

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, April 1, 2024**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, April 1, 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 seven committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth, Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Adam Schlick and Member John Wasik.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Mike Zahalka
Paul Frank, <i>Commissioner</i>	Dan Stearns	JoEllen Carlucci
Gina Roberts, <i>Commissioner</i>	Pati Vitt	Nataly Garcia Campos
Alex Kovach	Beth Frederick (Zoom)	Maureen Shelton (Zoom)
John Nelson	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Betsy Gates-Alford, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Ron Davis	Alicia Fullerton	Mick Zawislak (Daily Herald)
Alex Eichman	Kim Mikus	
Steve Neaman	Garnet Miller (Zoom)	

- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Vealitzek led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Knizhnik to approve minutes from March 4, 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 Ty Kovach presented his report and he and staff responded to questions on:
- LED conversions for the parking lots at all District Golf Courses;
 - \$8.2 million currently in the endowment fund;
 - \$5,000 donation to the endowment fund;
 - New webpage for information and resources about 17-year periodical cicadas;
 - Spring issue of Horizons magazine with positive comments from the public;
 - Recap of the maple syrup hikes hosted by the Environmental Education Staff;
 - Recap of events hosted by Preservation Foundation to connect with supporters;
 - Guided tour of *Managing Healthy Landscapes* was given by staff to James Martin Associates a local landscaping company;
 - Upcoming Preservation Foundation Gala, *an evening with Joel Sartore* fundraiser event at Independence Grove Visitors Center;
 - Extended invitation to the Board for the All Staff meeting in May, where Joel Sartore will present;
 - Recap of the new website feature, chatbot, to enhance communication and accessibility for all users.
- 8.0 Correspondence** – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract to TGF Enterprises, Inc. for Irrigation Pump Replacement at Independence Grove Forest Preserve in the Contract Price of \$70,458.00. – Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation. Chair Vealitzek requested clarification on heavy use areas and if the operational program for the site that was established in 2000 needed updating. Dan Stearns, Director of Facilities, responded to questions. 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 Mean Green 60" Zero-Turn Electric Mower to Russo Power Equipment in the Contract Price of \$32,273.98. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Danforth to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation. Members Wasik, Danforth, and Schlick had questions on the lifespan and charging mechanism of the mower. Mr. Nelson responded to questions and a discussion ensued. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.3 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a five-year contract for the lease and maintenance of robotic range equipment at Countryside and Thunderhawk Golf Clubs to Automated Outdoor Solutions, LLC, in the Contract Price of \$296,000.00. – Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Alex Eichman, Director of Golf Operations, summarized the recommendation. Chair Vealitzek, Member Schlick, Member Clark and Commissioner Roberts asked questions on the functionality, purchase price, lifespan and requested sustainability signage that informs the public about this new electric equipment. Mr. Eichman explained the reasoning behind leasing the equipment versus purchasing it and that the equipment is too new that the lifespan is not known. Kim Mikus, Media & Community Relations Specialist, responded to the signage question noting that this new equipment would be highlighted on social media platforms. A general discussion ensued. 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 awarding Contracts for the Purchase of Natural Resources Herbicides to Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc. and to Heritage Landscape Supply Group, Inc., in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.00. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Knizhnik to approve the recommendation. Pati Vitt, Director of Natural Resources, summarized the recommendation. 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 Awarding Contracts for Native Seed Purchases for Multiple Preserves to Prairie Moon Nursery in the Contract Price of \$107,059.27 and Shooting Star Native Seeds, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$31,897.15. – Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Director Vitt summarized the recommendation and responded to questions in regard to the seed propagation of endangered species and the effects on the plants with climate change. Member Wasik requested information for the commissioner's newsletters on the type of rare species the district is producing at the seed nursery and the cost savings. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.



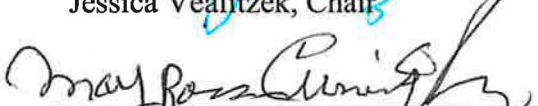
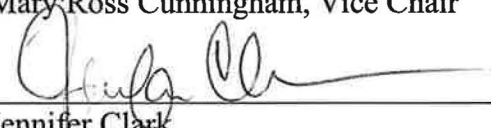
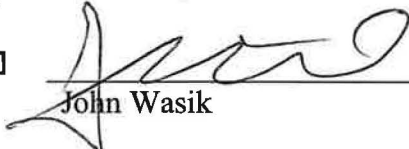
11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

12.0 Closed Session – None

13.0 Potential Action Following Closed Session – None

14.0 Adjourn – With no further business, Chair Vealitzek declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

APPROVED:

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