

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Preserves Headquarters
December 15, 2021

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman - via Zoom
Audrey Johnson
Gloria Lind
Cheryl Maggio
Jerry Paulson

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Preserve Operations
Donna Bileto, HR/Volunteer Program
Ann Wasser, Education
Samantha Crooks, Communication
Mike Grove, Natural Resources

ABSENT

Jeff Tilly

GUESTS

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by Commissioner Judy Barnard. Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

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

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES for November 17, 2021 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2022 Restoration Manual – Mike Groves – Mike Groves presented the 2022 Resource Management Land Restoration Plans. Mike reviewed the goals, objectives and everything that the Natural Resources staff has accomplished throughout the year. Over 1,000 acres were burned during spring and 357 acres burned in the fall for a total of 1,396 acres burned last year. 80 acres of prairie restoration was planted, mostly at Funderburg Forest Preserve. The seed collection total was up from last year, with \$185,000 worth of seed, which included 163 different species, totaling 1,226 pounds of seed. Around 1,000 trees were planted and about 71 acres forestry mowed. Mike also spoke on the deer management permits and projects for the upcoming year. Mike mentioned there will be more prairie restorations done next year at Funderburg and Kishwaukee properties. In addition, he reviewed the 2022 tree order, seed harvest list, and the restoration and burn plans. Judy Barnard thanked Mike for all that has been done.

Bio retention – Alex Mills – Alex Mills presented photos of the area that was excavated for the bio retention project. Mike Groves and his staff helped out with this project. Alex mentioned the project is about done and will be finished up this spring, which will include an interpretive sign.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for November – Cheryl Maggio and Mike Eickman made a motion, Audrey Johnson seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for November in the amount of \$436,098.94. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Purchase of Replacement Truck – Vaughn Stamm spoke to the Board regarding the replacement truck bid. As part of the 2022 capital budget, the board approved for replacements of the following trucks: #134 Atwood Golf Maintenance – 2002 Ford Ranger, 4x4 pickup truck, w/110,000+ miles. Prioritized for replacement because of corrosion & mechanical issues. This truck to be auctioned off, #142 Central

Maintenance Shop – 2003 GMC 2500, 4x4 pickup truck w/153,084+ miles. Prioritized for replacement because of corrosion & mechanical issues. This truck to be auctioned off, #155 North Area Preserve
Maintenance – 2006 Ford F250, 4x4 pickup truck w/140,362+ miles. Prioritized for replacement due to corrosion and mechanical condition. This truck to be auctioned off, #406 South Area Preserve
Maintenance – 2011 Ford F250, 4x4 pickup truck w/ 133,320+ miles. Prioritized for replacement due to corrosion issues. This truck to be auctioned off and #417 Natural Resource Department – 2011 Ford F250 extended cab, 4x4 pickup truck, w/141,744+ miles. This truck was rotated in the system a year ago to provide a vehicle for additional Resource Tech position. Because of high mileage and the mechanical condition this truck is now recommended for replacement. There are currently no active State Bid Contracts available for these vehicles so a call for bids was sent out to area dealerships. Sealed bids were opened on December 7th, at 10:00am at Headquarters and the low bid received was from Anderson Rock River Ford in Rockford, Illinois for five (5) 2022 Ford F250 4x4 standard cab pickup trucks. The cost as specified is \$34,812.00 for each standard cab truck, totaling \$174,060.00 for all five (5) trucks, for which the staff budgeted \$200,000.00 for these trucks collectively in the 2022 budget. Vaughn mentioned that if they cannot get the 2022 model, the bid may have to be brought back to the Board for a price change for the 2023 model. Approximate delivery date is July-October. Gloria Lind made a motion, Jerry Paulson seconded to approve the purchase of replacement pickup trucks. **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. Vaughn mentioned that Ledges Golf Course was open for 2 days, 67 golfers the first day and 91 for the second day. The approximate revenue for both days was about \$3,000.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann announced Luminaria was held last weekend but was canceled on Friday with Saturday having a good turnout of about 450 people. She also mentioned that they will be having a New Year's hike on New Year's Day.

Human Resources/Volunteer Program Report – Donna Bileto submitted a written report.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

December 17 - Employee Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon at Ledges Clubhouse from 11:30am – 2:30pm.

Judy Barnard recognized Vaughn Stamm for his 25 years of service.

Jerry Paulson thanked Judy Barnard for the beautiful calendars.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 PM.

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, January 19, 2022, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Knapp
Recording Secretary