

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 5, 2024**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, February 5, 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 six committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Michael Danforth, Member Sara Knizhnik, Member Adam Schlick and Member John Wasik. Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham joined after roll call at 9:06 a.m.

Also Present:

Angelo D. Kyle, <i>President</i>	Steve Neaman	Jessica Chong
Paul Frank, <i>Commissioner</i>	Rebekah Snyder	Kim Mikus
Alex Kovach	Dan Stearns	Garnet Miller (Zoom)
Ron Davis	Pati Vitt	JoEllen Carlucci
Alex Eichman	Debbie Boness	Maureen Shelton
Alyssa Firkus	Beth Frederick (Zoom)	Nataly Garcia Campos
Mary Kann	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Kevin Kleinjan	Meg Bonham	

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 Member Knizhnik, second by Member Wasik to approve minutes from the January 8, 2024 meeting. 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:

- Recap of the Profiles in Excellence event;
- 2024 license agreement with Relish Catering Kitchen effective 1/1/24;
- 2023 donation envelope in *Horizons* raised \$21,122, our highest year;
- \$6.6 million currently in the endowment fund;
- Recap of 2023 volunteer hours and savings to the district;
- The district's 2023 lower incident rate of 4.24;
- The district received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting;
- Natural Resources workday for District staff at MacArthur Woods;
- Recap of Integrated Lakes Management SITS control;
- Countryside Golf Club recognition for environmental excellence;
- Lake County States Attorney's Office Gun Violence Initiative Town Hall at Greenbelt Cultural Center;
- Preservation Foundation cultivation events to connect with current and prospective donors;
- Visitors images on Facebook enjoying the first significant snowfall;
- 25th anniversary of Hike Lake County was a success;
- Education program attendance increased in 2023;
- Recap of the Dunn Museum's special exhibit *Dinosaurs – Fossils Exposed*;
- Recap of 9th annual Lake County History Symposium *Good Neighbors: Making a Difference in Lake County*;
- Dunn Museum's special exhibition: *Managing Healthy Landscapes* opens February 10;
- Communications and Design division received prestigious award recognition from IPRA and IAPD.

8.0 Correspondence – Executive Director Ty Kovach summarized two emails received on ebikes and the speed limit on the trails. Director Kovach noted that the District did not change the speed limit. Ron Davis, Director of Public Safety responded to questions from Chair Vealitzek and other members of the committee. Chief Davis explained the ways in which they will proactively monitor the trails.

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a resolution awarding a contract to Reinders, Inc., in the amount of \$78,291.43 for the purchase of a Toro Groundsmaster 4300-D rough mower.– Motion by Member Schlick, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Director Kovach summarized the recommendation. Commissioner Frank expressed his concern with the diesel-powered mower purchase versus an electric option. Alex Eichman, Director of Golf Operations, and Mr. Kovach responded to questions. A conversation ensued. Mr. Kovach noted

that the Decennial Committee on Local Government Efficiency will review the green fleet policy. Member Clark requested going forward that a comparison between the gas and electric options be given. 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 Flat Roof Replacement at the Ryerson Woods Welcome Center to Sterling Commercial Roofing, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$30,190.00. – Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach summarized the recommendation. 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 Contracts for Invasive Plant Management 2024 Districtwide for (a) Eastern Forest Preserves to Native Restoration Services, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$131,356.20; and (b) Western Forest Preserves to Red Buffalo Nursery in the Contract Price of \$129,034.80. – Motion by Vice Chair Cunningham, second by Member Clark to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach summarized the recommendation. Pati Vitt, Director of Natural Resources, responded to questions. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving a Two-Year CompleteLink Discount Pricing Schedule for Telephone Services with AT&T Corp. – Motion by Member Schlick, second by Member Wasik to approve the recommendation. Mr. Kovach 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 Research Services for a Lake County Voter Survey to aQity Research & Insights, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$36,800.00. - Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Danforth to approve the recommendation. Rebekah Snyder, Director of Community Engagement & Partnerships, summarized the recommendation and responded to questions on the timing and the writing of the poll. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.6 For Information Only – Edward L. Ryerson Welcome Center hours – Alyssa Firkus, Director of Education, explained that with the recent changes at Ryerson, staff re-evaluated the Welcome Center hours and building use. As a result of this evaluation the Ryerson Welcome Center reception area will be open during the most popular times: Friday, Saturday and Sunday and the building will be staffed with an Environmental Educator. In addition, the district will offer drop-in programming. Director Firkus and Director of Planning, Kevin Kleinjan responded to questions.



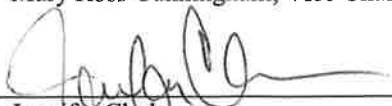
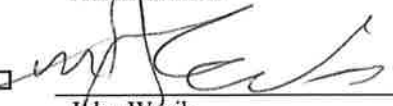
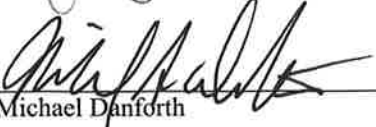
11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – Member Wasik requested an update regarding Ryerson’s new Education Center. Director Kovach responded that the tables and furniture are ready. Director Firkus noted that the education department has started the move into the building.

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 9:54 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 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"/>
 _____ Michael Danforth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			