

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Preserves Headquarters  
November 17, 2021

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Audrey Johnson  
Gloria Lind - late 5:43pm  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Finance  
Vaughn Stamm, Preserve Operations  
Donna Bileto, HR/Volunteer Program  
Ann Wasser, Education  
Samantha Crooks, Communication

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 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 October 20, 2021 Board meeting were approved. Public budget hearing meeting minutes for October 20, 2021 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

Introduction of Donna Bileto – Mike Holan introduced Donna Bileto, the new Human Resources Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. Donna gave a brief background on herself and the Board of Commissioners welcomed Donna.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

After the new nature center discussion last meeting, Mike Holan mentioned that he sent the Severson family land donation agreement to the Forest Preserves' attorney regarding the current nature center at Severson Dells. The attorney stated the building can be demolished if the Forest Preserve chooses to do so. If the building is not demolished, the building would have to be used for educational purposes. Jerry Paulson asked what the procedure is now for the use of the new and old buildings. Mike Holan responded and let Jerry know that at this time Severson Dells will need to decide if they are able to fund the project and if they continue with the project, Ann will need to bring the project back to the Board for approval. Jerry is hoping that the Board will have input in the process for the buildings. Ann Wasser stated they will receive the feasibility study results tomorrow and then the Severson Dells' Board will make a decision at their December Board meeting. That decision will then be brought to the Forest Preserve Board at the January Board meeting. Jerry Paulson asked if staff could put together a timeline for the decision making so the Board can be engaged in the process.

Jerry Paulson asked where the Forest Preserve is with the endowment process. Mike Holan stated that the Forest Preserve is allowed to have a single endowment and additional endowments under the initial endowment. Mike stated that nothing has been finalized at this time regarding an endowment process and Jerry mentioned he thinks this process needs to be formalized.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for October – Mike Eickman made a motion, and Cheryl Maggio seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for October in the amount of \$512,019.37. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2022 Board Meeting Schedule – The 2022 board meeting schedule will continue to be the third Wednesday of every month, except where indicated by an asterisk. It is understood that additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. The Board will meet on the following dates in 2022: January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, \*September 14, October 19, November 16 and \*December 14. Judy Barnard made a motion, and Jerry Paulson seconded, to approve the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Scott Stewart, Scott Wallace & Bryan Helmold submitted a written report.

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

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, & Mark Freiman submitted a written report. Vaughn stated that the golf courses are closed for the season.

Marketing – Samantha Crooks submitted a written report. Samantha announced that she is working on getting merchandise out soon. This will include tee-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and water bottles. Each item will have the new 100-year logo on them. Samantha is finishing the website and hopes to have it up and running by January.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann announced that Jillan's last day was today. Her replacement will start at the end of February for the next season. She will be helping with all the community science programs and the R.E.A.P. workdays. Ann also announced the Luminaria Event being held on December 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

Mike Holan announced that the Forest Preserve closed on the Mitchell property after the last Board meeting. The property consists of 29.8 acres and is part of the Ferguson Forest Preserve. Staff is cleaning up the property and may add nest boxes at that location.

Alex Mills mentioned that the parking lot median at Klehm has been cleared out thanks to the Thermo Fisher Scientific volunteers, inmate work crew and Klehm volunteers. The bioretention basin has been excavated and is ready to be filled with hopes to have it seeded before winter. Alex also announced that Klehm was awarded a grant for \$44,365 from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for a photovoltaic system on the Visitor Center.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

December 10 & 11 – Luminaria at Severson Dells Nature Center from 5:00pm – 9:00pm

December 17 - Employee Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon at Ledges Clubhouse from 11:30am – 2:30pm.

Jerry Paulson announced that Wild Ones has voted to put together a video about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Forest Preserves. This is hoped to be completed by June.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristy Knapp  
Recording Secretary