

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, January 6, 2025**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, January 6, 2025 at the District's General Offices, 1899 West Winchester Road, Libertyville, Illinois.

- 1.0 Call to Order** – With a quorum physically present, Chair Knizhnik called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and confirmed electronic attendance for member Carissa Casbon due to illness, with no objections.
- 2.0 Roll Call** – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll, and five committee members responded: Chair Sara Knizhnik, Vice Chair Adam Schlick, Member Carissa Casbon (Zoom), Member Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Kevin Hunter. Absent: Member Esiah Campos and Member Paras Parekh.

Also Present:

Jessica Vealitzek, <i>President</i>	Mary Kann	Robin Hill
Alex Kovach	Steve Neaman	Michael Zahalka
John Nelson	Rebekah Snyder	Nataly Garcia Campos
Ron Davis	Dan Stearns	Maureen Shelton
Alex Eichman	Pati Vitt	Betsy Gates-Alford, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Alyssa Firkus	Laurel Diver	
Kevin Kleinjan	Alicia Fullerton	

- 3.0 Pledge of Allegiance** – Vice Chair Adam Schlick led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4.0 Addenda to the Agenda** – None
- 5.0 Approval of Minutes** - Motion by Vice Chair Schlick, second by Chair Knizhnik to approve minutes from the November 4, 2024 Operations Committee 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 highlighted items from his report:
- Winter building removal including use for training with local fire protection districts;
 - Foundation endowment update, donation transfers to the District, Annual Fund grants, Giving Tuesday;
 - Daughters of the American Revolution grant to Dunn Museum;
 - Education staff led 45 native plant related programs in 2024, attended by over 4,000;
 - 42nd Annual Profiles in Excellence at Greenbelt Cultural Center on February 2nd;
 - Dunn Museum's 10th annual Lake County History Symposium; new Museum hours for 2025;
 - Education department Meadowview School Nature Day and Winter Solstice Celebration;
 - Winter issue of Horizons;
 - Words of the Woods podcast enters 3rd season;
 - Foundation Sip & Stroll event at the Museum;
 - Outgoing and new officers for the Foundation; Betsy Hough elected as President;
 - Commander Jamie Medina graduated from Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff and Command;

- Chief Ron Davis co-authored article for Police Chief magazine on the Six Facets of Holistic Wellness;
- Green Fleet Program has added stickers to all electric and hybrid vehicles and large equipment.

Member Cunningham suggested that all commissioners attend Profiles in Excellence.

Chair Knizhnik congratulated and thanked staff for the recent Winter Horizons magazine.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business – None

10.0 New Business

- 10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution approving the disposal of surplus District vehicles, equipment, furnishings and other items. Motion by Member Hunter, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer summarized the recommendation, explaining the process and that the items on Exhibit B of the Resolution will be sent to eWorks Electronics Services, Inc. This company for no charge will refurbish or recycle the transferred items. Noting that this company creates employment opportunities for people with disabilities. 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 two Genie Scissor Lifts to Equipment Depot of Illinois, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$33,389.53. Motion by Member Hunter, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation and responded to questions on using local representatives for cooperative bids and transportation/destination charges. 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 Contract for the exterior renovation of the Adlai E. Stevenson Historic Home to ALFA Chicago, Inc. in the Contract Price of \$888,700.00. Motion by Vice Chair Schlick, second by Member Hunter to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the recommendation. Director of Facilities Dan Stearns summarized the recommendation. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Stearns responded to questions regarding the contingency amount, what is included on the contract and the reason for the low bid rejection. The low bid was rejected due to no bid bond. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the Finance Committee for approval.
- 10.4 Recommend approval of an Ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget by \$163,000.00 for expansion of exhibit space at the Dunn Museum. Motion by Member Hunter, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson introduced the recommendation. Finance Director Steve Neaman explained the financial side of the recommendation, noting that to accommodate the expansion of the museum space the expense and revenue of the 2025 budget will need to be amended. Education Director Alyssa Firkus went into more details on the museum expansion to accommodate a new Alex Ross exhibit. Director Firkus responded to questions on the revenue received from the last time Alex Ross had an exhibit. She noted that the space will be utilized for larger exhibits in the future. Vice Chair Schlick requested a picture of the space. Director Firkus will follow-up on sending a picture to the committee members. Director Firkus then explained that Staff has also

submitted a tourism grant application in the amount of \$73,520.00 to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. 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 Branding Services for the Chiwaukee Prairie Illinois Beach Lake Plain to All Together, LLC in the Contract Price of \$46,000.00. Motion by Member Hunter, second by Vice Chair Schlick to approve the recommendation. Director of Natural Resources, Dr. Pati Vitt summarized the recommendation. Dr. Vitt explained the Chiwaukee Prairie-Illinois Beach Lake Plain area and the organizations that formed a coalition that works to advance the protection and restoration of the Lake Plain ecosystem. This contract will help to define and strengthen the regional identity of the Lake Plain. She noted that the expense for these services will not be the District's. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full board for approval.


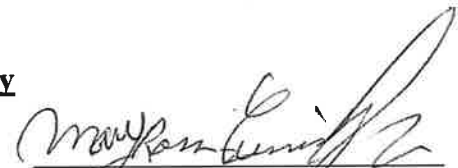

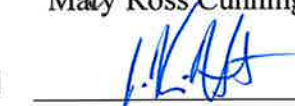
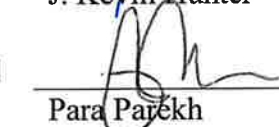

11.0 **Miscellaneous Business** – None

12.0 **Closed Session** – None

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

14.0 **Adjourn** – Chair Knizhnik noted that the next meeting was scheduled for February 3, 2025 and adjourned the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

APPROVED:

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>		<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
 Sara Knizhnik, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Mary Ross Cunningham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Adam Schlick, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 J. Kevin Hunter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Esiah Campos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Para Parekh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Carissa Casbon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>