

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Preserves Headquarters
January 19, 2022

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Audrey Johnson
Gloria Lind – late 5:34pm
Cheryl Maggio – late 5:34pm
Jerry Paulson
Jeff Tilly

STAFF

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

GUEST

Alex Mills
Roxanne Sosnowski

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by President Tilly. Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Judy Barnard led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES Minutes for December 15, 2021 were approved. Closed Session was moved before Public Participation, Awards, and Presentations and the “Support for Effort to Save Bell Bowl Prairie” action items was withdrawn by Judy Barnard from the agenda. No additions were made to the agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session at 5:33pm. At 6:32pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Judy Barnard handed out a list of ideas for the 100th anniversary to each Board member. She asked that the Board members take a look and see what they think.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Holan addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding a municipal contract for John Deere tractors. The forest preserve is looking to purchase a John Deere tractor and Alex Mills asked if the forest preserve could also purchase a tractor for Klehm. The cost of the tractors would be somewhere in the \$16,000 range, which would put the amount over the \$30,000 limit. With the municipal contract, the forest preserve would have to buy from a John Deere dealer no more than two counties away, which would be the DeKalb dealership. This would allow the forest preserve to buy the tractor for roughly 33% less than list price. Alex Mills will need to get a resolution from his Board stating Klehm will purchase the tractor for the full price paid by the forest preserve. When that happens, the forest preserve will purchase the tractor. The Board of Commissioners can approve that the forest preserve makes the purchase through the municipal contract; the consensus of the Board of Commissioners is to purchase through the municipal contract.

Audrey Johnson let the Board of Commissioners know that Steve Luter passed away. Steve was active with the Jr. Golf program at Atwood Homestead Golf Course among other things. She attended the

service and many golfers spoke about how they have worked with him over many years at the golf course. Audrey wanted the Board to know there was a lot of good publicity with a positive outlook. Cheryl Maggio asked if we need a plaque in his memory at Atwood Homestead Golf Course. The Board thought it would be a good idea to present a plaque to his wife sometime this summer.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for December – Judy Barnard made a motion, Audrey Johnson seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for December in the amount of \$420,163.67. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Opening Closed Session Minutes – Mike Holan addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the opening of the closed session minutes. The Board of Commissioners for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County entered into closed session meetings during several regularly scheduled monthly board meetings to discuss land acquisition and the replacement of a resigned commissioner. Those closed session meetings took place at the March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16 and August 18, 2021 Board of Commissioners regular monthly meetings and May 6 and September 1, 2021 special session meetings. The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County has since purchased the property and appointed a new commissioner as was discussed during those closed sessions. There is no longer reason to conceal the information discussed during those closed sessions. Audrey Johnson made a motion, Mike Eickman seconded to approve the closed session meeting minutes containing information regarding the acquisition of the Mitchell Farm property, the decline of the purchase of the Ledges inholding properties and the appointment of Commissioner Gerald Paulson be opened for public access. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Scott Stewart, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn stated the deer management project started off well with 20 deer taken the first night. Staff has been out two nights at Deer Run/Oak Ridge and Klehm. There is also a permit for 15-20 deer at Funderburg Forest Preserve.

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

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman submitted a written report. Vaughn stated he will present the year end golf reports next month.

Marketing – Samantha Crooks submitted a written report.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann announced there is a new education AmeriCorps member who started last week. Her name is Megan Bertucci, and Ann is hoping she can make it to the next Board meeting to introduce herself. She also noted that they have a new Community Science & Volunteer Management member signed up and ready to start March 1st. Ann also mentioned that Severson Dells Board is waiting for a new agreement before there will be a decision on the new building.

Human Resources/Volunteer Program Report – Donna Bileto submitted a written report.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Ann Wasser mentioned that all the Board Members should have a flyer about the Community Science Information Session starting in February. At this time the location is TBD, it will either be at Headquarters or held virtually. Ann will let the Board members know when it's decided.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Knapp
Recording Secretary