

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
December 17, 2025

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Gloria Lind - Absent  
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**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

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

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Emily Porter led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESENTATIONS (invited)**

Mike Brien as well as Brian with Blakemore Architects and Earl with Schmeling Construction presented to the Board on behalf of the new Natural Resource building bid package under New Business.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2025 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bills for November - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for November. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for November in the amount of \$447,566.44. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Bid Package for the Natural Resource Building – Steve Chapman mentioned to the Board that they will need to pass a budget amendment to appropriate the money that was saved from the 2025 budget year into the allocated money for the Natural Resource building in the 2026 budget next month. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Addition of Employee to Golf Courses – Vaughn Stamm gave the Board an overview of the workload on the current golf operations manager and the need for a new position to be created to disperse some of the responsibility. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the addition of an employee to the golf courses. **A roll call vote was taken.** The Board's consensus is to approve of the addition and for staff to present the budget amendment resolution at next month's meeting.

Approval of Klehm Kid's Creek and Splash Pad Remodel – Alex Mills presented to the Board the resolution to approve of the Klehm Kid's Creek and Splash Pad remodel. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Strategic Plan Timeline - Sarah Lorenz spoke on behalf of the community needs assessment committee, which is the first phase of the strategic plan. Dan Olson then reviewed the timeline of the strategic plan with the Board.

District Naming Policy – Dan Olson expressed to the Board the importance of implementing a naming policy for the District and asked if they would be open to developing one, to which the Board responded in favor of. Olson asked that if the Board has any questions or suggestions to bring them to him by next month to review.

## **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, Rich Rosenstiel, 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 from Klehm said that the new Thankful Path walking event is going very well for its first year.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:55 PM Cheryl Maggio made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. At 7:40PM Emily Porter made a motion to return to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. January 14 – January Guided Bird Hike at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden starting at 8:30am.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Eickman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46PM; **motion passed unanimously**.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary