

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – August 31, 2020**

On Monday, August 31, 2020, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the August 21, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2020-52, 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.

Chair Wasik asked committee members to verify their presence during the meeting by displaying their live video connection, and not a static screen with only their name and/or photo, at least during the initial roll call, when speaking, and when voting.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Wagner call the roll and seven committee members responded: John Wasik, Chair; Marah Altenberg; Jennifer Clark, Diane Hewitt, Judy Martini, Linda Pedersen, and Jessica Vealitzek. Absent: Barr (Vice Chair Simpson joined the meeting after the Roll Call.)

Motion by member Martini, second by member Clark 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
Sandy Hart
S. Michael Rummel
Paul Frank
Alex Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach
Ken Jones

Also Present:

Jim Anderson
Debbie Boness
Steve Neaman
Mary Kann
John Nelson
Nan Buckardt
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
John Tannahill

Also Present:

Jordan Wagner
Rebekah Snyder
Kim Mikus
Michael Haug
Pati Vitt
Matt Norton, *Corporate Counsel*

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

4.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Simpson to approve open session minutes from August 3, 2020. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0.

Vice Chair Simpson joined the meeting following approval of Minutes at approximately 1:04 p.m.

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:

- A surge in boating at Fox River Forest Preserve as a result of limited recreational options during the pandemic has led to a steady stream of new customers in the marina operations;
- After a slow start to the season due to COVID-19 restrictions, since Memorial Day weekend revenues at the District’s three golf clubs are up 50% over the same period from 2019;

- The telephone budget for FY2021 will be approximately \$70,000 less than FY2020 due to line reductions and switching to radio verses LAN lines for alarm systems;
- The Great American Outdoors Act has been signed into law and will provide \$900-million a year in guaranteed funding for the Land and Conservation Fund;
- Our season five Blanding's Turtles are all hatched;
- The Dunn Museum reopened on Saturday, August 29th;
- The USG Foundation just renewed its \$15,000 Dunn Museum sponsorship for the fourth year;
- Read communication from a preserve user that was sent to Commissioner Paul Frank that expressed how much he appreciates the forest preserve system in Lake County;
- Read communication from dog park user thanking the District for the permit refund and in turn donated \$25 to the District;
- The District is working on a short term permit with the Wauconda Fire District that will allow the Fire District staff to train at the vacant former Museum building at Lakewood this fall prior to its demolition;
- USDA announced first-ever recipients of Urban Agriculture Grants and Cooperative Agreements, and Lake County, Illinois is listed. The District had partnered with SWALCO on this project.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Old Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 For Information Only - Review and Comment of Concept Plans for Oriole Grove Forest Preserve Master Plan – Executive Director Kovach gave background information on the history and acquisition of the site. Director Randy Seebach provided additional background information and introduced the members of the master plan team, followed by a presentation given by master plan team members Michael Haug and Pati Vitt. The presentation covered a site analysis, including highlights from meetings with project partners and a consulting engineer staff, project feasibility in relation to the wetlands and the Skokie River floodplain, natural resources restoration goals along with the significant hydrological challenges, and two conceptual plans.

Concept A Features: No added parking, with the parking lots on Lake Bluff Open Lands and Lake Forest Open Lands remaining as the only parking options. A new lane would be added for maintenance access by District crews and contractors, the existing kiosk would be replaced and relocated. The existing trail configuration would be revised, with the same total trail distance (1.3 miles), including a 1-mile trail loop, a feature which one existed on the site previously. In addition, new trails will be fully accessible and an overlook would be added on the east side of Jensen Pond. The plan includes a potential partnership with Lake Forest Open Lands to have the railroad underpass trail restored to reconnect Lake Forest Open Lands. Drain tiles would be disabled to increase water retention, with other ecological restoration divided into seven separate restoration units.

Concept B Features: Same features as Concept A with the exception of the trail configuration and the location of the overlook. The trail network would have a reduction in the total trail length, to 1.0 miles, and would not include a trail loop but would have an out and back trail design. The proposed overlook would occur at the south end of the pond.

Commissioners Rummel and Hart both thanked staff and gave brief history about the site and its ownership. Both were in favor of moving forward with the master plan process. Commissioner Hart also suggested a slight adjustment in the loop trail alignment to better coincide with the existing Lake Bluff Openlands trail to the north. Staff responded to questions and comments from the Committee and a general discussion ensued. Director Seebach explained the District's open house process and master plan timeline. Comments from the open house will be compiled and there will be a two-week comment period following the open house for the

public to submit comments. Consensus of the Committee was to move forward with a public open house in September.

10.2 Policy direction regarding using mitigation banks as a means for restoration of various preserves – Executive Director Kovach provided background information and how the District is currently using mitigation banks. Director Anderson then explained what mitigation banks are, how they work and the process of mitigation. He also summarized the policy direction and what the next steps would be if the Committee consensus was to move forward. Member Clark spoke in favor on using mitigation banks as a means for restoration. Member Vealitzek expressed concerns if a developer impacts one watershed, they may purchase mitigation credits from a bank outside the impacted watershed. Director Anderson responded to questions and comments from the Committee and a general discussion ensued. Consensus of the Committee was to move forward as long as it is written within agreements with the developer that the mitigation credits being requested be restricted to the watershed they are impacting. Chair Wasik asked for public comment and there was no response.

10.3 Policy direction regarding routing of the North Shore Gas main at Raven Glen Forest Preserve and authorizing negotiations for a permanent and temporary easement – Executive Director Kovach gave a brief overview of the Route 45 underpass trail connection project. Director Seebach explained in more detail with maps the location of the project area, including the current location of the gas line and the proposed relocation of the gas line to accommodate the construction of the new underpass tunnel and trail connection. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. Chair Wasik asked for public comment and there was no response. The consensus of the Committee was to allow staff to move forward with negotiations of permanent and any temporary easements.

10.4 Recommend approval of an Ordinance awarding a Contract for Phase I Engineering Services for the Millennium Trail Extension connecting Ethel's Woods and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves to Civiltech Engineering, Inc., Itasca, Illinois, in the Contract Price of \$336,861.00; and amending the FY2020 and FY2021 Capital Improvements Plan and the FY2020 Budget – Motion by member Martini, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach explained that an amendment to the CIP and budget is required to accommodate the next grant cycle so this project can move forward and be completed as the last section of the Millennium Trail that the District would be responsible for. Director Seebach explained further using a map showing the different sections of the trail connecting Ethel's Woods and Pine Dunes Forest Preserves. He further explained that this project would be a strong candidate for funding through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) or the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality(CMAQ)- Transportation Alternatives Program (TEP). To prepare the project for federal funding, a phase I engineering study is required. Seebach responded to questions and comments from the Committee. Chair Wasik asked for public comment and there was no response. The motion passed by the following roll call vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 0.16-acre property in Cuba Township known as the County of Lake, Trustee property, for \$1.00 as an addition to Fox River Forest Preserve – Motion by member Vealitzek, second by member Clark to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the property. With no questions or comments, the motion passed by the following roll call vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.6 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 2.7-acre property in Lake Villa Township known as the Harrington Trust property, for \$14,000.00 as an addition to Grant Woods Forest Preserve – Motion by member Martini, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the property. Chair Wasik asked for public and there was no

response. With no questions or comments, the motion passed by the following roll call vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

11.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Clark, second by member Martini 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 approximately 2:47 p.m. and return to open session at 3:03 p.m.

12.0 Next Scheduled Meeting: October 5, 2020 – Joint committee meeting.

13.0 Adjournment – With no further business, Chair Wasik declared the meeting adjourned at 3:03 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"/>
John Wasik, Chair			Diane Hewitt		
_____	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 September 18, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor's Executive Orders No. 2020-55 and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, October 5, 2020. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 9 (Altenberg, Barr, Clark, Hewitt, Martini, Pedersen, Simpson, Vealitzek, Wasik)
 NAYS: 0
 ABSENT: 0

Julie Bramani

 Committee Secretary