Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
October 21, 2026

PRESENT	**STAFF**
Judy Barnard	Daniel Olson, Executive Director
Mike Eickman	Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Gloria Lind-Absent	Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager
Cheryl Maggio	Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources
Jerry Paulson	Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager
Emily Porter	Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
Jeff Tilly	Emily Wendlandt, Board Recording Secretary

GUESTS
Ann Wasser Alex Mills Beth Warner

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 Mike Eickman led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

NEW BUSINESS
Approval of Budget and Appropriations Ordinance- Steve Chapman presented to the Board the budget and appropriations ordinance. Emily Porter made a motion to approve of the amendments to the budget, seconded by Jerry Paulson. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the budget and appropriations ordinance as amended, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Levy Ordinance- Steve Chapman presented to the Board the levy ordinance. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the ordinance seconded by Emily Porter. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Changes to Employee Vacation Ordinance – Daniel Olson presented to the Board the ordinance to approve changes to employee vacation. Emily Porter made a motion to approve of the ordinance to approve changes to employee vacation, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Temporary Policy for Employee Vacation Time Accrual and Use Ordinance –Emily Porter made a motion to approve of the temporary policy for employee vacation time accrual and use ordinance, seconded by Jerry Paulson. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA
Judy Barnard requested to remove the Approval of Employee Bonus Distribution from the consent agenda**.**
Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the following action items: Approval of Bills for September, Minutes of Regular Session- September 16, 2026 and Strategic Planning Minutes – August 26, 2026, Approval of Floating Holiday Accrual Ordinance, Authorization of Change Order for Construction of the New Natural Resource Facility, Transfer of Splashpad and Critter Creek Assets from Klehm**,** seconded by Cheryl Maggio. **Roll call vote taken. Motion passed unanimously.**
Approval of Employee Bonus Distribution – Judy Barnard made a motion to amend the approval of employee bonus to state employee gift distribution, seconded by Cheryl Maggio. After discussion, Judy Barnard withdrew her motion to amend the resolution. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the resolution of employee bonus distribution as written, seconded by Emily Porter.

Data Center - Jeff Tilly updated the Board on the potential of a data center adjacent to Kilbuck Creek Forest Preserves.

DISCUSSION
Board Meeting Schedule 2027 – Dan explained to the Board the draft resolution for the 2027 Board meeting schedule. Jeff Tilly suggested to have some meetings on different Forest Preserve property.

STAFF REPORTS
Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Scott Young submitted a written report.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Taylor Joray 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 Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

CLOSED SESSION
At 6:29 PM Mike Eickman made a motion to go into closed session for land acquisition, litigation and the review of closed minutes, seconded by Judy Barnard. At 7:38 PM the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

OPEN SESSION CONTINUED

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED
Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the following closed session minutes, seconded by Mike Eickman: April 20, 2022, June 22, 2022 – Land Acquisition, June 22, 2022 – Litigation, July 20, 2022 – Litigation, July 20, 2022 – Personnel, July 20, 2022 – Personnel 2, November 16, 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Resolution to Release and Destroy Closed Session Minutes – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the resolution, seconded by Mike Eickman. **Motion passed unanimously**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS
1. October 23 – Site Steward Volunteer Day at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.
2. November 14 – Site Steward Volunteer Day at Kilbuck Bluffs starting at 9:00am.
3. November 20 – Site Steward Volunteer Day at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 1:00pm.
4. November 23 – 24 – Lincoln & Liberty at Macktown Living History Museum.

ADJOURNMENT
Emily Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. Mike Eickman seconded; **motion passed unanimously.**
Next regular Board Meeting– 5:30 PM Wednesday, November 18, Forest Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary