

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – April 5, 2021**

On Monday, April 5, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the March 5, 2021 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2021-5, 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** – Vice Chair Marah Altenberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and seven committee members responded: Marah Altenberg, Vice Chair; Dick Barr, Carissa Casbon, Judy Martini, Linda Pedersen, Gina Roberts, John Wasik. Chair Wilke was absent. Diane Hewitt arrived after Agenda Item 5.0.

**Also Present:**

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

**Also Present:**

Steve Neaman  
Mary Kann  
John Nelson  
Nan Buckardt  
Ken Jones

**Also Present:**

Rebekah Snyder  
Julie Gragnani  
Debbie Boness  
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel  
Lynn Goodell

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Martini led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approval of Minutes** – Motion by member Martini, second by member Roberts to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2021 meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 7; NAYS: 0.

**6.0 Public Comment** (for items not on the agenda) – Lynn Goodell commented to request more signage at Lakewood regarding the prohibition of off-leash dogs and golf carts on equestrian trails.

Member Hewitt joined the meeting.

**7.0 Executive Director Comments** – Executive Director Kovach reported:

- Environmental Communications Specialist Brett Peto received 2021 Excellence in Interpretive Support Award from the National Association for Interpretation, Heartland Region;
- Dunn Museum: YouTube channel; opened for families during spring break; new lobby display;
- Virtual education programs and interpretive signs on maple syrup at Ryerson Woods
- District received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from GFOA for the annual audit ending December 31, 2019;
- The District has been assigned a Triple A bond rating from Moody’s;
- Board training session on Ethics Ordinances and Sexual Harassment on April 9;
- Spring burn season has begun; COVID continues to impact District staffing.

**8.0 Correspondence** - None

**9.0 Unfinished Business** - None

**10.0 New Business**

10.1 Policy direction regarding request from Grant Township Road District to grant 0.2 acres of permanent easement at Marl Flat Forest Preserve, required for Fish Lake Road improvements and installation and long term maintenance of a multi-use path – Planning & Land Preservation Director Randy Seebach summarized the Fish Lake Road improvement project and the requested easement from Grant Township. The project includes 0.7 miles of a multi-use path that will link the Township’s existing path to the Millennium Trail and Marl Flat Forest Preserve. The permanent easement is needed to construct a new section of the path outside of the existing right-of-way in order to avoid the removal of seven high quality native trees. The Road District would provide construction and maintenance of the new section of path, and in exchange for the protection of our trees and providing increased access to the Millennium Trail, staff recommended waiving all associated fees including the cost of preparing necessary documents. The Road District also requested a letter from the District in support if the project to assist with federal environmental review process and design approval for funding. Mr. Seebach also explained that the Road District will be removing 31 existing tree within the right-of-way in other areas along the District’s Fish Lake Road frontage and has agreed in principle to replace the 31 trees on District property at Marl Flat. The Road District will purchase the replacement trees and compensate the District for the cost of installation. It is the District’s option to install the trees with District crews or contract out the installation. The terms of the replacement trees will be part of the easement agreement. Following a general discussion, the direction of the committee was to proceed with negotiating an easement agreement and to send a letter of support for the project.

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Hewitt 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 the following vote: AYES: 8, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:23 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:38 p.m.

**13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None**

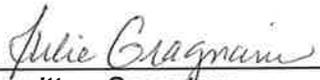
**14.0 Adjournment** –Vice Chair Altenberg declared the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Diane Hewitt					

**Secretary's Note:** Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the April 2, 2021, Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor's Executive Orders Nos. 2021-6, and Written Determination of the Lake County Forest Preserve District President, the Planning Committee met via audio and video conference on Monday, May 3, 2021. These Minutes were approved by a Roll Call vote at that meeting:

AYES: 7 (Altenberg, Barr, Casbon, Pedersen, Roberts, Wasik, Wilke)  
NAYS: 0  
ABSENT: 2 (Hewitt – joined meeting after the vote; Martini)

  
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Committee Secretary