

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

BOARD MEETING

Preserve Headquarters

July 20, 2022

PRESENT

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

STAFF

Mike Holan, Executive Director
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Ann Wasser, Director of Nature Education
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager
Renee Henert, Communications Coordinator
Asia Peters, Communications Engagement Coordinator

ABSENT

Jeff Tilly

GUESTS

Alex Mills – Klehm Arboretum
Jill Izer
Debbi Hamilton
Tracie Boolman
Cherie DeWulf
Becky Maier

ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:29 PM, by Vice President Mike Eickman. Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Jerry Paulson led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES for June 22, 2022 were approved. No changes or additions were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Introduction – Asia Peters, Communications Engagement Coordinator – Ann Wasser introduced the new Communications Engagement Coordinator, Asia Peters. Asia gave a brief background on herself and the Board welcomed Asia.

NEW BUSINESS

Hours of Operation – Mike Holan addressed the Board of Commissioners regarding the hours of operation for the Administration building. Mike is proposing to change the hours of operation from 8:00am – 5:00pm to 8:00am – 4:30pm. Only 2% of sales are done between 4:30pm and 5:00pm. It would also cut down on staff overtime and help with coverage. Mike mentioned that the change would not happen until fall of 2022 and a notice will be posted on the website and front door. The Board's consensus is to change the Administration building's hours of operation to 8:00am – 4:30pm.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for June – Gloria Lind made a motion, Audrey Johnson seconded to authorize the payment of the bills for June in the amount of \$612,341.63. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mike Holan mentioned that he met with the Sheriff's Department regarding the Law Enforcement Agreement. The Sheriff's Department is planning on continuing with the agreement, which will change to a three-year agreement instead of a two-year agreement. The cost will be the same as what it cost for the Officers to be on duty.

UPDATES and 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. Vaughn mentioned that the bunker renovations at Ledges were completed last week. The bunker renovations at Atwood Homestead started this week with hopes to have them finished next week.

Marketing – Renee Henert submitted a written report.

Environmental Education – Ann Wasser submitted a written report. Ann stated they have three weeks of RPS summer institutes at the Nature Center in August. Ann also announced there will be a group of 20 teenage kids and their families coming from Brovary, Ukraine, a sister City to Rockford, to visit Severson Dells Nature Center sometime during the two weeks they are here in August.

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

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

CLOSED SESSION

Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session at 5:44 pm. At 6:37 pm, the meeting returned to open session. No action was taken while in closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS

July 27 – Employee Appreciation Picnic at Atwood Homestead Forest Preserve (River Oaks Shelter), Wednesday from 11:30am - 1:30pm

August 20 – Nurture Nature at a R.E.A.P. Volunteer Workday at Cedar Cliff Forest Preserve, Saturday from 9:00am - 12:00pm

Cheryl Maggio asked Mike Holan for an update regarding the canoe company, Larson's Landing. Mike updated the Board regarding the situation and conversations that were had regarding the permit issues.

Jerry Paulson asked Mike Holan if the forest preserve is planning on doing anything in December for the anniversary of the formation of the District. Mike stated he will look into doing something.

Mike Holan announced the Nine & Dine Golf Event on Sunday, September 11th at Ledges Golf Course.

Mike Eickman announced that Sand Bluff is having their Board meeting and a celebration this Saturday with a dedication to Lee Johnson.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, August 17, 2022, Preserve Headquarters

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Knapp
Recording Secretary