

**Lake County Forest Preserve District
Planning Committee Minutes – May 6, 2024**

On Monday, May 6, 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, Chair Paras Parekh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2.0 Roll Call – Committee Secretary Gragnani called the roll and five committee members responded: Chair Paras Parekh, Vice Chair Carissa Casbon, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Marah Altenberg arrived after the roll call at 1:10 p.m. Absent: Esiah Campos.

Also Present:

Angelo Kyle, President	Ken Jones	Alyssa Firkus
Paul Frank	Kevin Kleinjan	Ron Davis
Ann Maine	Pati Vitt	Kim Mikus Croke
Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel	Rebecca Snyder	Julie Gragnani
Alex Ty Kovach	Steve Neaman	Paula Ali
John Nelson	Mary Kann	

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 Casbon, second by Hunter to approve the open and closed session minutes of April 4, 2024. Voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were circulated for signatures.

6.0 Public Comment (non-agenda matters) – None

7.0 Executive Director Comments – Executive Director Kovach reported on:

- Decennial Committee meeting scheduled for May 15 following the regular Board meeting;
- \$8.2 million has been received to date from donors toward the endowment;
- Marketing pieces for the May 17 gala; to date we are at 80% capacity;
- Native Plant sale over Mother's Day weekend at Independence Grove;
- Workday at Lake Forest Academy on buckthorn removal; 60 students and staff participated;
- Spring break attendance at Museum; new cicada exhibit has opened;
- Des Plaines River Canoe and Kayak marathon on May 19th;
- Native gardening workshop and restoration workday recently hosted by the Foundation;
- Update on Horizons and extra prints of Spring issue on cicadas;
- Showed statistics on the media attention regarding Cicada exhibit;
- Staff appointment to Fellowship Committee of the Public Sector Human Resources Association;
- Staff on panel at recent career exploration event in Waukegan;
- Staff presentation to Illinois Audubon Society's Lake/Cook Chapter at the Dunn Museum;
- Staff lecturer at Carthage College, gave overview of the District's wildlife species recovery science;
- Staff presentation to Oak ecosystem recovery plan work group regarding buckthorn campaign;
- The new building at Lakewood and the District's grounds maintenance received a mention in Crain's Chicago Business.

8.0 Correspondence - None

9.0 Unfinished Business - None

10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution Approving a Consent to Relocation of Cemetery Access Easement Agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs for access to the Fort Sheridan National Cemetery at Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Casbon to approve the recommendation. Director Ken Jones summarized the recommendation, explaining that when the District acquired the property it was encumbered by a non-exclusive easement and right-of-way for public access to the Cemetery. The District was obligated to maintain the access easement over then-existing roads in perpetuity. As part of the 2006 restoration, the District removed the existing roads and constructed the new “Vattman Road,” but overlooked obtaining prior approval from the VA for the road relocation. This Easement Agreement will formally document the road relocation and memorialize the VA’s consent and acceptance of the new access road. Director Kovach added that it would be advantageous to have this matter taken care of so that the VA can get a corrected survey for the anticipated 4.7-acre sale of property to the VA to expand the cemetery. Mr. Jones responded to questions, noting that the District has a legal requirement to finalize this agreement regardless of the land sale, and a general discussion ensued. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.2 For Information Only – Update on status of Lakewood Forest Preserve – Planning Director Kevin Kleinjan gave a presentation to update the committee on the status of the improvements at Lakewood Forest Preserve. The net-zero maintenance facility should be substantially complete by the end of this month. During June, occupancy and energy commissioning will begin. At Taylor Lake, the floating pier has been installed, with other improvements for fishing access. This summer work will take place for utilities, parking lot construction, concrete curbs and flatwork, asphalt loop trail west of Forest Preserve Drive, electrical and paving of Forest Preserve Drive. In the fall, seeding and planting will take place, and restoration cleanup. Preserve opening is anticipated sometime in 2025. He then reviewed the nature play area, noting that grant funds will be used, and the project should go out for bid in June. He reviewed the future shelters that are currently unfunded and responded to questions.

11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None

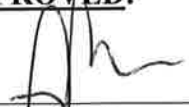

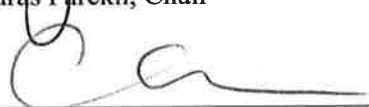
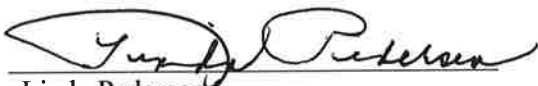
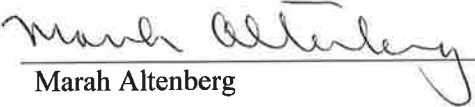

12.0 **Closed Session** – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Altenberg to go into closed session for the purpose of 1) reviewing approved closed session minutes for release or retention and deletion of verbatim recordings; 2) discussing the purchase or lease of real property; and 3) the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. Chair Parekh left the meeting at 2:08 p.m. and returned during closed session at 2:38 p.m. Vice Chair Casbon chaired the remainder of the meeting. The committee went into closed session at 2:08 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:45 p.m.

13.0 Potential Action following Closed Session – None

14.0 **Adjournment** – Vice Chair Casbon noted that the next meeting is June 3, 2024 and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

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APPROVED:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>		<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
 _____ Paras Parekh, Chair	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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"/>