

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – August 3, 2026**

The Planning Committee met on Monday, August 3, 2026, at the Lake County Forest Preserve District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

**1.0 Call to order** – With a quorum present, Chair Paul Frank called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and all seven committee members responded: Chair Frank, Vice Chair Jennifer Clark, Carissa Casbon, Michael Danforth, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik.

**Also Present:**

|                                       |                |                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Jessica Vealitzek, President          | Alyssa Firkus  | Julie Gragnani  |
| Alex Ty Kovach                        | Dan Stearns    | Debbie Boness   |
| Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel | Rebekah Snyder | Kim Mikus Croke |
| Ken Jones                             | Ron Davis      | Angie Sifuentes |
| John Nelson                           | Steve Neaman   | Mike Zahalka    |
| Pati Vitt (via Zoom)                  | Michael Haug   | Nataly Lara     |

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Clark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – No addenda. Verbal informational updates were given:

- Director Ken Jones introduced Angie Sifuentes, Executive Assistant, Land Preservation Department.
- Police Chief Ron Davis gave an update on the recent John Doe case; and the missing person from Evanston recovered from the Des Plaines River near Oak Spring Canoe Launch.

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by Clark, second by Casbon to approve the minutes of June 1, 2026, open and closed session. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

**6.0 Public Comment** – None

**7.0 Correspondence** – None

**8.0 Unfinished Business** - None

**9.0 New Business**

**9.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an Amended Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Restoration of Dutch Gap Forest Preserve, to increase the Federal Participation Limit** – Motion by Casbon, second by Roberts to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the recommendation and Chief Operation Officer John Nelson provided additional background, explaining that the federal portion of construction costs exceeded \$10 million and this amendment will raise the Federal participation cap to \$15 million to ensure that the project is fully funded. The 65/35 share remains unchanged, and the District will not incur any additional expenses, in fact, the District's current local share is at 38% including the LERRD value. Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt joined the meeting via Zoom and responded to questions. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.

9.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Pavement Maintenance at multiple forest preserves to Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc, in the Contract Price of \$170,000.00 – Motion by Clark, second by Casbon to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the contract scope for pavement patching and crack sealing at various preserve sites, and responded to questions. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by Casbon, second by Clark to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property, and the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 7, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 9:14 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:37 a.m.

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

**14.0 Adjournment** – Chair Frank noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 31, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Julie Gragnani  
Committee Secretary

Date Approved: 8-31-2026