

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – August 26, 2019**

The Lake County Forest Preserves' Planning Committee met on Monday, August 26, 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 (arrived 1:08)
Jennifer Clark
Adam Didech
Diane Hewitt (arrived 1:08)
Judy Martini
Linda Pedersen
Jessica Vealitzek

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President

Also Present:

Alex Ty Kovach
Mike Tully
Jim Anderson
Nan Buckardt
Mary Kann
John Nelson
Randy Seebach
Ken Jones
Ken Hoffman
Rebekah Snyder
Jeff Slood
Becky Mathis
Nick Huber
Kim Mikus Croke

Also Present:

Alyssa Firkus
Jordan Wagner
Julie Gragnani
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*
Lynn Goodell
Don Schaefer
Ron Hoehne
Ed Lescher
Darrell Kuntz
Kevin Carrier
Dan Strahan
Marty Neal, *Libertyville*
Mick Zawislak, *Daily Herald*

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

3.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Clark to approve the open session and closed session minutes from June 24, 2019. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

4.0 Public Comment – Lynn Goodell asked for additional signage prohibiting bicycles on the Lakewood equestrian trails, and asked how the public can find out about upcoming meetings regarding the Lakewood master plan. Executive Director Kovach noted the Lakewood conceptual plans were on the agenda to be reviewed later in the meeting. Director Seebach and his staff will look at all signage as part of the master plan process. Mr. Seebach noted that his department has a mailing list for notifying people about meetings and updates to the process. An open house is tentatively scheduled for September 23 at the Fremont Township Administrative Center on Route 60. Chair Wasik added that the Lakewood concept plans review was scheduled for the August 5 meeting but when that meeting had to be canceled, it bumped the process by several weeks.

5.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

6.0 Executive Director's Report – Executive Director Kovach distributed and summarized his report:

- Dunn Museum book signing on August 10 with Alex Ross; 545 visitors and \$15,000 in sales, a record day.
- Dunn Museum named Best Suburban Museum by the Daily Herald's 2019 Reader's Choice poll;
- Summer camps finished the year with over 90% capacity;
- The Preservation Foundation approved a grant to the Education Department for connecting with the Latinx community in Lake County;
- Grants submitted: ChiCal grant for Middlefork Savanna; Wildlife Conservation Society and IEPA 319 grants for Grant Woods; IDNR Native Habitats funding to purchase a Marsh Master;
- The Foundation's Fall Classic at ThunderHawk and FredFest at Fox River Preserve;
- The Foundation's Harvest Dinner, a fundraiser for Green Youth Farm;
- North Mill Creek Channel Restoration is complete;
- mECO Vegetation Module is now in production for NRD staff to field-capture data;

- Forestry crew has finished removing log jams and debris from Dutch Gap Canal; Village of Bristol, Wisconsin has been informed;
- Illinois House of Representatives recognized the Public Safety division for their work at the April 25th chemical spill in Beach Park.

7.0 Correspondence - None

8.0 Old Business

8.1 For Information Only - Update on Great Lakes Fish and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) Project (Phase II) at Fort Sheridan – Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson presented a review and update of the Fort Sheridan ravine and coastal restoration GLFER project. He showed maps of the ravine system along Lake Michigan and the dune habitat on the lakefront. He gave an update on Phase I restoration implemented, noting that Phase I focused on stabilization and Phase II will focus on restoration. Using illustrations he explained how reef structures made of limestone blocks should work. He reviewed the next steps in the project and the District's 35% cost share, which is included in the CIP. Phase II construction will begin in October using access from the water. He responded to questions from the committee.

9.0 New Business:

9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Ratifying and Authorizing the Application for and Acceptance of a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant to fund Hydrologic Restoration at Prairie Wolf Forest Preserve – Mr. Kovach explained that staff didn't know about the grant until July 8th and submissions were due July 12th, therefore staff has already applied for the grant. The District's portion of funding will come from the Farmland Management Fund. Motion by member Didech, 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.

9.2 Policy direction regarding participation as a co-sponsor of Libertyville Township Highway Department's Oak Spring Road Bridge Replacement project at Wilmot Woods Forest Preserve – Planning Director Randy Seebach introduced Marty Neal, Libertyville Township Highway Commissioner, and their consulting engineer, Dan Strahan. Mr. Seebach gave an overview of the project, noting that the proposed bridge abutments will extend beyond the limits of the existing right-of-way. Currently, an additional estimated .012 acres of fee simple property or permanent easement and 0.43 acres of temporary easement will be needed. The Road District has also requested use of the existing canoe launch parking lot for construction staging. In return for this, the Township will repave the entire entrance drive and parking lot after completion of the project. Also, the Township is receiving federal funding, so they've asked the District to be a non-funding co-sponsor for the project, which would expedite federal approval. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to proceed with negotiations, as long as there is access to the canoe launch parking lot for the May canoe marathon. Mr. Neal said they would be comfortable with a June 1 date for closing the parking lot.

9.3 Policy direction regarding request from Fox Lake Fire Protection District to allow annexation of District property at Gander Mountain Forest Preserve – Mr. Seebach introduced Ron Hoehne, Fire Chief; and Ed Lescher, Deputy Fire Chief, Fox Lake Fire Protection District, and summarized a request from the Fox Lake Fire Protection District to allow annexation of Gander Mountain Forest Preserve into their district. Currently it lies within the First Fire Protection District of Antioch, which would de-annex it. Fox Lake has a fire station closer to Gander Mountain and the transfer would be beneficial to both fire districts, the Forest Preserve, and local residents. The transfer would require the Forest Preserve to file a petition in the Circuit Court of Lake County seeking the transfer because Gander Mountain is greater than 60 acres. Staff and Attorney Matt Norton responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The majority of the legal legwork and costs will be incurred by the Fox Lake Fire Protection District. The consensus of the committee was to move forward.

9.4 Policy direction regarding potential transfer of District property at Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserve to Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) for road improvements to Wadsworth Road and authority to negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement with LCDOT and Village of Wadsworth regarding certain obligations associated with the road improvements – Mr. Kovach noted that this is one of the most dangerous intersections

in the county. Mr. Seebach introduced Kevin Carrier and Darrell Kuntz from LCDOT, and gave an overview of LCDOT's interim project for a frontage road on the north side of Wadsworth Road to relocate turning movements further away from the intersection. The proposed frontage road will align with the existing Sedge Meadow Forest Preserve entrance on the south side of Wadsworth Road and LCDOT will add dedicated right and left turn lanes for the District's parking lot as part of the improvements. LCDOT will require approximately 0.6 acres fee simple interest in District property on the north side of Wadsworth Road for the frontage road construction and in exchange will provide these left and right turn lanes plus on-street bike lanes between the canoe launch and the DPR Trail. The land value is approximately \$22,000 and the value of the bike lanes is estimated at \$100,000. The Village of Wadsworth is involved in all discussions as they would be funding 20% of the project and assume ownership and maintenance of the frontage road. Mr. Seebach and LCDOT staff responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to move forward.

9.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Temporary License Agreement with Nagel's Oasis, LLC for the limited purpose of authorizing the District to cross Nagel's property to access Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve for restoration purposes – Mr. Kovach summarized the purpose of the license agreement and responded to questions. Motion by member Didech, 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.

9.6 Presentation of concept plans for Lakewood Master Plan – Director Seebach introduced District staff that are members of the master plan team, followed by a presentation, which included a history of the preserve and features of the existing site and its infrastructure, noting that prior to relocation of the Museum and the Archives staff the annual operating and maintenance costs at Lakewood were over \$1 million. He presented two conceptual plans that explored a range of options/ideas for improving public access, reducing short and long term operating costs, reducing environmental impacts and providing additional habitat restoration. Public access improvements includes the removal of underutilized parking areas, providing new shelters including a three season shelter, removal and/or reconfiguring preserve roads, removal of problem trails and providing fully accessible trail loops. Proposed restoration includes shoreline restoration of Taylor and Banana Lakes, an additional 1,000 acres of habitat restoration, hydrology improvements and wetland restoration, ravine stabilization and restoration, invasive species management, and reforestation and woodland restoration.

Concept A Features: new maintenance facility located on the north side of Ivanhoe Road and termination of Forest Preserve Drive at the maintenance facility with exhibits and picnic facilities; Shelter E is renovated with ADA access, new asphalt access road and parking, and new toilets and utilities; primary education programming to remain in shelter E area; 2/3rds of the gravel loop drive south of Shelter E is removed; two new non-reservable family shelters near former Shelter C and former Archives sites; a new three season shelter overlooking Taylor Lake; accessible asphalt trail loops with a gravel trail connection to Wauconda Bike Path and an adjacent residential area; conversion of the front ponds to a stream and wetland complex; new bridge structure between Banana and Taylor Lakes; no changes to equestrian parking and youth group camping site; removal of redundant equestrian trails and within wet areas; large group events to remain near Shelter E; renovated natural trails in the western woodlands; and snowmobile routes to remain with elimination of loops.

Member Simpson left the meeting at approximately 2:55 p.m.

Concept B Features: New maintenance facility located on south side of Ivanhoe Road with new multiple use area including relocated equestrian parking, public parking, nature exploration area and education area at rear of new building; Forest Preserve Drive remains with through traffic to Ivanhoe Road and possible realignment; Shelter E relocated to the east with entire gravel loop drive eliminated; two new reservable shelters near former Archives site; new three season shelter overlooking Taylor Lake, youth group camping eliminated; additional removal of some equestrian trails and some segments relocated; accessible 1.9-mile asphalt trail loop with no gravel trail connection to Wauconda Bike Path and adjacent residential area; natural surface trails removed; no large events near Shelter E and area restored to savanna/woodland; snowmobiling eliminated; and education programming area relocated south of Ivanhoe Road near Heron Lake.

Member Didech left the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Mr. Seebach explained the District's open house process and master plan timeline. The open house is scheduled for September 23, 2019 from 5 to 7pm at the Fremont Township Administrative Center. Comments from the open house will be compiled and there will be a three week comment period following the open house for people to submit comments. Mr. Seebach fielded questions and member Martini suggested having an informational video at the open house similar to what LCDOT uses. Chair Wasik led a round robin around the table; staff responded to questions and the committee members commented on each of the two concepts.

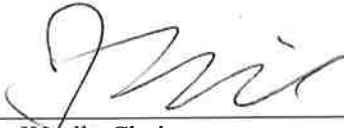

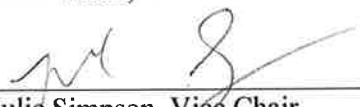

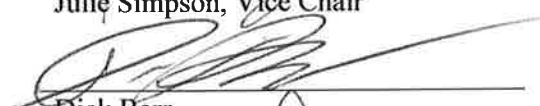
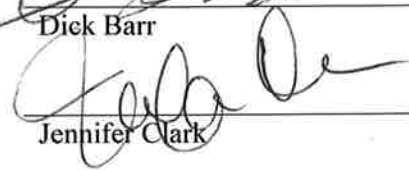

10.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Barr to go into closed session to review approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings; and to discuss the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. The Committee went into closed session at 3:33pm and returned to open session at 4:05pm.

Director Seebach distributed materials regarding the Lakewood Master Plan. Member Hewitt reminded the committee that the Waukegan Savanna dog exercise area will be opening on September 13 and asked everyone to attend.

11.0 Next meeting: September 23, 2019 - Joint Meeting at 8:30am. (Operations, Planning & Finance)

12.0 Adjournment – With no further business, motion by member Clark, second by member Barr to adjourn. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the Committee adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 _____ John Wasik, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Diane Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Julie Simpson, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Judy Martini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Dick Barr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____ Linda Pedersen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Jessica Vealitzek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Adam R. Didech	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			