

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – January 4, 2021**

On Monday, January 4, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the December 11, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2020-74; 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 at the Lake County Forest Preserve District’s General Offices.

1.0 Call to order –Chair Terry Wilke called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and all nine committee members responded: Terry Wilke, Chair, Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair, Dick Barr, Carissa Casbon, Diane Hewitt, Judy Martini, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik.

Also Present:

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

Also Present:

Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Steve Neaman
Mary Kann
John Nelson
Rebekah Snyder

Also Present:

Julie Gragnani
Debbie Boness
Kim Mikus Croke
Mike May, Village of Volo
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hewitt to approve open session minutes from the November 2, 2020 and December 22, 2020 meetings. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9; NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment – Chair Wilke asked if there was anyone listening or present who wished to provide public comment for items not on the agenda. There was no response.

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Education Department’s virtual education and museum programs;
- Positive response to this year’s Hike Lake County Program;
- Retrofitting former beach house and grounds at Independence Grove into a seasonal beer garden;
- Proposal submitted to potential donor for matching funds to Clean Energy Foundation Grant recently awarded for Solar Array System at Ryerson Welcome Center.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Purchase of approximately 18.6-acre Parcel known as the Shea Property for approximately \$316,200.00, as an addition to Wadsworth Savanna Forest Preserve
Motion by member Wasik, second by member Martini to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach summarized the property using a map and photos and explained that 50 percent of the purchase price

will be provided by a U.S. Forest Service grant being applied for. Mr. Kovach responded to questions. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. There were no requests for public comment. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Recommend approval of Ordinance approving Annexation Agreement with Village of Volo for the annexation of portions of Marl Flat Forest Preserve – Motion by member Martini, second by member Roberts to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach explained that the Big Hollow School District has a private well and needs good access to potable water. This annexation would make the school district contiguous to the Village of Volo so that the district could receive potable water service through the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency. In exchange, the Forest Preserve will receive approximately 35 acres of Village property to protect in perpetuity. The annexation also provides a public benefit to the school district. A general discussion ensued and comment was provided by Mike May from the Village of Volo, who thanked the committee for entering into this partnership. On the motion to approve, roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 For Information Only – Distribution of public comments regarding Oriole Grove Master Plan – Planning Director Randy Seebach provided an update on the history of the preserve and the planning process the has been completed to date for the benefit of new committee members, including an explanation of how the District recently acquired full ownership of the property and the efforts to gather to public feedback. Using maps, he explained the existing conditions and the adjacent open space properties and an overview of master plan concepts A and B. He also provided a summary of the public comments received regarding concepts A and B. The comments included a strong preference for concept A over concept B. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued including whether or not a parking lot should be considered, and the additional funds that will need to be raised to implement the plan. Mr. Seebach outlined the next steps including standing committee review, and potential Board approval of the master plan in March 2021.

10.4 Policy direction regarding request from Lake County Division of Transportation for 0.60 acres of temporary easements and 0.04 acres of permanent easements at Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve for road improvements to intersection of Ela and Long Grove Roads; and authority to negotiate an easement agreement for certain obligations associated with the road improvements – Using maps, Planning Director Randy Seebach summarized LCDOT's request for easements they will need to widen and improve the intersection of Ela and Long Grove Roads. As part of their work, they will install vegetative swales to protect the existing wetlands on Cuba Marsh. Staff asked for permission to continue discussions with LCDOT and negotiate an easement agreement. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. He noted that work on District property may take up to three years until an acceptable level of vegetative cover is achieved. After discussion the consensus of the Committee was to proceed.

10.5 Recommend approval of Resolution awarding Contract for Advance Tree Clearing and Harvesting at Lakewood Forest Preserve to Homer Tree Services, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$40,250.00 - Motion by member Wasik, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Director Seebach explained the project on a map. As part of the master plan improvements, advance removal of selected trees and other undesirable vegetation is required to perform survey and engineering studies. Some other trees could be harvested for re-use within the project, which would reduce costs. Mr. Seebach and Director Jim Anderson responded to questions and general discussion ensued. After discussion the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.6 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Permanent and Temporary Easements to North Shore Gas Company for Millennium Trail - Route 45 Underpass Project at Raven Glen Forest Preserve - Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Martini to approve the recommendation. Director Seebach explained

the project on a map showing the proposed location of relocated gas main and easements required for the construction of the underpass structure. Because North Shore Gas Company is not charging a fee for the relocation work, staff has recommended waiving all easement fees. After discussion the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.7 Policy direction regarding the engagement of a professional engineering firm to assess solutions for sustainable coastal stabilization for the Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve Lake Michigan coastline – Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson gave a presentation outlining the significant erosion issues along the Lake Michigan coastline. He summarized the District’s and Army Corps of Engineers’ restoration efforts in the past to control erosion and stabilize the shoreline. Staff asked for permission to solicit proposals from coastal engineering firms to provide an evaluation and assessment of current coastline erosion, analysis of future conditions, potential actions for long-term stability of the lake bluff and coastline at Fort Sheridan, and preliminary cost estimates for implementation. Mr. Anderson responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The consensus of the committee was to proceed.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Hewitt, second by member Roberts to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 2:53 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:10 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – With no further business, Chair Wilke declared the meeting adjourned at 3:10 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"/>
Terry Wilke, Chair			Judy Martini		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair			Linda Pedersen		
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dick Barr			Gina Roberts		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carissa Casbon			John Wasik		
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Diane Hewitt					

Planning Committee Secretary’s Note: Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the January 8, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Orders No. 2021-1 and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, February 1, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

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

Julie Gragnani
 Committee Secretary