

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

**BOARD MEETING**

Preserves Headquarters

May 18, 2022

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard-via Zoom  
Mike Eickman  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Finance  
Vaughn Stamm, Preserve Operations  
Ann Wasser, Education  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources  
Renee Henert, Communication

**ABSENT**

Audrey Johnson  
Gloria Lind

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 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 April 20, 2022 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

**PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Introduction – Renee Henert, Communications Coordinator – Mike Holan introduced the new Communications Coordinator, Renee Henert. Renee gave a brief background on herself and the Board welcomed Renee.

Introduction – Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager – Mike Holan introduced the new Human Resources Manager, Sherry Winebaugh. Sherry gave a brief background on herself and the Board welcomed Sherry.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

FAA Report Update – At the last Board meeting Jerry Paulson provided a public notice from the Federal Aviation Administration for the Commissioners. After the meeting, Jerry sent Mike Holan a couple questions for the FAA Administrator. Mike called the FAA Administrator and they could not answer the questions due to pending litigation. The Administrator asked Mike to put the questions into writing and send them to her. Mike emailed the questions and has not heard anything since.

Severson Dells Agreement – Jeff Tilly mentioned that he added this item to the agenda to see where everything was at with the agreement. Cheryl Maggio and Judy Barnard have been making progress on the agreement but would like the other Commissioners to send any ideas or comments they may have about the agreement to Judy. Jeff asked when we might have something ready regarding the agreement and Cheryl stated they may have something by the next Board meeting. Jeff would like some type of correspondence between the Commissioners to know where we are at with the agreement and to see where the challenges are in hopes to have something soon. Mike Holan reminded the Board of Commissioners if an email is sent out, the other Commissioners will need to be blind copy so it doesn't become an open meeting or the emails can be sent to him and he can forward them to Judy. Mike Holan also mentioned that the agreement cannot be talked about in closed session but they can discuss positions or personnel. The Board thought it would be best to send the emails to Mike to forward to Judy. Jerry

Paulson asked if we have operating agreements with all the other partner organizations and Mike responded that there are agreements but that the Severson Dells agreement was not brought to the Board for approval. Ann Wasser passed out Severson Dells' audit, last year's expenses for Severson Dell, and education budgets of Forest Preserves and Conservation Districts. Ann said she would send out a Google form to all of the Commissioners to get their input on what types of programs they would like to see Severson Dells implement. Ann also mentioned that they did not receive the grant for the proposed building at Severson Dells but that there may be another round of funding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Finance Report – The Interim Financial Results and the Corporate Fund Details for November 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022 were distributed to the Board of Commissioners. Steve Chapman reviewed the finance reports with the Commissioners.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for April – Cheryl Maggio made a motion, Mike Eickman seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for April in the amount of \$699,366.28. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

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.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report.

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

Alex Mills shared a video of the new pond at Klehm Arboretum which started about a month ago. Alex mentioned that Klehm was awarded the \$75,000 grant from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Tourism Attractions & Festivals Grant Program for the pond but will still need to fundraise for some of the cost due to price increases. The water feature is being worked on now and should be done by the garden fair. Alex also mentioned that they received the preview sculpture for Nature Connects which is a hummingbird piece. Lastly, Alex stated there were about a dozen scouts planting sedges and other plants around the Bio retention basin for an Eagle Scout project.

Mike Holan mentioned that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event was a success. He appreciated the Board members attending. The stations were busy during the entire event and estimated approximately 325-350 people attended. Mike thanked Vaughn Stamm and Ann Wasser for taking over the event planning.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Jerry Paulson made a motion to go into closed session at 6:14 pm. At 6:54 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

June 4 – Hooked on Fun at Four Lakes Forest Preserve, Saturday from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

June 4 & 5 – Garden Fair at Klehm Arboretum, Saturday from 9:00am – 5:00pm & Sunday from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

June 18 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Colored Sands Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

June 18 – Drinks for the Dells at Severson Dells Nature Center, Saturday from 12:00pm – 4:00pm.

Mike Eickman announced this will be the last weekend for bird banding at Colored Sand until August.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, June 15, 2022, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristy Knapp  
Recording Secretary