

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT – REGULAR MAY MEETING MINUTES
MAY 13, 2026

The Board of Commissioners of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the District General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to Order – With a quorum present, President Jessica Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and confirmed electronic attendance due to personal illness for Commissioners Diane Hewitt.

2.0 Roll Call of Commissioners – Board Secretary Gragnani called the roll and 18 Commissioners responded present: Altenberg, Campos, Casbon, Clark, Danforth, Frank, Hart, Hewitt, Hunter, Knizhnik, Kyle, Maine, Parekh, Pedersen, Roberts, Schlick, Vealitzek, Wasik. Absent: Cunningham

3.0 Moment of Silence – President Vealitzek called for a moment of silence.

4.0 Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Schlick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Addenda to Agenda – None

6.0 Public Comment – None

7.0 President’s Report, Special Recognition and Committee Appointments

- Attendance at Nature Everywhere and State of the Preserves events;
- Review of the Volunteer Recognition event held on April 25 and the volunteers who received proclamations for 20, 25 and 30 years of volunteer service. This year’s recipient of the Gilman Volunteer Award was Dave Szaflarski.
- Joint committee meeting on June 1, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. to review Budget Policies for 2027.

8.0 Executive Director’s Report - Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Introduction of new staff: Grace Regnier, Special Events Coordinator at Greenbelt
- The President waived an entrance fee to Independence Grove for an out-of-county major donor;
- Distributed letter from Waukegan Airport outlining their May 20 informational presentation regarding the Airport’s runway safety project;
- 18 buildings removed by in-house crews over the winter;
- Preservation Foundation and Development Division fundraising summary for the month of April;
- Ecological monitoring for the 2026 field season has begun;
- Plant rescues at Fort Sheridan cemetery expansion project area for replanting;
- Plants rescued from a private parcel for replanting at District sites;
- Fencing installed at Duck Farm to prevent carp migration upstream into Slough Lake;
- Birding “Big Day” held on May 3rd; Native Plant Sale to be held May 16-17;
- As part of Volunteer Appreciation Month, there were special tours, programs, and media efforts;
- Volunteer Recognition Breakfast on April 25, funded by the Preservation Foundation.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business – For Information Only: Strategic Planning Presentation – Consultants Jennifer Olson and Laurel Tustison of Partners in Capacity presented a summary of their interviews with

Commissioners and leadership staff, the Nature Everywhere Waukegan focus group, and survey results of Commissioners and staff. The findings were organized into categories of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. They outlined the strategic context for the next five-year plan. The proposed Strategic Plan will be presented to the Committee of the Whole in July, and to the Board for approval in August 2026.

11.0 Consent Agenda – Motion by Commissioner Hart, seconded by Commissioner Altenberg to approve the Consent Agenda, items 11.1 and 11.2:

11.1 Approve Minutes of April 15, 2026

11.2 Approve a motion to (i) release Board closed session minutes, (ii) retain as confidential all other Board 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. **EXHIBIT No. 6280**

With a roll call vote being had, the motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0**

12.0 New Business – Report of Standing and Special Committees:

12.1 Resolution Approving Traveling Exhibition Agreement with Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Casbon to approve a Resolution Approving a Traveling Exhibition Agreement with the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh for Rental of a Special Exhibition (*I Am Wild: A Charley Harper Exhibit*). With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6281**

12.2 Resolution Awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for Multiple Preserves

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Campos to approve a Resolution Awarding five-year Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for multiple Preserves to Agrecol LLC in the Contract Price of \$103,818.22; Genesis Nursery, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$551,728.35; Prairie Moon Nursery in the Contract Price of \$1,133,828.89; RES Great Lakes in the Contract Price of \$208,252.88; Shooting Star Native Seeds in the Contract Price of \$161,380.52; and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$400,170.73. With a roll call vote being had (leave for previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6282**

12.3 Resolution Approving Change Order to Contract for Printing Horizons Newsletter

Motion by Commissioner Knizhnik, second by Commissioner Schlick to approve a Resolution Approving Change Order No. 2 to a Contract with Dreamworks Graphic Communications, LLC for Printing and Distribution of Eight Additional Issues of *Horizons* Quarterly Newsletter in the Amount of \$226,320.00. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call minus Maine voting No), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 17, NAYS: 1. EXHIBIT No. 6283**

12.4 Resolution to Purchase 0.85-Acre Property as an Addition to Grant Woods

Motion by Commissioner Frank, second by Commissioner Hunter to approve a Resolution to Purchase an approximately 0.85-acre Parcel as an Addition to Grant Woods Forest Preserve (Don Woodville Property) for \$37,500.00. With a roll call vote being had (leave for the previous roll call), the motion passed by a vote of: **AYES: 18, NAYS: 0. EXHIBIT No. 6284**

12.0 Petitions and Correspondence - None

13.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

14.0 Closed Session – None

15.0 Potential Action following Closed Session - None

16.0 Adjournment – With no further business before the Board, President Vealitzek adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Julie Gragnani
Board Secretary

Date Approved: 6-10-2026

