

**LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES – July 12, 2023**

On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, a Committee of the Whole of the Lake County Forest Preserve District convened at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area Visitors Center, 21950 N. Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order- President Angelo Kyle called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2.0 Roll call – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 11 Commissioners responded present: Altenberg, Clark, Cunningham, Hart, Hewitt, Kyle, Maine, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek, and Wasik. Commissioners Danforth, Knizhnik and Pedersen arrived after the roll call at 10:37a.m.; Absent: (5) Campos, Casbon, Frank, Hunter, and Parekh.

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Schlick led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Maine asked that there be a moment of silence in remembrance of Susan Hoffman.

4.0 Public Comment- There was no public comment.

5.0 President’s Report and Special Recognition

- Commissioner Cunningham noted that Gospel Fest will be held July 30 at Greenbelt Cultural Center.
- President Kyle made opening remarks and introduced YCC Executive Director Jennifer Yonan, who noted that over \$100,000 was raised from the 39th annual golf outing to fund the YCC program. A YCC tour will be held on July 24th;
- YCC Program Manager Ron Rightweiser gave an overview of the program; and crew leader Grace Stang and crew member Haley Bak spoke about their experiences working in the program.
- Todd Gordon, Executive Director of Gewalt Hamilton Associates was recognized for funding a fourth YCC crew this summer in the amount of \$10,000;
- Presentation: Chief Operations Officer Mike Tully was honored for his retirement and years of service; a Proclamation was read and presented to Mr. Tully. **Exh. #5996**
- Announcement: Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for July 25th at Independence Grove.

6.0 Approve Minutes of January 9, 2023 - Motion by Commissioner Cunningham, second by Commissioner Hewitt to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2023. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

7.0 Discussion regarding a 2024 Referendum – Executive Director Kovach made opening remarks, noting that operating challenges continue as the District is down 29 positions since 2009 and with bond dollars gone, we don’t have the capacity to deliver and operate any new initiatives. The 10-year operating budget projection indicates expenses will exceed revenues in six years without any new funding. He gave a presentation outlining the referendum goals of equitable distribution of resources across the county; reduced operating costs; complete what we’ve started; take care of what we have; improve ecosystem services to support quality of life in Lake County; and support the District’s Long Range Strategic Plan.

Mr. Kovach explained that if the state legislation to change the Downstate Forest Preserve Act is approved in 2025, a second referendum in 2026 would be needed, as well as a third referendum at the end of the 10-year period.

Mr. Kovach reviewed the land preservation goals and ecosystem services examples. Ecosystem services are estimated at \$8,000 per restored acre, or about \$185 million every year. Mr. Kovach showed an example of a \$155 million referendum to include \$90 million for projects and habitat restoration and \$65 million in land preservation. He summarized the 2024 referendum public access improvement projects and habitat restoration projects listed on the handout, noting that there is potential for \$24 million in matching grants. At the request of Commissioner Maine, Finance Director Steve Neaman explained the timing of issuing bonds and spending the funds once a referendum has passed, and what happened following the 2008 referendum and recession, when the District needed extra time to spend down the funds; legislation was passed to allow this. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued.

Commissioner Maine thanked staff for the successful special park districts forum.

8.0 Tour of New Environmental Education Facility – At approximately 12:20 p.m. President Kyle directed the Commissioners and public outside to the site of the new facility for a tour.

9.0 Adjournment - President Kyle declared the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Gragnani, Board Secretary

Date Approved: 8-28-2023

ROLL CALL

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF LAKE)

Regular C.O.W SESSION, 2023
7-12-2023

| ROLL CALL | | COMMISSIONERS | QUESTIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------|--------------------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|
| | | | Consent Agenda | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P | A | | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | Aye | Nay | | | |
| 1 | ✓ | — | Altenberg, Marah | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | ✓ | | Kyle, Angelo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | ✓ | | Maine, Ann | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | | — | Parekh, Paras | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | | — | Pedersen, Linda | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 | ✓ | | Roberts, Gina | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | ✓ | | Schlick, Adam | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18 | ✓ | | Vealitzek, Jessica | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | ✓ | | Wasik, John | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | TOTALS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Notes: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

KNIZHNIK
DANFORTH
PEDERSEN } 10:37 am.