



Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

## Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

8:30 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

*The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Pro-Tem Bates called the meeting to order in President Kious' absence at 8:33 AM.*

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

*President Pro-Tem Bates asked Willa Getzelman, student and member of the Kane County 4-H Club to lead the pledge.*

### III. Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Commissioner Deborah Allan  
Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Dale Berman (Arrived in person at 8:42AM)  
Commissioner Ron Ford  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz  
Commissioner Mo Iqbal  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Michael Kenyon  
Commissioner Bill Lenert  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Monica Silva  
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Commissioner Rick Williams (Arrived in person at 8:43 AM)  
Commissioner David Young

#### REMOTE

Commissioner Gary Daugherty  
President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious  
Commissioner Michael Linder  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez

#### ABSENT

Commissioner Mark Davoust  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Clifford Surges

**Others Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFO Petschke; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & staff Kovach; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Hodge; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT Peters and members of the public.

**IV. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to 3 minutes)**

*None.*

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from February 13, 2024 and the Comprehensive Master Plan Retreat Discussion from December 4, 2023**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges, Rick Williams

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from February 2024**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Mo Iqbal

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges, Rick Williams

**VII. Presentations**

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur introduced Greg Martin, member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects and the architect who designed the renovation of Settler's Hill Golf Course. He presented an award to the Forest Preserve District for the accomplishments to Settler's Hill Golf Course. Settler's Hill won first place among 8 other courses throughout the world. ED Haberthur read the plaque aloud. (Commissioner Berman arrived in person at 8:42AM).*

*President Pro-Tem Bates spoke in regards to the awareness of brown spaces, taking a landfill and converting it into something beautiful. (Commissioner Williams arrived in person 8:43 AM).*

*ED Haberthur presented a certification of appreciation to the District's Buyer, Anna Marano for going above and beyond. The District was the only agency and bidder that made the deadline to bid and sell all the pre-construction available wetland mitigation credits for a total revenue of \$318,495.*

*ED Haberthur introduced the new Dir. of Operations Jeremy Jensen, former South Operations Manager.*

**VIII. Finance and Administration**

**FP-R-24-03-3079 Resolution Approving the Commissioner's Expenses Attending the 2024 IPRA/IAPD Annual Conference in Chicago, IL**

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur provided highlights of the conference, noting seminars and lectures for continuing education is provided for employees as well as Commissioners. He also discussed legislation, and items that lobbyists are working on for Forest Preserve and Park Districts.*

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kious via remote echoed Exec. Dir. Haberthur's comments regarding the importance of the seminars provided.*

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:**           Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:**       Bill Lenert

**AYE:**             Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:**         Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

## **IX. Planning and Utilization**

### **FP-R-24-03-3080 Resolution Approving a Request to Submit an IDNR Recreational Trails Program Grant Application for the Development and Improvement of the Limestone Trails at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve**

*Chief of Planning and Land Management Rooks-Lopez presented the request to submit an IDNR RTP grant. Constructed in 2008 with the assistance of an Open space Land Acquisition and Development Grant (OSLAD) grant, Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve is a popular preserve for hiking and horseback riding. The limestone and asphalt trails meander through woodlands, prairie, and wetlands along Fitchie Creek. Due to the topography, wetlands, and active creek areas, sections of the limestone trail experience significant wash out during heavy rains. This project if awarded, will design and install drainage solutions for problem areas as well as restore sections of the limestone trail. This project is estimated to cost \$300,000 and the RTP grant will reimburse the District a maximum of \$200,000 for the project costs. This project aligns with one of the grant's eligibility factors; Trail maintenance or restoration, including trail damage by unauthorized users. Staff recommends the approval of the application submission.*

**DISCUSSION:** *None.*

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:**           Cherryl Strathmann

**SECONDER:**       Mike Kenyon

**AYE:**             Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:**         Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

### **FP-R-24-03-3081 Authorization to Apply for and Enter into Grant Agreements**

*ED Haberthur presented the resolution to expedite the grant application and approval process. This resolution would allow District staff to move forward with authorization to apply and submit projects. The District has a long history of successfully leveraging capital funds as match for large state and federal grant programs. This practice has allowed us to install more miles of trail, create more acres of habitat, and build more interactive nature exhibits than we could have managed without the assistance of these programs. However, application opportunities are often posted in short windows and require quick turnaround for full project consideration. Additionally, most applications are not considered complete without a board resolution from the applying organization. These short postings and quick turnarounds often*

do not sync with the District's commission cycle. This results in either missed opportunities or the need for retroactive ratification by the board after a grant's deadline has passed. In order to ensure future grant deadlines are not missed, and to minimize the amount of ratification asked of the board, broader authorization is being sought for senior District staff to apply for any grant (private, state, federal or other) that will help offset the cost of any upcoming capital project. These projects are enumerated in the 2024 Update to the Comprehensive Master Plan.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Williams asked about the Brundidge barn on the master plan, if it were likely that the District would receive a grant to restore the barn. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that a potential grant for preservation has been in the works by the Kane County Planning department. This grant would be county-wide. If this grant opens and becomes available staff could potentially submit for this project. More information will be provided.*

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz

**SECONDER:** Bill Roth

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

#### X. Executive

##### **2024 Update to the 2015 Comprehensive Master Plan**

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the 2024 update to the Comprehensive Master Plan.*

*Provided background information noting this would be the final update to the 2015 plan.*

*The District is currently undergoing a new plan with Smith Group.*

**DISCUSSION:** *None.*

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Dale Berman

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

#### XI. New Business

*None.*

#### XII. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation, and Personnel

*None.*

#### XIII. Communications

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the District's Annual Report that was recently published. On the cover is a blue spotted salamander that was discovered by a biological survey, a sighting with a single male salamander with evidence of breeding. This sighting is a record as it is the first time ever seen in Kane County. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that this is a testament to the Districts' efforts in restoration, in addition to the whooping cranes that were spotted at Muirhead Springs Forest Preserve. (Commissioner Allan arrived at 8:58 AM)*

*Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk shared pictures of the Maple Sugaring Event. She thanked all the volunteers and staff that attended.  
Commissioner Allan thanked staff for all of their hard work in making outstanding events for all.*

**XIV. President's Comments**

*None.*

**XV. Department Reports**

**RESULT: ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Mo Iqbal

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

**XVI. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.*

**RESULT: ACCEPTED AND PLACED ON FILE**

**MOVER:** Mike Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Rick Williams

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Gary Daugherty, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Michael Linder, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Bill Tarver Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young

**ABSENT:** Deborah Allan, Mark Davoust, Anita Lewis, Clifford Surges

Mavis Bates, President Pro-Tem  
Forest Preserve District Commission  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary

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Myrna Molina  
Board Secretary