



DATE: April 3, 2023

MEMO TO: Paras Parekh, Chair
Planning Committee

FROM: Randall L. Seebach
Director of Planning and Land Preservation

REQUEST: Provide policy direction regarding a request from Nicor for a permanent easement for an existing gas line serving the Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church property inholding within Lakewood Forest Preserve, north of the Off-Leash Dog Area.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: Nicor would pay a \$1,000.00 application fee for the easement; there is no other financial impact at this time.

BACKGROUND: Under Section 6 of the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (the “District”) has the “power to grant licenses, easements and rights-of-way for the construction, operation and maintenance upon, under or across any property of [the] District of facilities for water, sewage, telephone, telegraph, electric, gas or other public service...”

Nicor has requested access to District property for the replacement of a section of an existing gas line serving the Quentin Road Bible Baptist Church property north of the Off-Leash Dog Area in the northeast portion of Lakewood Forest Preserve. In reviewing this request, District staff found no easements or other documents granting Nicor the rights to install, maintain, and replace the gas lines in this location. While Nicor may have “prescriptive” and unwritten rights to the land, it benefits both Nicor and the District to prepare a written easement that would (i) grant Nicor a 25-foot permanent easement to maintain, operate, and replace the existing line within District property, (ii) allow Nicor to perform regularly scheduled maintenance without having to seek permission from the District each time, (iii) require Nicor to restore any District property damaged by their work, and (iv) not require Nicor to pay a monetary fee for the easement.

Staff is seeking approval to negotiate the granting of a permanent easement to Nicor as set forth above.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Executive Director, Chief Operations Officer, Director of Finance, Corporate Counsel.