

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Preserves Headquarters  
June 22, 2022

**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Finance  
Vaughn Stamm, Preserve Operations  
Ann Wasser, Education  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources  
Renee Henert, Communication

**ABSENT**

Audrey Johnson

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum  
Cathy Ott  
Jill Izer  
Debbi Hamilton  
Tracie Boolman  
Cherie DeWulf

**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** Cheryl Maggio led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Minutes for May 18, 2022 were approved. “Strategic Land Conservation Plan” and “Project Change” were added to New Business and “Litigation” was added to Closed Session.

**PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Debbi Hamilton from the Valley Trail Riders addressed the Board of Commissioners. She thanked the Forest Preserve District for their dedication and hard work on maintaining the trails and open spaces. Debbi would like the District to accept their offer in helping keep the trails and equestrian camping areas in good condition. Along with that, she would like the District to consider working with the Valley Trail Riders on any potential equestrian projects. Debbi also addressed an incident that happened in the preserve where there was no visible address for 911 dispatch. She would like to propose putting up a sign that would show the physical address in each preserve. Mike Holan addressed Debbi and let her know that he will give her his business card to discuss projects and also let her know that there are a couple locations in each preserve that have the address. One being on the bottom of the trail maps in the kiosk and the other is located at the preserve entrance on the red rural route sign.

Judy Barnard thanked staff for the help with the 100-year anniversary.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

Severson Dells Agreement Update – Jeff Tilly asked that Judy Barnard and Cheryl Maggio provide an update on the Severson Dells agreement. Judy mentioned that each Board member should have a handout which gives the background to the Severson Dells agreement. Judy reviewed the background with the Commissioners and gave them time to review the other pages of the handout that include the concerns/issues with the current agreement. After reviewing the concerns/issues, the Commissioners discussed some of the issues, which include, the reimbursement of Severson Dells staffing salaries and benefits, the confusion on the hiring, firing and evaluations of the staff, and lastly, if other responsibilities

with the forest preserves should come before programmed education. Judy Barnard asked to go into closed session for personnel issue. Jeff agreed to include that in closed session later in the meeting. Jeff thanked Judy and Cheryl for all the work that has been put in to this and looks forward to having more discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Strategic Land Conservation Plan - Jerry Paulson asked to address the Board regarding a possible update to the Strategic Land Conservation Plan. Now that the first priority has been accomplished by purchasing properties in the Kishwaukee Corridor, Jerry thinks it may be time to review the Strategic Land Conservation Plan and keep the plan in mind for next year's budget. Mike Holan mentioned that the Forest Preserve already has 11,543 acres and that more acquisitions may make it harder on staff to keep up with the properties. Jeff Tilly stated that maybe we should revisit the priorities, which Mike reminded the Board that they approved priorities 2, 3 & 4. Those priorities do not include adjacent properties and that should be a priority to expand the existing preserves.

Project Change - Vaughn Stamm wanted to apprise the Board regarding a situation in the Capital Budget this year. In this year's budget it was planned to rebuild the irrigation pump at Ledges Golf Course which was budgeted at \$30,000. Due to supply chain issues the company that would rebuild the pumps, advised the Forest Preserve not to do so at this time. In place of this project, staff recommend swapping out this project with another project to dredge the pond at Ledges Golf Course. The pond that would be dredged is the pond that feeds the irrigation to the course. The estimated quote for this project is right around \$9,000. The Board gave their consensus to complete the dredging project instead of rebuilding the irrigation pumps at Ledges Golf Course.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for May – Judy Barnard made a motion, Gloria Lind seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for May in the amount of \$477,421.35. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

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.

Marketing – Renee Henert submitted a written report.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann announced they're on week three of summer camps and this is the first week of having Rockford Public School at Severson Dells. Both camps are running simultaneously.

Human Resources/Volunteer Program Report – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

Judy Barnard mentioned the scholarship awards were held at Klehm this year which everyone was happy with the location. She also mentioned that the Lego sculptures are really worth seeing. Alex Mills mentioned they are all in place, which started on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Judy Barnard made a motion to go into closed session at 6:16 pm. At 9:05 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

July 16 - Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at J. Norman Jensen Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, July 20, 2022, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristy Knapp  
Recording Secretary