth, Hart, Parekh, Vealitzek, Wilke.

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Hunter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** - None

**5.0 Approve Minutes from December 6, 2021** - Motion by Commissioner Roberts, second by Commissioner Simpson to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2021. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

**6.0 Public Comment-** None

**7.0 For Information Only – Review of Fort Sheridan Cemetery Expansion Public Comments:** President Kyle turned the meeting over to Executive Director Ty Kovach. Mr. Kovach provided background on the request from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to acquire District land adjacent to the Fort Sheridan Cemetery to expand the cemetery for adding columbaria. He circulated a binder containing the public comments received and summarized the recent open house. He reviewed the VA's original request and the negotiations resulting in the current request for 4.7 acres in exchange for the District being relieved of its responsibility for cemetery maintenance in perpetuity. Following Mr. Kovach's presentation, questions were raised and a lengthy discussion ensued, including how many additional ceremonies would occur and the related parking issues; and legislation needed in order to allow the District to do this exchange. There was consensus that items needing to be addressed can be, and it is a small ask for the service members, and felt the problem could be solved while being of service. The committee also agreed that they want to know that all contingent options of the VA have been exhausted before the District proceeds; specifically, the adjacent land already owned by the federal government. Patrice Williams, representing the VA, noted that the property in question is not in the access process, meaning it has been earmarked for another use. Member Frank recommended contacting Congressman Schneider to help exhaust all other options using the adjacent federal land. In summary, Mr. Kovach will reach out to Congressman Schneider so he is aware of what's going on; make sure there is an understanding of how many ceremonies per year are anticipated to focus on additional parking and how that would be addressed in the MOU.

**8.0 Presentation – The Effects of Fire Return Interval on Native Vegetation:** Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt gave a presentation on fire ecology of the burn management program and how the effects of fire are measured. The data collected shows that more frequent burning is beneficial for native species. The research was funded by a grant from the Preservation Foundation. Following the presentation Commissioners commented and Director Vitt responded to questions.

**9.0 Adjournment** - President Kyle declared the meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary

Date Approved: 8-29-2022

