

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
March 18, 2026

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Gloria Lind  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Emily Porter  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Daniel Olson, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager  
Emily Wendlandt, Board Recording Secretary

**GUESTS**

**Ann Wasser   Alex Mills   Craig Campbell**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

**ROLL CALL** Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Jerry Paulson led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the meeting minutes from February 18, 2026 and the special call meeting minutes from March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, seconded by Jerry. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

Natural Resources Dept. Annual Update – The Stewardship Coordinator, Keith Krey, highlighted the volunteer programs and presented some data gathered from each program in 2025. Krey introduced two new programs that will begin this year: the Firefly Atlas and the Volunteer Site Steward. Krey briefed the Board on the action item that will be passed regarding the MOU AmeriCorps senior volunteers.

Rose Mathews Introduction – Vaughn Stamm introduced the Board to Rose Mathews who is the new Food & Beverage Manager for the golf courses. The Board welcomed Rose.

Angie Tetzlaff Introduction – Daniel Olson introduced the Board to Deputy Angie Tetzlaff and the Board welcomed Angie.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jerry Paulson asked Daniel Olson to elaborate on the public concerns regarding the Data Center and whether or not the Forest Preserve has thought of ways to take action. Olson stated that there haven't been too many calls of concerned patrons and that there hasn't been a plan established yet. Some Board Members expressed interest in having a statement written pertaining to the proposed data center construction. Ann Wasser gave the Board insight on the Data Center construction.

Bills for February- Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for February. Judy Barnard made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for February in the amount of \$462,045.32 seconded by Gloria Lind. **Motion passed unanimously.**

MOU AmeriCorps Seniors Volunteers – Mike Brien presented to the Board the resolution to approve of the MOU AmeriCorps Senior Volunteers partnership agreement. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Budget Amendment Ordinance IMRF Accelerated Payment - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the budget amendment ordinance to account for the IMRF accelerated payment. Cheryl Maggio made a motion to approve of the budget amendment, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Roll Call Vote Taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Safety Personal Protection Equipment Reimbursement Policy– Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to induct a safety personal protection equipment reimbursement policy. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Holt House/Severson Barn Nomination on the National Register of Historic Places– Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to pass the RFP nomination for the Holt House/Severson Barn. Jeff Tilly appointed Jerry Paulson and Judy Barnard to an ad hoc Board Committee for the Holt House. The internal committee will consist of two Board members and three staff members. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Judy Barnard. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **DISCUSSION**

Employee Handbook Updates Approval – Daniel Olson gave the Board insight into the employee handbook updates that were discussed over numerous meetings with management. Emily Porter recommends that there should be a separate policy manual, to which Jeff Tilly agreed. Daniel Olson did state that attorney Roxanne Sosnowski recommended that the policy handbook and employee handbook be combined. Judy Barnard suggests that there be a separate meeting to go over the handbook.

Strategic Plan – Daniel Olson updated the Board on the strategic plan that has been implemented. Olson suggested to the Board that they come up with an execution date. Olson also asked if the Board would like to be involved in the RFP of the strategic plan and it was discussed by the Board. The Board’s consensus was to have a portion of the Board be involved in the appointing of a facilitator. Jeff Tilly appointed Judy Barnard and Cheryl Maggio to an ad hoc Board Committee that will consist of two Board members and staff.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Bobby VanSistine, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman submitted a written report.

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Jody Kennay submitted a written report.

Partner Groups – Alex Mills presented to the Board some Klehm Arboretum updates.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:48 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the closed session minutes and the purchase of lease of real property for the use of the public body. At 7:37 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

#### **NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED – Consent Agenda**

Mike Eickman made a motion to approve the following closed session minutes seconded by Judy Barnard: February 20, 2019, April 17, 2019, August 20, 2019, January 15, 2020, February 19, 2020, June 17, 2020 and September 16, 2020. **Motion passed.** Jerry Paulson abstained.

Approval to Release, destroy meeting verbatim recordings – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. March 26 - Fabulous Frogs Program at Headquarters Forest Preserve starting at 6:00pm.
2. April 9 – Nature Nook Spring Cleanup at the Burpee Museum of Natural History starting at 9:00am.
3. April 9 – Bumblebee Monitor Training via Zoom starting at 5:00pm.
4. April 22 – Bat Monitor Training via Zoom starting at 6:00pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Cheryl Maggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Judy Barnard seconded; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, April 15th, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary