



1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320  
Geneva, IL 60134

# Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Chair Cheryl Strathmann, President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem, Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mike Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Mike Linder, Vern Tepe

Thursday, April 25, 2024

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, April 25, 2024 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

**PRESENT** Chair Cheryl Strathmann  
Board Member Mavis Bates  
Board Member Michelle Gumz (Remote)  
Board Member Michael Kenyon  
President Chris Kious  
Board Member Vern Tepe  
Board Member Ron Ford (Remote)  
Board Member Anita Lewis  
Board Member Michael Linder (Remote)

**Also Present:** Commissioners Allan (Remote), Juby (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Blackburn, Graser; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez & Trades Mgr. Darby; HR Dir. Clough; Chief of Police Burger; Dir. of Community Affairs Metanchuk; Admin staff Rafferty, Figliozzi and Attorney Hodge.

### II. Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2024

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Vern Tepe

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Michael Linder

### III. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to three minutes)

*None.*

### IV. Bids and Proposals

**TMP-24-2252** Resolution Approving a Bid for the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve Site Improvements

*Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez presented the bid for the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve site improvement project. In 2020, the District applied for an Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Open space Land Acquisition (OSLAD) grant to renovate the main parking lot, boat launch, shelters, restroom, regional trail system and surrounding natural areas at the preserve. Due to the impacts of COVID, the grant was not*

awarded until August of 2022. Since that time, there have been significant increases in construction costs, primarily grant-related changes to the ADA boat launch to accommodate the fluctuations and conditions of the Fox River.

The District conducted a formal bid process for the improvements. Bids were publicly advertised, with four (4) bidders responding on April 9, 2024. The responsible, lowest bidder was Obsidian Asphalt Paving with a base bid plus alternate 1 of \$1,293,604.70. Additionally, \$48,796.00 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$1,342,400.70.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Tepe asked about the previous bid that came in over budget and asked how it related to the current 4 bids that were received. Chief of Planning presented the abstract included in the agenda packet and provided the comparison. Commissioner Lewis asked about the increase of the past few years. Chief of Planning noted that the increase has been significant. Commissioner Kenyon commented that inflation has created the issue. The project has been going on for four years and labor and materials have increased significantly. Commissioner Kenyon asked about the company. Chief of Planning explained that the company broke off from a company the District has used in the past.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Executive Committee  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Anita Lewis  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe

**TMP-24-2241** Resolution Approving a Bid for the Construction Project for the Centennial Garden at Fabyan Forest Preserve

*Dir. of Ops. Jensen presented the bid for the construction project of the Centennial Garden at the Fabyan Forest Preserve. Soil sampling beginning in 2020 has shown an elevated pH level in the flower beds surrounding the limestone walkways. The pH levels in the adjacent beds consistently record at over 8.0, while the baseline for Fabyan Forest Preserve as a whole has been found to average 6.0. The increased alkalinity of the soils has resulted in poor health of remaining plant material, and become uninhabitable for some desirable and native species. This project will reduce limestone runoff of the existing walkways into adjacent flower beds which is believed to be the cause of the localized, increased pH levels; as well as assist in a reduction of resources and maintenance time of the limestone walkways. Staff is recommending the replacement of existing limestone walkways with concrete walkways throughout the Centennial Garden at Fabyan Forest Preserve.*

The bid was sent to 20 vendors with 3 responding. Provantage Systems, Inc. out of St. Charles, Illinois was the lowest qualified bidder, with a total bid in the amount of \$65,819.00. Staff recommends a contingency of \$5,000.00 to cover any unforeseen additional costs that may arise during this project.

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kious noted that this preserve was one of the most popular. Dir. of Ops. Jensen responded that yes, the centennial garden is one of the most heavily reserved and needs attention due to the limestone trail wash out. Brief conversation ensued.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Executive Committee  
**MOVER:** Mavis Bates  
**SECONDER:** Anita Lewis  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe

**V. New or Unfinished Business**

*None.*

**VI. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, License Agreements, Potential Litigation and Personnel**

*None.*

**VII. Communications**

*Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk presented photos and a video from the Earth Day tree planting event held Saturday, April 20th, 2024. The district had live music for the event. Dir. Metanchuk thanked all the staff and volunteers that attended.*

*Dir. Metanchuk promoted the Native Plant Sale event on Saturday, April 27, 2024. She indicated that the online sales are closed and there will be plenty of plants, trees and shrubs for purchase in person, the event will be held in the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve from 8AM to 12PM.*

*Commissioner Bates thanked NRM Dir. Chess for joining her at a recent Morton Arboretum Tree Ordinance discussion. She was pleased to have District representation as well as Asst. State’s Attorney Cermak.*

**VIII. Chairman's Comments**

*None.*

**IX. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 10:04 AM.*

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Mavis Bates

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Michael Linder

Cheryl Strathmann, Chair  
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozi*

Gabriella Figliozi  
Recording Secretary