

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Operations Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, August 26, 2024**

The Operations Committee of the Lake County Forest Preserve District met on Monday, August 26, 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 – Committee Secretary Shelton called the roll, and four committee members responded: Chair Jessica Vealitzek, Member Jennifer Clark, Member Sara Knizhnik, and Member John Wasik. Absent: Vice Chair Mary Ross Cunningham, Member Michael Danforth and Member Adam Schlick.

Also Present:

Paul Frank (Zoom)	Mary Kann	Jessica Chong
Alex Kovach	Rebekah Snyder	Nataly Garcia Campos
John Nelson	Steve Neaman	Maureen Shelton
Ron Davis	Beth Frederick (Zoom)	Matt Norton, <i>Corporate Counsel</i>
Alex Eichman	Lisa Roberts (Zoom)	Mick Zawislak, <i>Daily Herald</i>
Alyssa Firkus	Garnet Miller (Zoom)	
Kevin Kleinjan	JoEllen Carlucci (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 Member Clark, second by Member Wasik to approve minutes from the August 5, 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 presented his report and he and staff responded to questions on:

- Air Pollution Action Day and the District's mitigation efforts;
- The September 11 Board meeting will be canceled, the planned Decennial Committee will move to the 9:00 a.m. time slot;
- \$71,000 bequest gift from longtime donor James Hogan was received;
- Annual Fund grants approved during the last meeting cycle;
- Showed endowment campaign statistics on charts;
- District ecologists attended open house at Genesis Nursery to learn about new system that uses electricity to control weeds;
- Showy Lady's Slipper and Smith's Bulrush were recently located, both are endangered species;
- \$24,750 Inspire! Grant awarded from Institute of Museum and Library Services;
- "Festival de Cultura, Comida y Vida" is rescheduled to September 29;
- 2024 Hike Lake County began on August 15 and will go through January 2025;
- New exhibit at Dunn Museum, "Art for Everyone: Bob Ross" starts August 31;
- Teacher Appreciation event was held on August 9;
- Afrofest was held on August 17;
- Natural Resources staff has completed the National Fish & Wildlife grant project at Grassy Lake.

8.0 Correspondence – None

9.0 Unfinished Business

9.1 Provide policy direction to remove the Youth Camp at Fox River Forest Preserve. Chair Vealitzek reminded the committee that this item was discussed at the last meeting. John Nelson, Chief Operations Officer, using maps described the district’s special use youth group camping location at Fox River Forest Preserve. He explained that major repairs to the handpump are currently needed at a cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000. He then provided the committee with the additional information that was requested at the last meeting, noting that under the Illinois Department of Health permit the youth campground is required to have water. He also presented historical usage information and shared with the committee other youth campgrounds located within Lake County noting that the price ranges are comparable. Mr. Nelson mentioned that the next Districtwide Attitude and Interest Survey will include questions specific to campgrounds.

The consensus of the committee was to make the fix now and a broader discussion regarding youth campgrounds should take place after the results of the 2025 Attitude and Interest Survey.

10.0 New Business

10.1 Approve an amendment to the existing Farm License Agreement at Duck Farm Forest Preserve. Motion by Member Wasik, second by Member Knizhnik, to approve the recommendation. Mr. Nelson summarized the recommendation and responded to a question on regenerative farming. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.

10.2 Approve and Accept New Donations to the Bess Bower Dunn Museum of Lake County’s Collections. Motion by Member Clark, second by Member Wasik, to approve the recommendation. Alyssa Firkus, Director of Education, summarized the recommendation, explaining the collections committee process and highlighting the new donations in a presentation. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously.



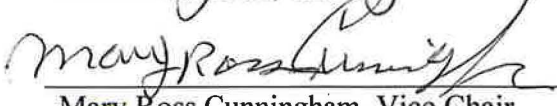

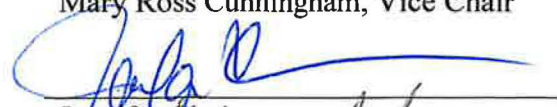
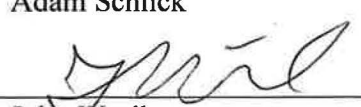
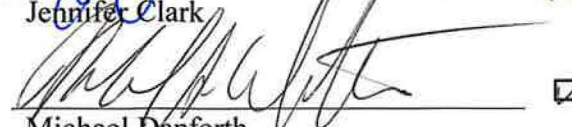
11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

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 9:43 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 _____ Adam Schlick	<input checked="" 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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