

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Colored Sands Forest Preserve
August 18, 2021

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Jake Henry-Resigned
Audrey Johnson
Gloria Lind-late 6:02pm
Cheryl Maggio
Jeff Tilly

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Operations
Ann Wasser, Education
Kim O'Malley, Human Resources/Volunteer Program
Daniel Rohrer, Human Resources/Volunteer Program
Samantha Crooks, Communication

GUESTS

Alex Mills, Klehm Arboretum

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by President Tilly. Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mike Eickman led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MINUTES Minutes for July 21, 2021 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Introduction of Daniel Rohrer - Mike Holan introduced Daniel Rohrer, the new Human Resources Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. Daniel gave a brief background on himself and the Board of Commissioners welcomed Daniel.

Mike Holan announced this will be Kim O'Malley's last Board Meeting. Next Friday is her retirement party at Headquarters from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Roland Olson Horse Arena – Mike Holan updated the Board of Commissioners on the plans for the Roland Olson horse arena. Roland Olson was donated as an equestrian property, and years ago a show ring, judge's stand and polo fields were built by the Forest Preserves. It seems as if the show ring has been getting no use. The show ring is sand based and is getting harder to maintain due to weed growth. The plastic fencing and building will be removed and the fencing will be put up for auction. The equestrian trails will remain at Roland Olson. An overview of the ring was presented to the Board of Commissioners. A larger parking area will be added including a natural area. The Board of Commissioners would like a sign put near the ring and an email or letter sent out to the equestrian users letting them know of the plan. Vaughn Stamm stated that it may be a while before the ring is taken out but he wanted to apprise the Board of Commissioners of the plan.

Draft Budget – Fiscal Year 2021-2022 - Mike Holan gave an overview of the capital items in the draft budget and two new positions, a Director of Natural Resources and a Golf Course Maintenance Tech. Steve Chapman discussed the remainder of the draft budget in detail to the Board of Commissioners. Steve announced that the budget will be presented for layover at the next Board meeting on September 15 and then presented for approval at the October 21 meeting (noted: the meeting will be October 20). A

copy of the draft Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance and Budget Assumptions & Guidelines for the 2021/2022 fiscal year was passed out to the Board for review.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for July – Mike Eickman made a motion, and Gloria Lind seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for July in the amount of \$825,158.62. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Amendment of Personnel Policy – Mike Holan reviewed the changes to the Personnel Policy with the Board of Commissioners regarding the resolution that was laid on the table at the July Board Meeting. President Tilly asked if any Board Members had any questions regarding the changes. Hearing none, Audrey Johnson made a motion and Gloria Lind seconded to approve the Amendment of the Personnel Policy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Commissioner Resignation – Mike Holan updated the Board of Commissioners regarding the letter that was received from Jake Henry in reference to his resignation. Commissioner Jake Henry resigned his position as commissioner in a letter to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County as of May 20, 2021 but the letter was not received until July 12, 2021. Per the Downstate Forest Preserve Act, the Board president, with consent of the Board of Commissioners, has sixty (60) days to appoint a new commissioner to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the vacant term not to exceed 26 months. Judy Barnard made a motion and Gloria Lind seconded to approve the resignation of Commissioner Jake Henry. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Grant Funds from Conservation Fund – Mike Holan stated he has been working with Emy Brawley from the Conservation Fund to obtain a grant for the Funderburg property. A resolution needs to be passed in order to accept the funds for the grant. The grant is in the amount of \$50,000 for habitat restoration work at Funderburg Forest Preserve. Forest Preserves of Winnebago County is hereby duly authorized to enter into a Recipient Agreement and a Notice of Award Agreement to accept the grant award from the Conservation Fund. The Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County authorizes the Executive Director, Michael Holan, to sign and execute the Recipient Agreement and Notice of Award Agreement on behalf of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. Gloria Lind made a motion and Mike Eickman seconded to accept the Conservation Fund grant in the amount of \$50,000. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

Preserve Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Scott Stewart, Scott Wallace & Bryan Helms submitted a written report. Vaughn reported that the Klehm asphalt project will be starting in September and they will be working around Klehm's events.

Land and Development – Natural Resource Staff submitted a written report.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, & Mark Freiman submitted a written report.

Marketing – Samantha Crooks submitted a written report.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann Announced that Severson Dells successfully completed 10 weeks of summer camp. They also have a number of field trips planned for the fall.

Human Resources/Volunteer Program Report – Kim O’Malley submitted a written report. Kim announced the R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Kieselburg Forest Preserve this Saturday, August 21st from 9:00am until noon. She also announced the last R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday will be September 18th at Funderburg Forest Preserve from 9:00am until noon.

Law Enforcement – Sheriff’s Department submitted a written report.

Alex Mills announced Klehm Arboretum was awarded funding in the amount of \$40,608 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This will help expand the smart phone tours. Klehm will now have tablets that people can check out to participate. The tours will now include a scavenger hunt. Alex also announced that Klehm has a donor for fifty percent of the pond and fountain concept that was presented at the July Board Meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:29 pm. At 7:05 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Judy Barnard addressed the Board regarding the Severson Dells agreement. Handouts were passed out to the Commissioners regarding a reply to the Severson Dells Education Foundation board relating to the denial of the Development position, as requested from the SDEF president. The Board reviewed the documents and discussed the agreement. After much discussion, the Board agrees that the Severson Dells Agreement needs to be reviewed. The Board of Commissioners requested copies of the other partner organization agreements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

August 21 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Kieselburg Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

September 18 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Funderburg Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Next board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 15, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Knapp
Recording Secretary