

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
November 19, 2025

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Gloria Lind - Absent
Cheryl Maggio - Absent
Jerry Paulson
Emily Porter - Absent
Jeff Tilly

STAFF

Daniel Olson, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager
Emily Wendlandt, Board Recording Secretary

GUESTS

Craig Campbell
Debra Hamilton
Ethan Schultz

Ann Wasser
Becky Maier

Gary Anderson
Russ Kaney

Carol Anderson
Ernie Fuhr

The meeting was called to order at 5:47 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

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

PRESENTATIONS (invited)

Gary Anderson on behalf of the Holt House Committee, spoke to the Board to provide an update as to the progress that has been made on the Holt House and its preservation over the course of the year. The committee also provided a timeline for what they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

The Vice President, Mike Eickman, was appointed to sign the resolutions due to Gloria Lind's absence.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes – Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 22nd meeting as changed. **Motion passed unanimously**. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the budget hearing minutes. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Bills for October - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for October. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for October in the amount of \$899,641.07. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Approval of 2026 Board Meeting Schedule– Jeff Tilly presented to the Board the 2026 Board meeting schedule. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the 2026 Board meeting schedule. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Approval of Forestry Mowing Bid – Mike Brien presented to the Board the resolution to approve the forestry mowing bid for Funderburg Forest Preserve. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the forestry mowing bid. **Motion passed unanimously**.

Approval of Skid Steer Purchase – Mike Brien presented to the Board the resolution to approve the purchase of a Skid Steer. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Delegate to IAPD Annual Business Meeting – Daniel Olson presented to the Board to approve the delegate to the IAPD business meeting. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Staff Discretionary Bonus – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the staff discretionary bonus for this year to be approved. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Compensation for FY 2025-2026 – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the approval of compensation for FY 2025-2026. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Holt House Committee Extension – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

STAFF REPORTS

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

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Jody Kennay submitted a written report.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:33 Mike Eickman made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. At 7:01 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. December 5 – Employee Appreciation & Recognition Brunch at Prairie Street Brewing Company from 10:00am – 1:00pm.
2. December 6 – Winter Restoration Work Day & Hike at Hononegah Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

Judy Barnard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next regular Board Meeting – 5:30 PM Wednesday, December 17, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary