

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
March 20, 2024

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Audrey Johnson
Gloria Lind
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

Debbi Hamilton
Alex Mills
Ray Ferguson
Rae Ann Jones
Nicole VanAcker
Ann Wasser
Dawn Heintz

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 Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 21, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Dawn Heintz, Nicki VanAcker and Rea Ann Jones spoke to the board regarding the equestrian tag fees.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Holan notified the board of the Statement of Economic Interest envelopes that are at each of their desks and let them know that they will need to fill them out before the deadline, which is May 19th.

Bills for February – Audrey Johnson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for February in the amount of \$601,546.58 **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance to Renew Sosnowski / Szeto LLC Contract – Mike Holan presented to the board to accept the renewal of the a three-year Sosnowski / Szeto LLC contract. Audrey Johnson made a motion to accept the renewal of the Sosnowski / Szeto LLC contract. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Creating an Endowment Fund and Designating the Atwood Homestead Special Purpose Fund - Jerry Paulson presented the endowment ordinance to the board. This endowment will be to designate the Atwood Homestead Special Purpose fund, after an anonymous donation was gifted to the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County for any future improvements and maintenance to Atwood Homestead Forest Preserve back in 2018. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the Endowment Ordinance and to designate the Atwood Homestead Special Purpose Fund. **Roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Bids for Asphalt Paving at Macktown – Vaughn Stamm addressed the board to accept the bids for the asphalt paving project at Macktown. This project will entail repaving the cart path areas around the clubhouse, creating a separate junction path to connect the cart path to the parking lot and providing sections of patch work to the main entrance road. The lowest bidder was Royer Asphalt Paving located in DeKalb, Illinois, with a combined total project bid amount of \$121,865. Judy Barnard made a motion to accept the bids for the asphalt paving project at Macktown. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Acceptance of Bids for Asphalt Paving at Four Lakes – Vaughn Stamm presented to the board to accept the bids for the asphalt paving project at Four Lakes Forest Preserve. This project will be for the main south entrance of the preserve and the main parking lots. The qualified lowest bidder was Norwest Construction & Blacktop Located in South Beloit, Illinois, with a combined total project bid amount of \$45,335.00. Mike Eickman made a motion to accept the bids for the asphalt paving project at Four Lakes Forest Preserve. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Rejection of Bids for Macktown Clubhouse Exterior – Vaughn Stamm presented to the board to reject the bids for the Macktown Clubhouse Exterior. The lowest bidder was disqualified as a result of not meeting the bid requirement to acknowledge the bid specification addendum for this project. As a result, the second qualified bidder was substantially over budget. Vaughn Stamm concluded by saying that the board needs to approve of the rejection before the project can be put up for bid once again. Judy Barnard made a motion to accept the rejection of bids for the Macktown clubhouse exterior project. **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. Mike Brien spoke to the board to provide them with an update on the conclusion of the Deer Management Program.

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

Marketing – Renee Pixler submitted a written report. Renee mentioned to the board that the first Backpacking with Burpee event will be in May and gave them some insight on how to register.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:12pm Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session. At 8:34pm the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

March 21 – Restoration Work Day at Pecatonica Forest Preserve from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

March 21 – ZOOM Budburst Training starting at 5:00pm.

March 23 – Spring Guided Hike at Colored Sands Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.

March 28 – Restoration Work Day at Macktown Forest Preserve from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

April 6 – Walk With U Guided Hike at Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.

April 9 - Press Conference with State Representative Maurice West at Klehm starting at 10:00am.

April 11 – Bat Monitor Training at Headquarters Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.

April 13 - Spring Guided Hike at Ferguson Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.

April 14 – AtlAtl Event at Macktown Living History Museum starting at 2:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Audrey Johnson made a motion, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, April 17, Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary