

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
June 17, 2026

PRESENT

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

STAFF

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

GUESTS

Alex Mills Russell Kaney Eve Kirk Ann Wasser

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Gloria Lind led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gloria Lind made a motion to approve of the meeting minutes from May 20, 2026 seconded by Mike Eickman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Craig Campbell & Russell Kaney spoke on behalf of the Holt House Committee to review the funding for the house as well as the application for the National Register nomination.

The Communications Coordinator, Sarah Lorenz, presented to the Board the results from the community needs assessment survey.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Tour – The Board discussed each other's availability to plan the Board commissioner tour.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for May - Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for May. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for May in the amount of \$726,182.55 seconded by Gloria Lind. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Historic Nomination Writer– Jerry Paulson presented to the Board the resolution to approve of the writer for the historic nomination. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Strategic Plan Facilitator– Judy Barnard presented to the Board the resolution to approve of the strategic plan facilitator. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Gloria Lind. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Setting Additional Board Date: Paula Swanson FP Dedication – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the resolution to set an additional Board meeting date for the Paula Swanson Forest Preserve dedication. Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Judy Barnard. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Jerry Paulson expressed to the Board that they need to come up with a consensus as to what the intended use of the Holt House will be as the information is pertinent to the historic nomination. The Board decides that Jerry Paulson and Judy Barnard will meet with Daniel Olson to begin planning.

DISCUSSION

Asset Transfer to Severson Dells – Daniel Olson gave the Board background on the transfer of assets back to Severson Dells.

Severson Dells Operating Agreement – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the draft for an operating agreement between Severson and the District. Ann Wasser of Severson Dells announces that this agreement will be brought to the Severson Board tomorrow.

Budget Timeline – Daniel Olson gave the Board an overview of the annual budget timeline. Olson opened the floor for the Board to discuss the commissioner budget line. Jeff Tilly proposed that the fee schedule be presented to the Board in August to which staff agreed.

The Board further discussed the City of Rockford's TIF district proposal. Jerry proposed someone from Greenway present to the Board.

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 Abigail Pounders submitted a written report.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Bobby VanSistine, 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.

Partner Groups – Alex Mills updated the Board on behalf of Klehm Arboretum.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:55 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. At 7:04 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. July 23rd, Paula Swanson Dedication Event at Paula Swanson Forest Preserve at 3:30pm.

Purchase of Addition to Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve – Mike Brien presented to the Board the ordinance to purchase the addition to Sugar River Alder Forest Preserve. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Roll Call Vote Taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Maggio made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 p.m. Emily Porter seconded; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, July 15th, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary