

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – July 31, 2023**

On Monday, July 31, 2023, the Planning Committee met at the Lake County Forest Preserve District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum observed, Chair Paras Parekh called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and five committee members responded: Chair Paras Parekh, Marah Altenberg, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Absent: Vice Chair Carissa Casbon and Esiah Campos.

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President

Paul Frank, Commissioner

Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel

Randy Seebach

Ken Jones

John Nelson

Rebekah Snyder

Steve Neaman

Pati Vitt

Mary Kann

Ron Davis

Dan Stearns

Julie Gragnani

Paula Ali

Maureen Shelton

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Altenberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hunter to approve the minutes of May 1 and June 5, 2023 – open and closed sessions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

**6.0 Public Comment** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – In Executive Director Kovach's absence, Chief Operations Officer John Nelson reported on:

- Status of the golf season and Independence Grove summer concert series; GospelFest attended by 350;
- Natural Resources Dept. recently hosted botanist Jerry Wilhem; and purchased new forestry mower;
- New documented sightings of Rusty Patched Bumblebee at Greenbelt, Lyons Woods, and ThunderHawk; and 3 grants received for restoration work at Greenbelt;
- Restoration and clearing projects using natural resource crews, volunteers, YCC and Scout Troop;
- Summer Adventures Program, current exhibits at the Museum, and free admission day;
- Virtual public information session on the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve;
- Foundation board members hosted a tour of the Native Seed Nursery;
- Partnered with Village of Mundelein to sponsor the Mundelein Grand Prix bicycle race on July 24;
- Recent posts on social media and national awards received for Horizons newsletter;
- \$1.5 million transferred from the Foundation to the District for restoration work;
- Summary of grants received by the Foundation;
- Air monitoring for Ethylene Oxide is being performed at Greenbelt on behalf of Medline.

**8.0 Correspondence - None**

**9.0 Unfinished Business - None**

## **10.0 New Business**

10.1 Policy direction regarding request from Village of Third Lake and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) to consider potential restoration efforts at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve to improve water quality in Mill Creek entering Third Lake; and to provide compensatory storage for proposed wetland impacts that are anticipated from a neighboring road construction project – Director Randy Seebach noted that staff was approached by the Village of Third Lake to work with SMC to improve the water quality of the section of Mill Creek from College of Lake County north through Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve to Third Lake. Director Pati Vitt showed the site on a map and noted an area of sediment in Third Lake. Staff told the Village that the District has no funds for the project. The Village met with SMC who determined they could likely provide funding for an engineering study. A proposed road improvement project at Linden Avenue would require compensatory storage for wetland impacts from the project. Staff asked for direction whether to (i) continue discussions with the Village and SMC, and (ii) to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement and to search for potential grants to fund proposed concepts. Any negotiated agreements and/or grant applications will be brought back to the Committee and Board for review and approval at future meetings. Staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The committee gave direction to continue discussions.

10.2 Approve Change Order No. 3 to the Contract with Sterling Commercial Roofing, Inc. for the provision and installation of the Outdoor Classroom Screening Material for the Environmental Education Center at the Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area, increasing the Contract Price by \$41,552.00 – Motion by Chair Parekh, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Director Seebach gave an overview of the bidding process for the screens, for which no bids were initially received, then rebidding which resulted in bids being over budget. The third re-bid resulted in this favorable bid, which was accepted. Work should be completed by mid-September. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Policy direction regarding request from ComEd for a permanent easement for an existing line of electrical poles at Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve – Director Seebach noted that Item 10.3 and 10.4 are the same issue, where it was discovered that there was no easement in place for existing ComEd power lines, when ComEd requested permits to access the property to perform clearing work. As a compromise, a permanent easement would be granted with ComEd paying the \$1,000.00 application fee, with the other fees being waived, and ComEd would pay for the plat of survey. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a brief discussion ensued. The committee gave direction to proceed.

10.4 Policy direction regarding request from ComEd for a permanent easement for an existing line of electrical poles at Almond Marsh Forest Preserve – Staff responded to additional questions and the committee requested that provisions be requested in the easement agreements to prevent any herbiciding by ComEd. The committee gave direction to proceed.



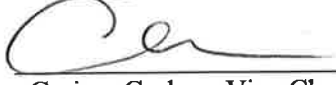
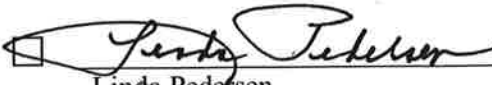

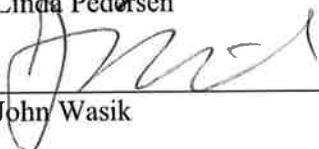
## **11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik 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 a vote of: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:35 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:25 p.m.

## **13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None**

**14.0 Adjournment** –Chair Parekh adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 Paras Parekh, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Marah Altenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Esiyah Campos					