

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
June 19, 2024

**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator  
Elizabeth Hucker, Wildlife Biologist

**GUESTS**

Rochelle Lurie	Don Sonneson	Paul Nolley	Alex Mills	Eve Kirk
Debra Hamilton	Becky Maier	Ann Wasser		

**ROLL CALL** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM, by President Jeff Tilly. Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Gloria Lind led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 15, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Elizabeth Hucker** – Elizabeth Hucker introduced herself to the board as she will be the Winnebago County Forest Preserve’s new Wildlife Biologist. The board welcomed Elizabeth.

**Dr. Rochelle Lurie** – Dr. Rochelle Lurie made the board aware that the Department of Transportation will be publishing a new book on historical sites in Illinois, which Macktown Living History will now be a part of. Dr. Lurie continues by asking a member of the board to come to one of Macktown’s board meeting in order to have better communication between the two organizations.

**Don Sonneson** – Don Sonneson spoke on behalf of his wife to show over twenty years of research that they have been working on and to let the board know of the Macktown family reunion which will be over the Labor Day weekend.

**Eve Kirk** – Eve Kirk spoke about the septic system at the Macktown Education Center and the many problems that arise due it not functioning properly. Kirk asked the board to make it a priority to fix the septic system at the Education Center so it can be used year-round. Mike Holan let the board know that the septic tank was not installed properly by the Historic Society, which has caused the pipes to freeze during the winter months. The Forest Preserves have attempted to fix the system many times with no success and at this rate the project could be hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix. The board had decided that finding a solution to fix the system should be a priority and that they should discuss it at a later meeting.

**Paul Nolley** – Paul Nolley, Director of Project First Rate, presented to the board about responsible bidder ordinances, which adds additional scrutiny onto contractors seeking work with government agencies.

**Renee Henert** – Renee Henert presented a PowerPoint to showcase the Hooked on Fun event that took place on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Bills for May** – Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for May. Audrey Johnson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for April in the amount of \$1,057,857.07 **Motion passed unanimously.**

Special Purchase of 1-Ton Dump Truck – Vaughn Stamm presented to the board on behalf of the request to purchase a 1-ton dump truck from Jerry Biggers Chevrolet Inc. in Elgin, Illinois. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve the special purchase of a 1-ton dump truck. **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 100th birthday celebration for Hononegah Forest Preserve will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report. Sherry gave invitations to the board to attend the Employee Appreciation Luncheon that will take place on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. July 6 – Walk With U Guided Hike at Headquarters Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
2. July 13 – Winnebago County Amateur at Macktown Golf Course
3. July 13 – Hononegah 100 Year Celebration starting at 5:00pm.
4. July 13 – R.E.A.P Volunteer Work Day at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve from 9:00am – 12:00pm.
5. July 14 - Winnebago County Amateur at Macktown Golf Course

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Audrey Johnson made a motion, to adjourn the meeting 6:36 PM Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, July 17 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary