

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
August 21, 2024

**PRESENT**

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

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager

**GUESTS**

Wes Burandt   Sue Grans   Dave Whitehouse  
Ann Wasser   Alex Mills   Clark Wangaard   Barb Chidley

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

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 17, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

**Mike Brien** presented to the board the proposed Natural Resource shop at Severson Dells Forest Preserve that is in the 2024/2025 fiscal year budget. Mike Brien explained to the board that the Natural Resource department is growing at a rapid rate and is in need of a new facility that can handle their workload. He then gave a brief overview of the steps that will need to be taken as well as the projected cost in order to achieve the desired infrastructure.

**Alex Mills** presented to the board the OSLAD grant opportunity for the proposed renovation and expansion of the Clarcor Pavilion restrooms at Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Mills gave a breakdown of some of the issues that have risen due to the conditions of these restrooms such as the current size and location. He also explained that the pavers leading to the restrooms do not comply with ADA standards, making it difficult for guests with disabilities to use these restrooms safely. Mills provided the board with photos of the restrooms' current condition, a blueprint of the desired renovation and the projected cost. Mills finally shared with the board the responses he had received from a public survey that was posted to Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden's social media about the proposed renovations of the Clarcor Pavilion restrooms, to which the public responded in agreeance to.

**Sue Grans**, a volunteer and Tour Guide at Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, addressed the board to provide insight as to how much the organization would benefit from the renovation and expansion of the Clarcor Pavilion restroom. Grans explains that many groups small and large use the Clarcor restrooms regularly and it would be a massive benefit to them if the restrooms were updated. She concluded by saying that we are all benefitting from Klehm Arboretum's success and growth and asked for the board's support.

**Barb Chidley**, who works for the city of Rockford, addressed the board to ask for their support in the renovations of the bathrooms. Chidley has been working with Alex and Klehm Arboretum on a project to bring more accessibility to senior citizens to Klehm Arboretum. Chidley brings up that the bathrooms are a deterrent for groups wanting to use the facilities and that, because she works closely with senior citizens, it is crucial that these bathrooms become ADA compliant.

**Wes Burandt**, a member of the board of directors at Klehm Arboretum, said that he stands by this project and is in full support.

**Clark Wangaard**, who serves on the Klehm Arboretum board, explained that Klehm is growing into becoming a regional entity and that the need for the expansion is beginning to become a desperate one due to the volume of new participants.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Steve Chapman presented to the board the draft budget for the 2024/2025 fiscal year. Mike Holan presented to the board the improvement projects and equipment's section.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for July– Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for July. Judy Barnard made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for July in the amount of \$748,915.31. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Donation of Double Hammock by Klehm Arboretum – Mike Holan presented to the board the donation of the double hammock by Klehm Arboretum. Audrey Johnson made a motion to accept the donation of the double hammock feature by Klehm Arboretum. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Authorization for OSLAD Grant Application for Clacor Restroom Renovation - Jerry Paulson made a motion to accept the authorization for OSLAD Grant Application for Clarcor Restroom Renovation. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

Land and Development/Volunteer Program Report – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien made the board aware that they were awarded a grant for seed purchasing for Funderburg.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman submitted a written report.

Marketing – Renee Pixler submitted a written report. Renee recapped the board on the forest preserve booth that was displayed at the Winnebago County Fair.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

Partner Groups – Ray Ferguson presented to the board a poster of the Macktown Golf Course and its history that will be displayed at the course.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. August 24 – Nine & Dine at Ledges Golf Course.
2. August 24 – R.E.A.P Day at Funderburg Forest Preserve from 9:00am-12:00pm.
3. August 27 – FPWC Guided Hike Pecatonica River Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
4. September 6 – Moth Night with Burpee at Burpee Museum starting at 8:00pm.
5. September 7 – Walk with U Guided Hike at Hononegah Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
6. September 7 – Backpacking with Burpee; Bugs & Butterflies at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.
7. September 12 & 13 – Senior Golf Tournament at Macktown Golf Course.
8. September 14 – R.E.A.P Day at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve from 9:00am-12:00pm.
9. September 15 – Howl at the Moon Hike at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve starting at 7:30pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Gloria Lind made a motion, to adjourn the meeting 7:20 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary