



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

## Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem Mavis Bates, Treasurer Bill Lenert,  
Secretary Myrna Molina, Dale Berman, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl  
Strathmann, Vern Tepe

**Thursday, May 9, 2024**

**8:30 AM**

**Board Room**

### **I. Call to Order**

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, May 9, 2024. President Kious called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

**PRESENT** President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious  
Commissioner Dale Berman  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Michael Kenyon  
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina (Remote)  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez (Remote)

**ABSENT** Commissioner Mavis Bates

**Also Present:** Commissioners Allan (Remote), Juby (Remote), Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; CFO Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk; HR Dir. Clough and staff Misner; Dir. of Ops. Jensen & staff Umstead; Chief of Police & Dir. of Public Safety Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Hodge.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from April 4, 2024**

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**  
**MOVER:** Cheryl Strathmann  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

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

*None.*

### **IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from April 2024**

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Dale Berman  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

**V. Finance and Administration**

**TMP-24-2247** Resolution Authorizing a Five-Year Renewal to the Use and License Agreement with Anderson Humane

*Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez presented the renewal of the Anderson Humane lease agreement. There were conversations regarding site clean up.*

**DISCUSSION:** *None.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission  
**MOVER:** Cheryl Strathmann  
**SECONDER:** Anita Lewis  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

**TMP-24-2251** Ordinance for the Annual Budget Appropriation Fiscal Year 2024-2025

*CFO Petschke presented the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget. Prior year trends were reviewed, and a priority analysis of new initiatives/purchases was created to determine the best uses of the funds available. The General Fund revenues are expected to increase slightly, from \$10,992,705 in the current year to \$12,036,081. The property tax increase was \$592,956. This was due to the Commission approval of both new construction and CPI increase from the prior year's levy. This year's General Fund budget also includes a revenue recapture, consisting of \$84,491.77 that is added to the levy by Kane County to recoup any previous tax year calculation errors.*

*CFO Petschke highlighted changes in revenue including Settler's Hill Golf Course and donated lands management.*

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained the Compensation and Classification Study implementation expense. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that District salaries have not been adjusted since 2017. McGrath Consulting, will provide their final report with corresponding policies and the implementation of this report in June 2024. CFO Petschke stated that the District has a long history of passing balanced budgets, however there is some surplus in this year's budget. The carryover was mainly vehicles and fuel systems, due to the ongoing vehicle production lag caused by part shortages and Enterprise's inability to uphold their commitments in our agreements.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Lewis asked about the health insurance premiums, she noted that Kane County had received a quoted increase of 10%, and wanted to know how the District was able to lock in a lower rate. CFO Petschke responded that various factors are different from the County, the District utilizes IPBC as a broker that analyzes the District's data, as a generally younger group, the rates are lower.*

*Commissioner Kenyon recommended staff to add signs of projects that are coming soon in preserves, to "brag" of what will be coming soon. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that staff can add signs.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Dale Berman  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

**VI. Planning & Utilization**

**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:** *None.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Cheryl Strathmann  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

**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:** *Commissioner Kenyon asked how long the trails have been deteriorating. Dir. Jensen responded that evidence of this starting around 2015. The District hired a Horticulturist in 2020, and they noticed the decay right away and steps to mitigate have been in the process since. This will eliminate the further implications of poor plant health due to the limestone run off.*

**RESULT:** **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Dale Berman  
**AYE:** Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates

**VII. New or Unfinished Business**

*None.*

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

*None.*

**IX. Communications**

*Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk provided an update of current events and shared photos. May 1, 2024 was the opening of the campgrounds for the season. This year, having online reservations established allowed campers to have the sites already reserved. Dir. Metanchuk presented an interactive Treeline Newsletter. The links within the digital flyer are active, you can select the program and it automatically prompts the registration page.*

*Commissioner Roth asked about the left-over inventory from the native plant sale. Dir. Metanchuk responded that the vendor does accept some returns, also staff added an online blast sale for the following day, the remaining plants are planted in the preserves. Commissioner Kenyon expressed how pleased he was to see District staff working together during the plant sale.*

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur provided a brief update from the IAPD Legislative Conference. He stated that a lot of state legislators were in attendance. One key topic to note, Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) were in discussions that may potentially be pulled. Unfortunately, the District relies heavily on grant funding sourced from these, specifically OSLAD funds.*

*Commissioner Lewis asked about lobbying. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that District staff participates as an active member of IAPD and they lobby on the District's behalf. Commissioner Lewis noted that Kane County funds a full-time lobbyist, and the District could potentially benefit from this source as well.*

*Commissioner Strathmann asked about the all-terrain wheelchair the District will purchase this fiscal year. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the idea of the demo is to allow for all trails to be ADA accessible. Commissioner Strathmann asked if the all-terrain wheelchair has different sizes, adult and or child. ED Haberthur responded that the demo is the adult size, however that is a great point, and something the District can follow up on.*

*Commissioner Lewis asked about the Johnson's Mound Centennial Project. ED Haberthur responded that staff has been working diligently on details for the sponsorship opportunities. More information will be provided.*

**X. President's Comments**

*None.*

**XI. Financial Reports**

*Reports A-C were moved together*

- A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through March 2024
- B. Cash & Investment Report through March 2024
- C. Income Statement through March 2024

**RESULT:**                   **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**MOVER:**                   Dale Berman  
**SECONDER:**              Cherryl Strathmann  
**AYE:**                      Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:**                 Mavis Bates

**XII. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:10AM.*

**RESULT:**                   **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**  
**MOVER:**                   Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:**              Dale Berman  
**AYE:**                      Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Michael Kenyon, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez  
**ABSENT:**                 Mavis Bates

Christopher Kious, President  
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary