

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Preserves Headquarters
February 15, 2023

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager
Renee Pixler, Communications Coordinator
Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator

GUESTS

Roxanne Sosnowski
Alex Mills
Jim Roberts
Jim Larson
Frank Langholz
Jack Armstrong
Patty Oliveri
Kathy Martinez

John Defenbaugh
Liz Wiener
Jeff Edward
David Stocker
Julie Uram
Zachary Dal Pra
Sue & Don Miller
Lora McClelland

Michael Simmons
Debbi Hamilton
Brendan Noble
Andrea Wallace-Noble
Joel Meylon
Ann Wasser

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 Audrey Johnson made a motion, Gloria Lind second to approve the minutes for January 18, 2023. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 6-0.** Mike Eickman made a motion, Audrey Johnson second to approve the minutes for February 1, 2023. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 6-0.** No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

PRESENTATIONS and PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Introduction – Keith Krey, Stewardship Coordinator – Mike Brien introduced the new Stewardship Coordinator Keith Krey. Keith gave a brief background on himself and the Board welcomed him.

Connie McIntosh – Withdrew from speaking

Jim Roberts – 401 Paris, Rockford. Jim addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the breakdown between the Forest Preserve, Severson Dells and the public.

Jim Larson – 10245 Tybow Trail, Roscoe. Jim mentioned he is all set with the outhouses thanks to Mr. Holan. Jim also stated there was a remarkable Bur Oak tree at Roland Olson that would be a great promotional piece for Arbor Day. Jim thanked the Board for their attention.

CLOSED SESSION

Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session at 5:43 pm. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.** At 6:43 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

Committee Report and Update – Cheryl Maggio announced there was a meeting with Severson Dells representatives on Monday, February 13th. There were some changes made to the agreement and when those changes are finalized, they will be submitted to each of our legal counsel for review. No additional meeting has been set up and they are hoping to hear back by the end of February. Judy Barnard mentioned everything is moving along and they were both encouraged by the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Report – The Interim Financial Results and the Corporate Fund Details for November 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023 were distributed to the Board of Commissioners. Steve Chapman reviewed the finance reports with the Commissioners.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for January – Judy Barnard made a motion, Jerry Paulson seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for January in the amount of \$536,105.24. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passed 6-0.**

Acceptance of Bids for Skid Loader – Vaughn Stamm addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the acceptance of bids for the skid loader. The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County Board of Commissioners approved a purchase of a skid loader as part of the 2023 capital budget. On January 24th there was a bid opening for the Case SV340B skid loader with 84” low profile dirt bucket. There was only one bidder, Miller Bradford. The total cost as specified is \$64,608 which the staff budgeted \$65,000 for this piece of equipment in the 2023 budget. Jerry Paulson made a motion, Mike Eickman seconded to approve the purchase for \$64,608 from Miller Bradford for the Case SV340B skid loader with 84” low profile dirt bucket. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passed 6-0.**

STAFF REPORTS

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

Land and Development – Mike Brien and Mike Groves 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.

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

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

Alex Mills announced the photovoltaic system on the Visitor Center at Klehm went active on January 9th. Training for the system was done with staff and the grant reimbursement from Illinois Clean Energy Foundation was received. Klehm’s Board will be looking at doing a resolution to transfer the asset to the Forest Preserve and then the Forest Preserve will have to accept the asset by resolution.

CLOSED SESSION

Audrey Johnson made a motion, Judy Barnard second to go into closed session at 7:04 pm. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.** At 7:29 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

March 11 – Cocoa & Company, 815 Outside Hike at Kishwaukee River Forest Preserve from 10:00am – 11:30am

ADJOURNMENT

Audrey Johnson made a motion, Gloria Lind second to adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, March 15, 2023, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Knapp
Recording Secretary