

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – August 2, 2021**

On Monday, August 2, 2021, 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 –Chair Terry Wilke called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and seven committee members responded: Terry Wilke, Chair; Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair; Dick Barr, Diane Hewitt, Kevin Hunter, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik. Member Carissa Casbon arrived after roll call at 1:08 p.m. Member Linda Pedersen was absent.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President
Catherine Sbarra
Alex Kovach
Randy Seebach

Also Present:

Mike Tully
Jim Anderson
Mary Kann
John Nelson

Also Present:

Nan Buckardt
Ken Jones
Julie Gragnani
Rachel Wanroy, Corporate Counsel

3.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Member Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hewitt to approve open and closed session minutes of June 28, 2021. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 7, NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment (for items not on the agenda) – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Status on current internal budget development schedule;
- Return to hybrid meetings for the remainder of meetings in August due to CDC guidelines;
- Waukegan Port District asked that their item be pulled from agenda pending FAA changes;
- District educators are gearing up for the start of school and field trip season; good feedback on Roving Educator Series;
- Dunn Museum staff recently self-published a book: *Native American Trail Trees in Lake County, Illinois*; which uses photos taken by Bess Bower Dunn;
- Recent NACPRO awards received good media coverage; a donation was received in honor of the Propers' volunteer award;
- Environmental Communications Specialist Brett Peto won the national 2021 Excellence in Interpretive Support Award from the National Association for Interpretation.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Easement Agreement with County of Lake for County Storm Sewer Improvements and Construction of Permanent District Improvements at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve – Director Randy Seebach summarized the County's project for intersection improvements at Ela and Long Grove Roads. They will need 0.6 acres temporary construction easements, and 0.04 acres

permanent easements for storm sewers. At the District's request, in exchange for the easements, the County's contractor will grade and install vegetated swales within Cuba Marsh to divert and clean stormwater before it enters existing wetlands; and will also remove invasive vegetation within the same area and seed and install native plants. Also, they will connect the County's new path to the District's existing trail system. Staff recommended waiving easement fees for this project since the District will be receiving a greater benefit than the value of the easements. Director Seebach responded to questions. Motion by member Barr, second by member Hewitt to approve the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously with no Nay votes. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board.

10.2 Policy direction regarding potential shared costs with Vernon Township to provide safety and accessibility improvements to existing Schaeffer Road trail crossing at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve – Director Seebach provided background and explained the primary trail that connects the east and west portions of the preserve crosses over Schaeffer Road. Last summer, a visitor, whose son uses a manual mobility device, notified the District that the approach to the existing crossing was too steep; and also the cars were traveling faster than the posted 25mph speed limit. The District's engineer determined the trail needs to be regraded so that it is flatter and the transition is longer, and the District must install accessible concrete aprons and tactile warning plates. In addition, rectangular rapid flashing beacons should be considered due to the typical speed of passing vehicles. In May District staff met with the Township, which owns the subject right of way, with a request that the Township share in the project costs by funding the installation and long term maintenance of flashing beacon portion of the project.

Director Seebach asked the committee for permission to continue discussions and if the Township agrees, authorization to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Township that would identify the District's and Township's obligations related to the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the crossing improvements. A general discussion ensued and Director Seebach responded to questions. Bids came in lower than anticipated; the District's portion is estimated at \$37,000 and the Township's portion would be \$25,000. Following discussion the committee directed staff to proceed.

10.3 Policy direction regarding request from Avon Township for new license agreement allowing use of District property for school bus turnaround at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve – Executive Director Kovach summarized the request from Avon Township, noting that the current agreement will expire on October 7, 2021. He asked the committee if staff should negotiate a new license agreement. He noted that the Township would pay a \$750 license fee and reimburse the District for legal costs up to a maximum of \$5,000, which the Township would pay 10% annually due to their limited funds. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Following discussion the committee directed staff to proceed.

10.4 Policy direction regarding request from Village of Antioch for permanent right-of-way dedications and temporary construction easements to facilitate a plan to rebuild and relocate a portion of Grimm Road north of Sequoit Creek Forest Preserve – Director Kovach summarized the Grimm Road project and noted that staff has many questions regarding this request, and asked the committee for direction on whether to continue conversations with the Village. Ken Jones further explained the details of the requested dedications and easements and pointed out a conservation easement in the area. Staff responded to questions from the committee and the direction was to continue discussions with the Village and to negotiate the dedication and easement documents that would be brought back to the Planning Committee for review and approval.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Roberts to go into closed session for the purpose of reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings; and for discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:40 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:38 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment –Chair Wilke noted that the next meeting is August 30, 2021 and adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terry Wilke, Chair			J. Kevin Hunter		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair			Linda Pedersen		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Barr			Gina Roberts		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carissa Casbon			John Wasik		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Diane Hewitt					

Secretary’s Note: Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the August 20, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, August 30, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 7 (Casbon, Hewitt, Hunter, Pedersen, Roberts, Wasik, Wilke)
 NAYS: 0
 ABSENT: 2 (Altenberg (joined meeting after the vote); Barr)

 Committee Secretary