

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, March 4, 2024**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, March 4, 2024 at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 **Call to Order** –Chair Vealitzek called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 2.0 **Roll Call** – Assistant Secretary Garcia Campos called the roll and five committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth, Member Sara Knizhnik and Member John Wasik. Not in attendance: Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham, and Member Adam Schlick.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Steve Neaman	Diana Dretske
Paul Frank, <i>Commissioner</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Anna Neubauer
Alex Kovach	Dan Stearns	Nicole Stocker
John Nelson	Pati Vitt	JoEllen Carlucci
Ron Davis	Mike Zahalka (Zoom)	Nataly Garcia Campos
Alex Eichman	Beth Frederick (Zoom)	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Alyssa Firkus	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Mick Zawislak (Daily Herald)
Kevin Kleinjan	Kim Mikus	

- 3.0 **Pledge of Allegiance** – Member Knizhnik led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 **Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 5.0 **Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Knizhnik to approve minutes from February 5, 2024. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were circulated for signatures.
- 6.0 **Public Comment** – None
- 7.0 **Executive Director Comments** – Director of Education Alyssa Firkus introduced a new staff member, Museum Educator Anna Neubauer.

Executive Director Ty Kovach presented his report and he and staff responded to questions on:

- Wind turbine pilot program at Grant Woods gate;
- Anonymous donation to the endowment fund;
- \$8.2 million currently in the endowment fund;
- Recap of the Extension Master Gardener Seed Expo;
- First school program in the new Education Center at Ryerson;
- Education's Cicada programs;
- Recap of the Healthy Hedges program at Ryerson;
- Dunn Museum's exhibit, *Celebrating Cicadas*, with Gene Kritsky and the Field Museum;
- Recap of the Preservation Foundation's event celebrating the *Managing Healthy Landscapes* exhibition in the Dunn Museum;
- Upcoming Preservation Foundation Gala, *an evening with Joel Sartore* fundraiser event at Independence grove Visitors Center.

- 8.0 **Correspondence** – None


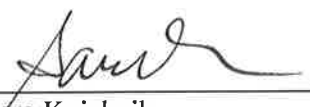
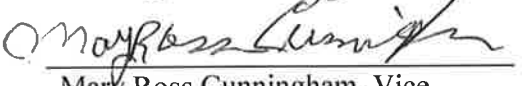

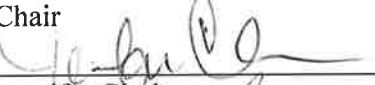
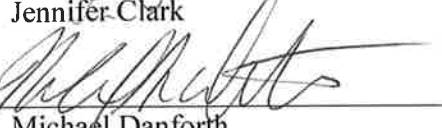
9.0 **Unfinished Business** – None

10.0 **New Business**

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of a Mack Semi-Tractor to CIT Trucks, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$140,217.00. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Danforth to approve the recommendation. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of a John Deere 333G Compact Track Loader and four attachments to West Side Tractor Sales Co., in the Contract Price of \$157,761.58. – Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding Contracts for Golf Course Plant Protectant Products to Advanced Turf Solutions, BTSI, Clesens Inc., Heritage Landscape Supply Group, Inc., Pendelton Turf Supply, Inc., Simplot AB Retail, Inc., SiteOne Landscape Supply, Masterblend International LLC, and Van Diest Supply in a total amount not to exceed \$379,400.00. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Danforth to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the recommendation. Alex Eichman, Director of Golf Operations, summarized the recommendation. Member Wasik expressed his concern with the chemicals that are being used, the toxicity levels and requested more information on the products. Mr. Eichman and Mr. Nelson responded to questions and a discussion ensued. Commissioner Frank expressed his concerns with how the chemicals are affecting wildlife. Pati Vitt, Director of Natural Resources, responded to additional questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Change Order to the Contract with Thelen Materials, LLC for the Purchase of Grounds Materials. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Danforth to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for the Purchase of Trees and Shrubs for various Forest Preserves to Possibility Place Nursery, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$35,179.00. – Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Pati Vitt summarized the recommendation and responded to questions on the species being planted. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.6 Approve and Accept New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County Collections. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Alyssa Firkus, Director of Education, summarized the recommendation, highlighting the new donations in a presentation, and responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

- 11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – Member Wasik gave a shoutout to the Education department and the volunteers for their informative Maple Syrup Hike. Member Danforth offered a website with additional information regarding the Audubon Certification.
- 12.0 **Closed Session** – None
- 13.0 **Potential Action Following Closed Session** – None
- 14.0 **Adjourn** –With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 _____ Jessica Vealitzek, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Sara Knizhnik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Mary Ross Cunningham, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Adam Schlick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Jennifer Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Michael Danforth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>