

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Preserves Headquarters  
August 17, 2022

**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  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Ann Wasser, Director of Nature Education  
Renee Henert, Communications Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum  
Jill Izer  
Debra Hamilton  
Cherie DeWulf

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM, by President Tilly. Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mike Eickman led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA and MINUTES** Minutes for July 20, 2022 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

Debbi Hamilton from the Valley Trail Riders addressed the Board of Commissioners. Debbi thanked the Forest Preserve for providing the equestrian community a wonderful place to ride. She also brought up some areas of concern, which include a washed away culvert at marker #14, an issue with soil erosion and tree root exposure near a main creek crossing, and two trees down on marker #18 and #14, which make the trails impassable. She also asked if more picket line poles could be added and some of the old poles replaced. Debbi suggested a sign-up sheet be put at the forest preserve to see how many equestrians are using the preserve. Lastly, Debbi asked about the status of posting an address sign in the equestrian camping area. Mike Holan responded and stated he thought there was one placed there already along with the address on the registration box, but will double check and he will also contact the Fire Department to have them add a fire sign.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Draft Budget – Fiscal Year 2022-2023 – A copy of the draft Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance and Budget Assumptions & Guidelines for the 2022/2023 fiscal year was passed out to the Board for review. Steve Chapman reviewed the budget assumptions and guidelines, annual budget and appropriations ordinance, analysis of property tax levies and estimated tax rates, the revenue and expenses for the corporate fund, and all the additional funds with the Board of Commissioners. He also mentioned two new positions of Natural Resources Director and Volunteer Coordinator will be added to next year budget including the recommendation of transferring \$475,000 to the improvement and development fund for projects in the preserves and golf courses. Mike Holan gave an overview of the capital items in the draft budget including items that are being carried over from this year to next year due to production issues. Most of the 2023 projects are repairs to the roadways, asphalt projects, new golf carts at Macktown Golf Course, preserve welcome and entrance signs, roof replacements, bridge replacement at Ledges Golf

Course, irrigation services, HVAC replacements, new chairs for the Ledges banquet room, hooking up to city water at Macktown Forest Preserve and pay increases for employees. Vaughn Stamm mentioned the format has a slight change for the capital project itemization in this year's budget. Steve announced the budget will be presented for layover at the September Board meeting with a budget hearing before the Board meeting in October where the budget will be presented for approval. Mike Holan let the commissioners know that if they have any questions, they can contact himself or Steve.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for July – Gloria Lind made a motion, and Judy Barnard seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for July in the amount of \$805,889.90. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Scott Stewart, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn mentioned the asphalt repair work at Seward Bluffs Forest Preserve was completed. The seal coat and crack filling was finished this week on the Kishwaukee Rec Path and the asphalt work at Sugar River Campground is in progress and should be completed by the end of the week.

Land and Development – Natural Resource Staff submitted a written report.

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

Marketing – Renee Henert submitted a written report. Renee announced Monday was 815 Day, which she did a Facebook giveaway of three mystery bags. The post had a lot of engagement with new followers.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann announced camps finished up last week with Rockford Public School coming out this week. Field trips will start up soon along with guided hikes which are planned through October.

Human Resources/Volunteer Program Report – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

Alex Mills announced the pond at Klehm is progressing nicely. The solar panels for the Visitor Center are being installed and should be completed soon. Klehm did a check presentation for a \$5,000 grant from Nicor Gas to improve some areas near the west loop. This will be in partnership with the forest preserve's forestry mower and staff and should be started in late October or November.

The Commissioners and Mike Holan stated how impressed they are with the preserves and all the work that has been done to keep them looking great. Mike will relay the message to staff.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

August 20 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

September 11 – Couple's Nine & Dine Golf Outing at Ledges Golf Course, Sunday starting at 4:00pm

September 17 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Funderburg Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Next board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 14, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristy Knapp  
Recording Secretary