



DATE: July 31, 2023

MEMO TO: Paras Parekh, Chair
Planning Committee

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

RECOMMENDATION: Provide policy direction regarding a request from ComEd for a permanent easement for an existing line of electrical poles at Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION SUPPORTED: Organizational Sustainability

FINANCIAL DATA: At this time there is no financial impact.

BACKGROUND: The License and Easement Ordinance cites Section 6 of the Downstate Forest Preserve District Act, which states 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...”

Staff has learned that ComEd has existing electric lines located on right-of-way owned by the District along Northwestern Avenue at Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve. After a thorough review, no documentation could be found establishing rights for the existing utility poles on District property south of York House Road and north of Blanchard Road. Staff is seeking approval to negotiate a permanent easement for ComEd to operate and maintain overhead wires, poles and any necessary equipment within a 25-foot corridor at Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve. As in the past, for existing ComEd equipment on property owned by the District, ComEd would pay the \$1,000.00 application fee and provide a plat of easement, but the District would not charge a monetary fee for the easement or impose certain other requirements of the District License and Easement Ordinance.

Staff seeks direction from the Committee whether to negotiate such an easement with ComEd.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Chief Operations Officer, Director of Planning and Land Preservation, Director of Finance, Manager of Board Operations, and Corporate Counsel.