Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
September 16, 2026

PRESENT
Judy Barnard – via phone
Mike Eickman
Gloria Lind
Cheryl Maggio
Jerry Paulson
Emily Porter- Absent
Jeff Tilly

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

GUESTS

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

The Commissioners voted to allow Judy Barnard to attend remotely. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the meeting minutes from July 23rd and August 19th, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

PRESENTATION
Capital Improvement Plan – Daniel Olson presented the capital improvement plan to the Board and briefly explained its contents.

FY2026-27 Budget Updates – Steve Chapman presented to the Board updates to the FY 2026-27 budget.

NEW BUSINESS
Natural Land Institute Transfer – Daniel Olson announced to the Board that the closing for the donation of land from NLI has been officially transferred and that a press release will be issued.

Friday Tour with State Representative Cabello – Daniel Olson announced to the Board that in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Colored Sands Forest Preserve, they will be conducting a tour for State Representative Cabello. Judy Barnard asked that Lee Johnson be acknowledged in any comments.

ACTION ITEMS
Bills for August- Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for August. Gloria Lind made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for August in the amount of $845,687.23, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Budget and Appropriations Layover –Mike Eickman made a motion to approve the resolution to layover the annual budget and appropriations, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Tax Levy Layover –Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve the resolution to layover the annual tax levy, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance for Abatement of Bond Levy – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the ordinance for the abatement of the bond levy. Gloria Lind made a motion to approve of the ordinance, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

Acceptance of Bids Atwood Pump Project– Vaughn Stamm presented to the Board the resolution to accept bids for the Atwood pump project. Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Cheryl Maggio. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

Approval of Security, Wildlife and Ecological Monitoring and Meeting Recording Policy– Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to approve a security, wildlife, ecological monitoring and meeting recording policy. Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

Approval of Agreement with Winnebago Community Historical Society – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to approve an agreement with the Winnebago Community Historical Society for funding the nomination of the Holt House to the National Register of Historic Places. Cheryl Maggio made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

DISCUSSION

Strategic Plan Schedule – Dan brought to the Board the strategic planning schedule that was created by Bob from DJ Case & Associates after the strategic planning kick-off meeting.

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 Taylor Joray 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 updated the Board on Klehm Arboretum. Ann Wasser of Wild Roots also gave the Board an update.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:37 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition and the review of closed minutes, seconded by Jerry Paulson. At 7:02 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the following closed session minutes, seconded by Mike Eickman: December 17, 2014, January 21st, 2026, February 18th, 2026, March 18th, 2026, April 15th, 2026, May 20th, 2026, June 17th, 2026, July 15th, 2026, August 19th, 2026. Roll Call Vote Taken. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of resolution to release and destroy closed session minutes – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. September 25 – Site Steward Volunteer Day: Butterfly Milkweed Collection at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.
2. October 10 – Site Steward Volunteer Day: Invasives Removal at Kilbuck Bluffs Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
3. October 23 – Site Steward Volunteer Day: Invasives Removal at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.
4. October 23-24 – Lincoln & Liberty at Macktown Living History.
5. November 14 – Site Steward Volunteer Day: Invasives Removal at Kilbuck Bluffs Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
6. November 20 - Site Steward Volunteer Day: Invasives Removal at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.

Daniel Olson updated the Board on the Moate property and that the closing should happen in early November.

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Maggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. Mike Eickman seconded; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, October 21st, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary