

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – March 4, 2024**

On Monday, March 4, 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 in the room, Vice Chair Carissa Casbon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and confirmed electronic attendance for members Paras Parekh and Esiah Campos.

**2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and six committee members responded: Vice Chair Carissa Casbon, Chair Paras Parekh, Esiah Campos, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Absent: Marah Altenberg

**Also Present:**

Angelo Kyle, President	John Nelson	Mary Kann
Paul Frank (1:20 to 1:50 pm)	Pati Vitt	Alyssa Firkus
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel	Steve Neaman	Julie Gragnani
Alex Ty Kovach	Dan Stearns	Paula Ali
Kevin Kleinjan	Rebekah Snyder	Nathan Sehmer
Ken Jones	Ron Davis	

**3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Casbon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None

**5.0 Approve Minutes** – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik to approve the open and closed session minutes of 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** – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Introduction of Nathan Sehmer, Landscape Architect in the Planning Department.
- Pilot program using wind turbines to charge self-heating batteries to operate preserve gates.
- \$1 million anonymous donation to the Foundation establishing an endowment for Greenbelt Forest Preserve.
- The Endowment Campaign is at 41% of its goal as of March 1, 2024.
- Education Programs: Extension Master Gardener Seed Expo at Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center; 60 Cicada programs are booked so far; Half Day School students participated in Healthy Hedges program at Ryerson.
- The first school program in the new Education Center at Ryerson was held on March 1.
- Dunn Museum is working on Cicadas exhibition with Field Museum and cicada expert Gene Kritsky.
- The Foundation hosted event celebrating the opening of the Managing Healthy Landscapes Museum exhibit on Feb. 22.
- Joel Sartore video highlighting his Photo Ark program and his upcoming appearances at an all-staff meeting and Foundation Gala.

**8.0 Correspondence - None**

## 9.0 Unfinished Business - None

### 10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Hydrologic Restoration Design Services for Dutch Gap Forest Preserve to Hey and Associates, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$135,000.00 Motion by member Hunter, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach noted that this part of the District's local share of the \$15 million Army Corps restoration project at Dutch Gap. Natural Resource Director Pati Vitt gave further project funding details and noted that this contract is for the drain tile disablement plan and uses about 10% of District funds earmarked for the project. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 Approve Change Order No. 5 to the Contract with Wight Construction Services Inc. for additional construction management services for the new Education Facility at Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area, increasing the Contract Price by \$25,420.00 – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Director Kleinjan noted that the change order includes final closeout cost adjustments for additional superintendent labor, which will come out of the project contingency. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving an Easement Agreement with Crown Castle, Inc., for a Mobile Communications Tower at Lakewood Forest Preserve – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach showed the location on a map and noted that since this is an existing cell tower the committees had decided to retain it and enter into an easement agreement with Crown Castle. The District will receive a one-time payment of \$5,000 plus \$1,735 per month for the first 5-year term with automatic 15% increases at each subsequent 5-year renewal. Income will go to the Endowment Fund of the Foundation and will be used solely for restoration of that portion of Lakewood Forest Preserve that is the former Four Winds Golf Course property. Mr. Kovach 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 approving a Recreational Lease with Commonwealth Edison at Kestrel Ridge, Rollins Savanna, and Lake Carina Forest Preserves – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach showed the three locations on maps and noted that the 10-year lease from 2010 for these three sites is expired. This lease will replace the expired lease and will have an initial term of 10 years with an option for the District to renew it for one additional 10-year term. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.





**11.0 Miscellaneous Business** – Director Kovach noted that there will be a videographer at the next Board meeting to obtain footage for a District film project. Member Hunter asked about the results of the referendum survey and Director Snyder responded.

**12.0 Closed Session** – Motion by member Wasik, second by member Hunter 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: 4, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:30 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:53 p.m.

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

**14.0 Adjournment** – Vice Chair Casbon noted that the next meeting is April 1, 2024 and adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
_____ Paras Parekh, Chair	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ John Wasik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ Esiah Campos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>