

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
October 23rd, 2024

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman - Via Phone  
Audrey Johnson  
Gloria Lind  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills      Gary Brown      Ann Wasser      Debra Hamilton  
Greg Hodges      Becky Maier      David Byrnes      Craig Campbell

**ROLL CALL** The meeting was called to order at 5:32PM, by President Jeff Tilly. Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

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

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 18, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

**Craig Campbell**, Campbell is requesting that the demolition of the Elijah Holt home be delayed by one year.

**Debbie Hamilton**, a representative of the Valley Trail Riders, requested a donation of a bridal tag for their silent auction.

**Gregory Hodges**, spoke to support the delay of the Holt house demolition.

**David Byrnes**, spoke to support the delay of the Holt house demolition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jeff Tilly publicly approved of the donation request by Debbie Hamilton.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Budget & Appropriations Ordinance – Steve Chapman presented to the board the change that staff was proposing to the budget and levy ordinances, which would allocate an additional \$20,000 to partner group, Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden. **Roll call vote taken** to accept the proposed change; **motion passed unanimously.** Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the budget and appropriations ordinance as amended. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

Levy Ordinance – Jerry Paulson made a motion to amend the Levy. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.** Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the levy ordinance as amended. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

Bills for September– Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for September. Audrey Johnson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for September in the amount of \$690,608.65. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

Removal of Structures – Mike Holan presented to the board the removal of structures. Judy Barnard made a motion to amend the resolution to remove the Holt house from the resolution. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed 4 to 3.** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve of the resolution as amended. **Roll call vote taken; motion denied 4 to 3.**

2025 Fee Schedule – Mike Holan refreshed the board with the changed that were made to the fee schedule that were discussed at last month’s meeting. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the 2025 fee schedule. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

2025 Holiday Schedule – Mike Holan presented the board with the 2025 holiday schedule. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the 2025 holiday schedule. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting – Mike Holan gave a brief background in regards to the appointment of delegates to the IAPD Annual Business Meeting and who the forest preserve has appointed as delegates in the past to attend. Gloria Lind made a motion to approve of the delegates to the IAPD Annual Business Meeting. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

Alteration to the Personnel Policy Section 10.2 Weapons in the Workplace – Mike Holan and Mike Brien proposed a change to section 10.2 in the personnel policy to allow weapons in the workplace for wildlife management; a policy that currently only allowed for deer management. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the alteration to the personnel policy section 10.2 weapons in the workplace. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Land and Development/Volunteer Program Report – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report.

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

Marketing – Renee Pixler submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

President, Jeff Tilly, announced to the board and public that long-standing board member, Audrey Johnson’s term will be up at the end of November and that she will not be running for reelection. Jeff Tilly as well as other members of the board and staff congratulated Audrey on her contributions to the forest

preserve. Audrey Johnson gave a short speech and shared how important it is to support your local forest preserves. Audrey was given a plaque for her time of service.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. October 29 – Guided Hike at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserves at starting at 5:30pm.
2. November 2 – Walk with U Guided Walk from 9:00am-10:00am.
3. November 2 – Backpacking with Burpee at Hononegah Forest Preserve from 10:00am–12:00pm.
4. November 2 & 3 – Liberty & Lincoln at Macktown Living History Museum.
5. November 10 – Native American at Macktown Living History Museum.
6. November 15 – Howl at the Moon Night Hike J. Norman Jensen Forest Preserve starting at 4:30pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Audrey Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, November 20th at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary