

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – March 1, 2021**

On Monday, March 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the February 5, 2021 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the Governor’s Executive Order No. 2021-4, 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 1:00 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
Paul Frank (1:12 pm)
Sandy Hart
Alex Kovach
Mike Tully
Randy Seebach

Also Present:

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

Also Present:

Jim Siefken
Rebekah Snyder
Ken Jones
Julie Gragnani
Debbie Boness
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approval of Minutes – Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Casbon to approve the minutes from the February 1, 2021 meeting. Roll Call vote being had, the motion passed by the following vote: AYES: 9; NAYS: 0.

6.0 Public Comment (for items not on the agenda) - None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- New employees Corey Chimner, Carpenter; and Tom Burgess, Golf Operations Manager
- The Preservation Foundation’s recent meetings, donor activity, and grant awards;
- Virtual education programs, museum exhibit, and new history blog;
- Winter issue of Horizons is now available;
- 100 to 150 Covid-19 vaccines are given per day at Greenbelt Cultural Center;
- Online user demographics;
- Questions and discussion ensued regarding seed nursery funding partnerships.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Recommend approval of Resolution approving Master Plan for Public Access Improvements and Habitat Restoration at Oriole Grove Forest Preserve – Planning Director Randy Seebach gave a brief presentation reviewing the key features of the final master plan, noting that the plan went through both the Operations and Finance Committees, and neither committee recommended changes to the plan that was

presented to the Planning Committee last month. Mr. Seebach responded to questions and comments from the committee and other Commissioners present. Following discussion, 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.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Policy direction on investigating mechanisms for establishing carbon and ecosystem service credits that can be sold on the open market and provide funding for future habitat restoration – Executive Director Kovach noted that staff has been researching carbon sequestration and has gone as far as possible but now needs direction from the committee on whether to continue. He turned the presentation over to Natural Resource Director Jim Anderson, who gave an overview of how the carbon credit market works using carbon brokers. Staff has been working with the Morton Arboretum’s Chicago Regional Tree Initiative to identify firms that can certify, market and sell credits for carbon sequestration. In addition, staff would like to investigate the possibility of establishing credits for other ecosystem services such as water infiltration, air quality, soil carbon, and natural communities such as prairies and wetlands. The firms are interested in talking with the District further to see if a program can be developed to establish marketable credits for the carbon sequestration provided by our current and recent reforestation efforts. Mr. Anderson added that there could be an opportunity to work with Abbott and other companies regarding offsetting their carbon footprint. Mr. Anderson responded to questions and comments and a general discussion ensued. The direction of the committee was to proceed in investigating this further.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Roberts 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: 9, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 2:10 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:39 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – With no further business, Chair Wilke declared the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
_____	<input 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 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					

