

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Special Planning Committee Minutes – October 26, 2020**

On Monday, October 26, 2020, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the October 16, 2020, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2020-59, 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 5:00 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 called the roll and five committee members responded: John Wasik, Chair; Julie Simpson, Vice-Chair; Marah Altenberg, Jennifer Clark, and Jessica Vealitzek. Absent: Barr, Hewitt, Martini, and Pederson.

Motion by member Clark, second by member Simpson to suspend the Rules of Order and Operational Procedures to the full extent necessary 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. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 5; NAYS: 0.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President
Sandy Hart
S. Michael Rummel
Alex Kovach
Randy Seebach
Debbie Boness

Also Present:

Michael Haug
Pati Vitt
Rebekah Snyder
Jim Anderson
Mary Kann
Mike Tully

Also Present:

Nan Buckardt
Katherine Hamilton-Smith
Jordan Wagner
George Russell
Rick Lesser
Dave Szaflarski

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Oriole Grove Master Plan Concepts Presentation – Executive Director Kovach gave background information on the history and acquisition of the site. Director Randy Seebach stated this is the second opportunity to present two concept plans for improvements to Oriole Grove. The first was an in-person open house on September 22nd at Greenbelt Cultural Center where 21 people attended and where given the opportunity to view the concept plans, learn about the planning process, ask questions, share ideas, and provide written comment. Since then 26 written comments were received. He then provided additional background information about the history and acquisition of the site. He 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, stakeholders and consultants, project feasibility studies in relation to the wetlands and the Skokie River floodplain, natural resources restoration goals along with the significant hydrological challenges, and two conceptual plans which were presented to the Planning Committee on August 31st and at the in-person open house on September 22nd.

Concept A Features: No added parking, with the parking lots on Lake Bluff Open Lands and Lake Forest Open Lands remaining as the 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 safely reconnect Lake Forest Open Lands. Existing 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.

Staff member Haug explained the next steps in the master planning process and that the public comment period has been extended through November 9th.

Executive Director Kovach explained the funding aspect of the project and why having a master plan in place is beneficial to either help raise funds, matching dollars for potential grant opportunities or if the Board decides to look at bond dollars since capital dollars have been exhausted from the 2008 bond referendum for any future projects.

6.0 Public Comment Period – The following members of the public provided public comment with respect to the concept plans presented for the Oriole Grove master plan:

Rick Lesser – Gave his comments and asked questions that staff answered.

Commissioner Sandy Hart – Thanked staff for putting together the virtual meeting. She thanked site steward Dave Szaflarski for all his work. She also thanked former Village of Lake Bluff employee George Russel.

George Russell – Gave his comments.

Commissioner Mike Rummel – Gave comment and thanked staff for all their work.

Dave Szaflarski – Gave his comments and asked a question that staff answered.

A general discussion ensued between Commissioners, staff and members of the public with regards to Oriole Grove Forest Preserve and the master plan until the meeting was adjourned.

7.0 Adjournment – After the public comment period, Chair Wasik declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 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 Bragman
Committee Secretary