

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – August 3, 2020**

On Monday, August 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the July 24, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2020-48, and the Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President attached to the Agenda, the Planning Committee met via Audio and Video conference and not at the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s General Offices.

**1.0 Call to order** –Chair John Wasik called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani call the roll and seven committee members responded: John Wasik, Chair; Julie Simpson, Vice Chair; Jennifer Clark, Diane Hewitt, Judy Martini, Linda Pedersen, and Jennifer Vealitzek. Absent: Altenberg, Barr (Member Altenberg joined the meeting at 1:57 p.m.)

Motion by member Clark, second by member Martini to suspend the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures to the full extent necessary: a) to allow Committee members to attend this meeting in accordance with Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, which allows all Committee members to attend this meeting by video or audio means and; b) to allow public comment to be made via audio or video means. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0.

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President  
Alex Kovach  
Mike Tully  
Randy Seebach  
Ken Jones  
Jim Anderson  
Jeff Slood

**Also Present:**

Steve Neaman  
Mary Kann  
John Nelson  
Nan Buckardt  
Katherine Hamilton-Smith  
John Tannahill

**Also Present:**

Rebekah Snyder  
Kelly Burdick  
Kim Mikus  
Jordan Wagner  
Julie Gragnani  
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

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

**4.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Clark to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2020 joint committee meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0.

**5.0 Public Comment** – Chair Wasik asked if there was anyone listening who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. There were no responses.

**6.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**7.0 Executive Director Comments:**

- The federally listed Rusty Patched Bumblebee has been found at Greenbelt Forest Preserve;
- We will be opening all existing gravel trails for bicycle use at Grassy Lake Forest Preserve;
- Received 24 responses to request for Statements of Interest for architectural services for design of a new Environmental Education Facility at the Ryerson Conservation Area;
- Virtual summer day camps have been very successful; 75% filled;
- Eligible school districts for the Gateways Grant Program are the same nine districts as last school year;
- Museum staff is working on the modifications needed for reopening on August 29;

- The District submitted its reimbursement request of \$193,267.03 to the County for COVID-19 related expenses;
- The District received its \$750,000 museum grant from IDNR;
- Bids came in for the tunnel under Route 45 at Ethel's Woods; estimate was \$4.3 million and bids came in around \$3.3 million.

Staff responded to questions from committee members on these items.

**8.0 Correspondence - None**

**9.0 Old Business - None**

**10.0 New Business**

10.1 Policy direction regarding request from ComEd for permanent easements for existing lines of electrical poles along Schwerman Road at Lakewood Forest Preserve, and along Grass Lake Road at Sun Lake Forest Preserve – Executive Director Kovach explained that the electrical poles are within existing right-of-ways and when ComEd requested to replace the poles, it was found that no easements were put in place years ago. Director Randy Seebach responded to questions and the consensus of the committee was to proceed with negotiations with ComEd for permanent easements at these locations.

10.2 For Information Only – Update on Lakewood Master Plan Improvements – Executive Director Kovach noted that the Board previously approved the Lakewood Master Plan and staff has been working on putting concepts together, and wished to update the Committee on the progress. Director Seebach gave an overview of what has happened so far, and Project Manager Jeff Sloat gave a presentation showing the current designs for the proposed site improvements including trails, picnic shelters, parking lots and other amenities. Director John Nelson then reviewed the current design plans for proposed grounds maintenance facility. Staff responded to questions and comments from the Committee.

Member Altenberg joined the meeting at approximately 1:57 p.m.

10.3 Natural Resources Department Activity Update – Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson gave a presentation to update the Committee on his department's restoration projects, current grant applications, and other potential funding sources for future projects. He responded to questions and Chair Wasik asked to consider looking at Fort Sheridan as a potential national lakeshore.

**11.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Simpson, second by member Altenberg 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 the following vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 2:46 p.m. and return to open session at 3:15 p.m.

**12.0 Next Scheduled Meeting:** August 31, 2020

**13.0 Adjournment** – With no further business, Chair Wasik declared the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

**Planning Committee Minutes – August 3, 2020**

**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"/>
John Wasik, Chair			Diane Hewitt		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Julie Simpson, Vice Chair			Judy Martini		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marah Altenberg			Linda Pedersen		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Barr			Jessica Vealitzek		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Jennifer Clark					

**Secretary's Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the August 21, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor's Executive Orders No. 2020-52, and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, August 31, 2020. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 7 (Altenberg, Clark, Hewitt, Martini, Pedersen, Vealitzek, Wasik)  
 NAYS: 0  
 ABSENT: 2 (Barr, Simpson)

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Committee Secretary