

**Lake County Forest Preserve District  
Planning Committee Minutes – August 5, 2024**

On Monday, August 5, 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, Vice Chair Carissa Casbon 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: Vice Chair Carissa Casbon, Marah Altenberg, Kevin Hunter, Linda Pedersen, and John Wasik. Chair Paras Parekh arrived after the roll call with Vice Chair Casbon continuing to chair the meeting. Absent: Esiah Campos.

**Also Present:**

Matt Norton, Corporate Counsel  
Alex Ty Kovach  
Ken Jones  
Kevin Kleinjan  
John Nelson  
Pati Vitt

Rebecca Snyder  
Steve Neaman  
Mary Kann  
Dan Stearns  
Alyssa Firkus  
Julie Gragnani

Kim Mikus Croke  
Jamie Medina  
Paula Ali  
Stephanie Bosack  
Becky Mathis  
Natalie Kahn

**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 Wasik, second by Altenberg to approve the open and closed session minutes of June 3, 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:

- Introduction of Land Preservation Assistant Natalie Kahn;
- Training session for Commissioners on the referendum on August 14<sup>th</sup> following the Board meeting;
- New education center at Ryerson has received Passive House Institute US certification;
- Donorship updates and sponsorships of Concerts in the Plaza; \$49,000 raised with one concert left;
- \$50,000 Grant from Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation;
- Recap of Cicada events and exhibit; new Bob Ross exhibit opens August 31;
- Science Explorers in Nature program update;
- Social media metrics, YouTube comment, and record-breaking media coverage from cicadas;
- Legislative meeting and reception recap, and state legislators recent tour of Greenbelt;
- Gospelfest recap and Afrofest at Greenbelt will be held on August 17;
- NACPRO awards to Stephanie Bosack and Nels Leutwiler; Communications & Design team awards for Horizons magazine.

**8.0 Correspondence** – None

**9.0 Unfinished Business** - None

## 10.0 New Business

10.1 Recommend approval of a Resolution awarding a Contract for Pavement Patching and Crack Sealing at Multiple Forest Preserves – Motion by member Hunter, second by member Altenberg to approve the recommendation. Planning Director Kevin Kleinjan summarized the recommendation, noting that this is an annual contract for maintenance of paved surfaces and is part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Staff recommended awarding a contract to the lowest bidder. Director Kleinjan responded to questions and with a 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 construction of the new Nature Play Area at Lakewood Forest Preserve to AGAE Contractors, Inc., in the Contract Price of \$1,187,611.89 Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Parekh to approve the recommendation. Planning Director Kleinjan gave a presentation explaining the details of the new play area and responded to questions. During discussion it was noted that the dollar amount listed on the agenda was different than the amount on the supporting documents. Mr. Kleinjan confirmed that the dollar amount in the Resolution and recommendation memo was the correct amount and the amount on the agenda was an earlier total that did not include a bid alternate, and so the amount on the agenda was in error. Members Altenberg and Parekh amended their motion and second to the correct amount of \$1,230,536.19 without objection. Member Parekh added that the District will receive \$600,000 in OSLAD grant funding and Executive Director Kovach further explained all the grants received for this project. With a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

10.3 For Information Only - Grassy Lake Forest Preserve: Miller Road Trail Connection Update – Director Kevin Kleinjan showed the location on a map and summarized a resident request for a trail connection to Miller Road at Wedgwood Lane instead of using the District’s maintenance road. Staff advised that the request would require an intergovernmental agreement with the Village, and the request should be made to them. The Village was not able to get support from a majority of the subdivision residents to fund the connection, therefore, the request has run its course for now. Mr. Kleinjan responded to questions.

10.4 For Information Only - Buffalo Creek Forest Preserve: LCDOT Arlington Heights Road Update – Director Kleinjan showed the location on a map and noted that the District was approached by LCDOT requesting a temporary easement as part of planned road widening of Arlington Heights Road. In talks with IDNR it was determined that this request would be consistent with usage of a temporary easement and that there would be no restrictions. However, LCDOT is no longer going to widen the road, and so this temporary easement will not be needed. Mr. Kleinjan responded to questions.

10.5 Recommend approval of a Resolution to purchase an approximately 41.1-acre property in Antioch Township, known as the Fogel property, for \$361,000.00 and to designate such property as a new site named “\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Preserve.”– Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Pedersen to approve the recommendation. Executive Director Kovach showed the property on a map and summarized the property being acquired, adding that there will be no intent to develop the property in order to protect the habitat. Land Preservation Director Ken Jones explained the temporary access easement, which will last for one year. The committee then discussed the list of potential preserve names that was previously distributed, narrowing the names down to Zego, which is the Potawatomi name for Blue Heron; and Lotus Country, referencing the lotus beds that used to be found in Grass Lake. Motion by Altenberg, second by Hunter to amend the motion to recommend approval, to designate the name as “Lotus Country” Conservation Preserve. With a voice vote being had, the motion to amend passed with member Wasik voting No. On the main motion to approve as amended, with a voice vote being had, the motion passed unanimously. The recommendation was forwarded to the full Board for approval.

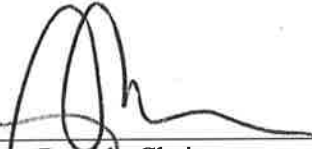
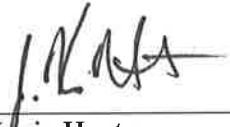


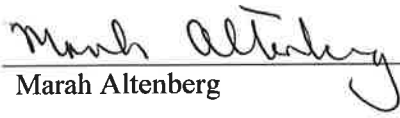

**11.0 Miscellaneous Business – None**

**12.0 Closed Session** –Motion by member Altenberg, second by member Hunter to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property. Roll call vote being had, the motion passed by a vote of: AYES: 6, NAYS: 0. The committee went into closed session at 1:49 p.m. and returned to open session at 2:30 p.m.

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

**14.0 Adjournment** – Vice Chair Casbon noted that the next meeting is August 26, 2024 and adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**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"/>