

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
April 17, 2024

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Audrey Johnson  
Gloria Lind  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Debbi Hamilton	Becky Maier	Kerry Fagerstrom	Alex Mills	Nora Clapsaddle
Jerry Clapsaddle	Pam Ward	Keith Grosvenor	Liz Weiner	Jillian Neece

**ROLL CALL** The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM, by President Jeff Tilly. Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Judy Barnard led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Audrey Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2024 meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

John Rader – John Rader from Baker Tilly presented to the board the annual audit results.

Debbi Hamilton and Nora Clapsaddle – Addressed the board to thank the FPWC staff for the well-maintained equestrian areas and to propose ideas that would be a benefit to those who use the trails.

Ann Wasser – Spoke to the board to provide updates on the recent happenings at Severson Dells.

Becky Maier – Suggested to the board ways to help alleviate off-leash dogs in the forest preserves.

Pamela Ward – Requested that the board create a free golf pass for disabled patrons.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jerry Paulson made the board aware of the proposed gasification project that will be close to Kilbuck Bluffs Forest Preserve. Jeff Tilly let the board know of the conversations that he has been having with Chris Samuelson at Severson Dells Education Foundation.

Bills for March – Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for March. Judy Barnard made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for March in the amount of \$594,463.45 **Motion passed unanimously.**

Rejection of Bids – Macktown Clubhouse Exterior – Vaughn Stamm recommended that the board approve of the rejection of bids on the Macktown clubhouse exterior project. The project only received two sealed

bids. The lowest bid was disqualified as a result of not properly signing and notarizing certain documents. The remaining bidder was over the budgeted amount. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the rejection bids on the Macktown Clubhouse exterior project. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Scott Stewart, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn let the board know that the campgrounds had officially opened for the season.

Land and Development/Volunteer Program Report – Mike Brien, Mike Groves and Keith Krey submitted a written report.

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

Marketing – Renee Pixler submitted a written report. Renee handed out flyers to the board to remind them of some of the upcoming events.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

Partner Groups - Alex Mills presented to the board the new habitat exhibit that will be showcased at Klehm Arboretum. The board showed interest in sponsoring one of the habitat exhibits for \$10,000. A resolution will be brought forward at the May meeting. Ray Ferguson from Macktown Living History advised the board that the new signs they have been working on are almost complete. These two signs will be placed at the quarry and somewhere along the golf course to give patrons a look into the history of these areas.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:26pm Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session. At 7:50 pm the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. April 18 – Restoration Work Day at Pecatonica River Forest Preserve from 9:00am-11:00am.
2. April 21 - Earth Day “Trash Bash” with FPWC & Burpee Museum at Blackhawk Springs starting at 10:00am.
3. April 24 – FPWC Guided Hike at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 5:30pm.
4. April 26 – 815Outside Sunset Soiree at Blackhawk Springs starting at 5:00pm.
5. April 27 – Spring Cash Scramble at Ledges Golf Course starting at 9:00am.
6. May 4 – Walk with U guided hike at Roland Olson Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
7. May 4 – Backpacking with Burpee – Spring Ephemeral Flowers at Oak Ridge Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Eickman made a motion, to adjourn the meeting 7:51 PM. Motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, May 15, Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary