

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
September 17, 2025

PRESENT

Judy Barnard
Mike Eickman
Gloria Lind
Cheryl Maggio
Jerry Paulson
Emily Porter – Arrived at 5:33
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 Resource
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager

GUESTS

Alex Mills	Chris Samuelson	Audrey Johnson	Sue Grans
Paul Seiler	Amy Seiler	Ethan Schultz	James Wrobel
Dawn Wrobel			

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Cheryl Maggio led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 20 board meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Presentation on proposed Clarcor Pavilion Restroom Renovation Project at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden (FY26 OSLAD) – **Alex Mills**, the Executive Director of Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, presented to the Board the plans to renovate the Clarcor Pavilion Restrooms and its importance to the community to have these restrooms upgraded.

Public Comment and Feedback on proposed Clarcor Pavilion Restroom Renovation Project at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden (FY26 OSLAD) – **Audrey Johnson** spoke in favor of the Clarcor Pavilion Restroom renovation project, especially the proposed accessibility improvements to the outside of the building. **Sue Grans**, a volunteer at Klehm Arboretum, spoke in favor of the Clarcor Pavilion Restroom renovation project and stated that the current design of the bathroom does not meet the 2025 standards. **Paul Seiler**, a member at Klehm Arboretum, said that the bathrooms are in desperate need of an upgrade given the increasing number of new patrons each year.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for August - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for August. Gloria Lind made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for August in the amount of \$864,960.16. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Budget and Appropriations Layover – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the Budget and Appropriations Layover. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the budget amendment. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Annual Budget Tax Levy Layover – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the Annual Budget Tax Levy Layover. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Authorization for FY26 OSLAD Grant Application for Clarcor Pavilion Restroom Renovation Project at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden – Alex Mills presented to the Board the Authorization for FY26 OSLAD Grant Application for Clarcor Pavilion Restroom Renovation Project at Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Emily Porter made a motion to approve the Authorization for the FY26 OSLAD Grant Application for Clarcor Pavilion Restroom. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Designating Freedom of Information Officer – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to designate the Freedom of Information Officer. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION

Public Comment Ordinance, Daniel Olson explained the Board the new policies made for public comment that were established in 2023. The proposed policy will allow the Board to put rules and regulations in place to ensure that public comments are structured and organized. The Board agrees that an ordinance should be presented to them at the next meeting.

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. Mike Brien updated the Board with the most recent renderings of the new Natural Resource building.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report. Sarah Lorenz gave each of the Board members the fall edition of the Nature's Notebook.

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

Chris Samuelson, the Board president of the Severson Dells Education Foundation spoke to the Board on behalf of the lease agreement and thanked President Jeff Tilly and Vice President Mike Eickman for working with him and his Board.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:38PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition and the lease agreement. Emily Porter made a motion to go back into open session at 8:09 PM. No action was taken while in closed session.

ACTION ITEMS

IDOT Temporary Easement – Jerry Paulson made a motion to authorize the IDOT temporary easement. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Severson Dells Nature Center Lease –Jeff Tilly presented to the Board the Severson Dells Nature Lease. Emily Porter made a motion to authorize the Severson Dells Nature Center Lease. **Motion passed unanimously.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. September 24 - Guided Hike at Roland Olson Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
2. October 9 – Guided Bird Hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 8:30am.
3. October 16 – Fall Foliage Hike at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
4. October 17-18 – Frenchman’s Frolic at Macktown Living History.
5. October 18 – Legacy Tree Hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve from 1:30pm-3:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Emily Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Budget Hearing– 5:15 PM on Wednesday, October 22, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, October 22, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary