

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – April 1, 2024**

On Monday, April 1, 2024, the Planning Committee met at the Lake County Forest Preserve District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

1.0 Call to order – With a quorum present, Chair Paras Parekh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and four committee members responded: Chair Paras Parekh, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Vice Chair Carissa Casbon arrived after the roll call at 1:05 p.m. Absent: Marah Altenberg, Esiah Campos.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President	Pati Vitt	Dan Stearns
Paul Frank (on Zoom 1:08 to 1:30 pm)	Ken Jones	Ron Davis
Betsy Gates-Alford, Corporate Counsel	Rebekah Snyder	Kim Mikus Croke
Alex Ty Kovach	Mary Kann	Julie Gragnani
John Nelson	Steve Neaman	Paula Ali

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

4.0 Addenda to the Agenda – None

5.0 Approve Minutes – Motion by member Pedersen, second by member Hunter to approve the open and closed session minutes of March 4, 2024. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- LED conversion at all golf course parking lots;
- The Foundation has received more than \$8.2 million from donors;
- The Foundation hosts small events to connect with supporters;
- New webpage dedicated to the 17-year periodical cicadas;
- Spring issue of Horizons is available, featuring Cicadas, native plant sale, Summer programs;
- Maple syrup hikes were very successful;
- Staff-guided tour of Managing Healthy Landscapes in March;
- Foundation's gala event and all-staff meeting featuring Joel Sartore;
- Update on new chatbot feature on the website.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Provide Policy direction regarding the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program – Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt explained that Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) has requested the District's cooperation to reduce flooding in the upper Des Plaines River Watershed in conjunction with the USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service (Illinois office). They will be developing a Watershed Plan/Environmental Assessment for the watershed and identified three priority forest preserves eligible for inclusion in the Plan: Pine Dunes, Duck Farm, and Independence Grove. The Plan will focus on flood reduction in Lake County with an emphasis on wetland creation and restoration. The District would be under no obligation to participate, and Director Vitt asked for direction to continue coordinating with the agencies on the Plan/EA. She responded to questions and a general discussion ensued. The committee gave direction to proceed.

10.2 Recommend approval of a Resolution supporting and approving the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Updated Lake Michigan and North Branch Chicago River Watershed-Based Plans – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Director Vitt explained that SMC's Plans were prepared in 2008 and updated to maintain consistency with Illinois EPA and Clean Water Act current guidelines and regulations. Staff recommended District approval and adoption of both updated watershed Plans. Director Vitt responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving Support for the Fox River Waterway Agency in the Development of a Chain O'Lakes Watershed Plan – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Director Vitt summarized SMC's Plans prepared in 2008 and updated to maintain consistency with Illinois EPA and Clean Water Act current guidelines and regulations. Director Vitt responded to questions and with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 1.6-acre property in Fremont Township, known as the Breuer property, for \$295,000.00 as an addition to Lakewood Forest Preserve – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach summarized the parcel on a map and noted that this acquisition will be funded out of the issuance of limited bonds. This is an inholding that the District has long desired. Mr. Kovach responded to questions; and public comment was given by Lynn Goodell, who asked for confirmation on the location of the parcel. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 74.3-acre property in Fremont Township, known as the Air Estates property, for \$1,950,000.00 as an addition to Lakewood Forest Preserve – Motion by member Casbon, second by member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach summarized the parcel on a map and noted that this acquisition will be funded out of the issuance of limited bonds. The District has pursued this property for many years. Director Vitt and Land Acquisition Director Ken Jones responded to questions. Public comment was given by Lynn Goodell, who spoke in favor of the acquisition; and by Susan Pribyl on Zoom, who spoke in favor of this acquisition as well as the Breuer parcel. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

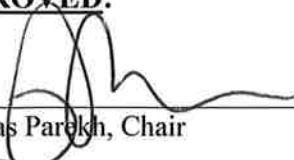



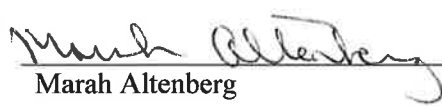

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Pedersen to go into closed session to discuss the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 5, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:48 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:14 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjournment – Chair Parekh noted that the next meeting is May 6, 2024 and adjourned the meeting at 2:14 p.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 _____ Paras Parekh, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Carissa Casbon, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Linda Pedersen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 _____ Marah Altenberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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