

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
May 21st, 2025

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resource
Jody Kennay, Human Resources Manager

GUESTS

Alex Mills Debbi Hamilton Becky Maier
Terry Dodge Julie Dodge Ann Wasser Ethan Schultz

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

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

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 16th minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Terry Dodge – Spoke to the Board to ask for permission to add his guide for safe water recreation on the Kishwaukee River to the kiosks at the canoe launches throughout the preserves. The guide offers an easy way to check the safety level of the river before embarking.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Report – Steve Chapman presented to the board the finance report.

Local Government Wage Transparency – Jeff Tilly announced that, due to the extension of Mike Holan’s contract, the expected retirement annuity will be slightly above the allowed 6% increase and the accelerated payment that Mike will receive will increase the Forest Preserve’s liability by approximately \$7,000.

Land Acquisition – Mike Holan reminded the Board that they are going through the sale of the bonds and that they will need to spend 5% within 90 days. Holan then asked the Board which property they would like to focus their attention to.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for April – Steve Chapman presented to the Board the bills for April. Jerry Paulson made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for April in the amount of \$694,265.41. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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 Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien mentioned to the Board that they are nearly through the request for qualifications process on the new Natural Resource building.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

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

Partner Groups – Alex Mills spoke on behalf of Klehm Arboretum to announce to the Board that the Sundial, besides the landscaping is complete.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

1. May 24 – Bluebell Seed Collection at Deer Run Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
2. May 31 – Garden Fair at Klehm Arboretum.
3. June 1 – Garden Fair at Klehm Arboretum.
4. June 6 – Bird Club Walk with Nature at the Confluence at J. Norman Jensen Forest Preserve starting at 7:30am.
5. June 7 – Seth B. Atwood Crosstown Classic at Ledges Golf Course.
6. June 7 – Walk with U at Roland Olson Forest Preserve starting at 8:30am.
7. June 7 – Backpacking with Burpee at Colored Sands Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.
8. June 8 – Seth B. Atwood Crosstown Classic at Atwood Golf Course
9. June 14 – Hooked on Fun Kid’s Fishing Derby at Four Lakes Forest Preserve 9:00 – 11:00am.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:02 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Jerry Paulson made a motion to go back into open session at 8:22 PM. Roll Call taken. No action was taken while in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Emily Porter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary