

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – August 30, 2021**

On Monday, August 30, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the August 20, 2021 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, and the Written Determination of the District President attached to the Agenda, the Planning Committee met via Audio and Video conference and at the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s General Offices.

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; Carissa Casbon, Diane Hewitt, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, and John Wasik. Vice Chair Marah Altenberg arrived after roll call at approximately 1:10 p.m. Member Dick Barr was absent.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President
Alex Kovach
Randy Seebach
Mike Tully
Jim Anderson

Also Present:

John Tannahill
Rebekah Snyder
Mary Kann
John Nelson
Nan Buckardt

Also Present:

Ken Jones
Julie Gragnani
Debbie Boness
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel
Butch Buckley

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Roberts, second by member Hunter to approve the minutes of August 2, 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 the following and responded to questions:

- Joint committee meeting on October 4, 2021 to review the proposed 2022 budget;
- Summary of storm damage on August 10th;
- Summary of golf operations that has increased since COVID;
- Beer Garden at Independence Grove is very successful and a “Septoberfest” program is added;
- Science Explorers in Nature program completed its 16th year in July;
- Diana Dretske’s blog on Henry McIntosh was noticed by one of his ancestors;
- Evening celebration is being planned for the Our Voice is Black History museum exhibition;
- Sighting of the rare Mexican violetear hummingbird in the back yard of a staff person, which was shared with other birders, leading to a front page story in the Daily Herald.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Approve a motion to (i) release Committee closed session minutes, (ii) retain as confidential all other Committee closed session minutes not previously released, and (iii) delete Verbatim Recordings

in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the District's Policy on Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Records, as provided in Exhibit 1 to staff's memo dated August 30, 2021 – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hewitt to approve as presented. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0.

10.2 Policy direction regarding request from Village of Third Lake to allow annexation of a portion of District property at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve – Executive Director Kovach showed the location on a map and explained that the request is for the purpose of planned treatment of invasive species within the lake. Mr. Kovach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson explained that the District has been successfully collaborative with the Village in the past to treat for invasive species, allowing access to District property to apply treatment and signing off on the treatment plans. He added that the Village's point of view is that they are spending Village funds on District property and annexation would justify this use of funds because they would have some control over the property. Mayor Butch Buckley spoke, noting that the District and Village have worked well together in this effort. The Village thought annexation would simplify the project for them, but if the District denies the request, the Village will continue to work with the District to maintain the right vegetation in the lake. Director Anderson gave an overview of the process, which uses a project notification, and working with the Lake County Health Department's Lakes Management team. Attorney Norton clarified the Village's request from a legal standpoint and added that he didn't feel the District would be well served in annexing this property. A general discussion continued and following further committee questions and comments, the consensus of the committee was to not consider the annexation request.

10.3 Recommend approval of Resolution approving License Agreement with Avon Township allowing use of District Property for School Bus Turnaround at Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach noted that at the previous meeting the committee directed staff to proceed with this license agreement. He noted that the Township will pay the license fee of \$750, plus the District's legal costs up to \$5,000, which will be paid at 10% annually. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.4 Policy direction regarding a potential agreement with the Village of Long Grove to provide additional parking at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve – Director Seebach showed the plan on a map and noted that there have been several requests for additional parking at the west end of the new trail system because existing parking is 1.5 miles away located at the east end of the preserve. Trail users have been parking along Checker and Schaeffer Roads, as well as within the neighborhood streets, about which residents have complained. Staff, with Commissioner Altenberg, met with the Village about how to address these concerns by providing additional parking and came up with a solution at the far south end of Old Hicks Road, which is an existing access to the soccer fields but is not being used. He showed a concept of adding 9 or 10 parking stalls, including one ADA stall, along this section of road with a turnaround at the south end, which would require some paving. An existing gate would be relocated to the south, a section of split rail fence would be added; the stalls would need to be striped, and some signage would be needed. Staff asked for direction on whether to continue discussions and/or negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with the Village on this concept. Some general obligations have been discussed and agreed to in principle: the Village would pay the cost of all materials, and the District would provide labor for construction with its crews. Rough estimates put the cost at \$10,000 for materials and \$10,000 for labor at maximum – total is likely from \$15,000 to \$20,000. The Village has agreed to provide a first draft of the agreement and will provide long-term maintenance and monitoring of the new parking area. The consensus of the Committee was to proceed.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Schaeffer Road trail crossing Accessibility Improvements at Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve to Chicagoland Paving Contractors, Inc., in

the Contract Price of \$35,000.00 – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Director Seebach noted that at the previous meeting the committee directed staff to pursue an agreement with Vernon Township, under which the Township would fund the installation and long term maintenance of rectangular rapid flashing beacons adjacent to the crosswalk. The Township has declined to fund any portion of this rectangular rapid flashing beacons due to other larger issues they have at this part of the crossing. Staff recommends that the District move forward with just the trail improvements/safety portion of the project including re-grading the existing trail profile to improve the Schaeffer Road crossing, install accessible concrete ramps with detectable warning plates, and restriping the crosswalk. The flashing beacons issue will wait until the other road issues are resolved. Roll call vote being had, the motion to approve passed by a vote of: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – Member Wasik asked if the District offers programs and/or tours for people with mobility issues. Education Director Buckardt summarized programs that were in place prior to COVID, which could be reinstated when COVID subsides. Director Kovach added that there was a cart program offered but it was discontinued due to high costs. Administration Director Kann gave an overview of the electronic mobility device policy. A brief discussion ensued.

There was a question regarding mini-bikes, which are not allowed in the preserves. A brief discussion ensued regarding motorized vehicles allowed and not allowed in the preserves.

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Altenberg to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property; and setting 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: 8, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:50 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:14 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment –Chair Wilke noted that the next meeting is the joint meeting on October 4, 2021 and adjourned the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

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

Secretary's Note: Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the September 17, 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, October 4, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 8 (Altenberg, Casbon, Hewitt, Hunter, Pedersen, Roberts, Wasik, Wilke)
NAYS: 0
ABSENT: 1 (Barr)



Committee Secretary