

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
May 15, 2024

PRESENT

Judy Barnard – Phoned in for closed session
Mike Eickman
Audrey Johnson – Arrived late at 5:31pm
Gloria Lind – Arrived late at 5:39pm
Cheryl Maggio
Jerry Paulson
Jeff Tilly

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator

GUESTS

Alex Mills Debbi Hamilton Becky Maier Nora Clapsaddle

ROLL CALL The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM, 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 Mike Eickman made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 17, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Chapman presented to the board the interim financial report and corporate fund details for November 1st through April 30th, the first six months of the Forest Preserve’s fiscal year. Mike Holan and Mike Brien relayed to the board that the new Wildlife Biologist position has been filled and that Liz Hucker’s first day will be June 3rd.

Bills for April – Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for April. Audrey Johnson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for April in the amount of \$545,421.01 **Motion passed unanimously.**

Allocation of Sponsorship Funds for the Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden Habitat Exhibit – Mike Holan reminded the board of the conversation they had at the previous board meeting about donating \$10,000.00 to sponsor Klehm Arboretum and their Habitat exhibit. Audrey Johnson made a motion to approve the sponsorship of Klehm Arboretum’s Habitat exhibit. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Budget Amendment for Skid Loader Replacement – Vaughn Stamm asked that the board approves of the budget amendment to replace a skid loader. The skid loader, which was budgeted in the 2022-23 fiscal year and set to arrive before the end of that fiscal year, did not arrive on time. The unspent funds for the skid loader from the previous fiscal year were automatically carried over as a part of this fiscal year’s budget. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the budget amendment for the skid loader. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

Ledges Golf Course Clubhouse Roof Replacement – Vaughn Stamm presented to the board the resolution for the Ledges Golf Clubhouse roof replacement. The qualified lowest bid was Bufalo Contracting at \$33,000.00. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the Ledges Golf Course Clubhouse roof replacement. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Headquarters Roof Replacement - Vaughn Stamm presented to the board the Headquarters roof replacement resolution. The qualified lowest bid was HC Anderson Roofing Company inc. at \$42,602. Audrey Johnson made a motion to approve of the Headquarters roof replacement. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

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

Land and Development/Volunteer Program Report – Mike Brien, Mike Groves and Keith Krey 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. Renee reminded the board that the Hooked on Fun fishing event is on June 8th.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

Partner Groups - Alex Mills presented to the board “Eerie Autumn Lights”, a family friendly Halloween lighting experience that is in development. This event will run through September to the end of October of this year at Klehm Arboretum.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:07pm Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session. At 7:15 pm the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. May 18 – It’s All About Fiber at Macktown Living History from 9:00am – 4:00pm.
2. May 19 - It’s All About Fiber at Macktown Living History from 9:00am – 4:00pm.
3. May 22 – FPWC Guided Hike at Jensen Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
4. May 24 – Howl at the Moon Hike at Funderburg Forest Preserve starting at 8:00pm.
5. June 1 – Walk with U Guided Hike at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
6. June 1 – Backpacking with Burpee: Birding and Bird Calls at Colored Sands Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.
7. June 1 – Garden Fair Weekend at Klehm Arboretum from 9:00am – 5:00pm.
8. June 2 – Garden Fair Weekend at Klehm Arboretum from 9:00am – 5:00pm.
9. June 4 – Wild Flower Walk at Colored Sands starting at 8:00am.
10. June 8 – Hooked on Fun at Four Lakes Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
11. June 12 – Wild Flower Walk at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
12. June 15 – R.E.A.P Volunteer Work Day at Four Lakes Forest Preserve from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Maggio made a motion, to adjourn the meeting 7:23 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, June 19 Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary