



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

## Forest Preserve District Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

8:30 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Kious called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Kious asked Commissioner Mike Kenyon to lead the pledge.

### III. Roll Call

#### PRESENT

President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina  
Commissioner Deborah Allan (Remote, Arrived in person at 9:00AM)  
Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Dale Berman (Arrived in person at 8:48 AM)  
Commissioner Mark Davoust (Arrived in person at 8:57 AM)  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz  
Commissioner Mo Iqbal  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Michael Kenyon  
Commissioner Bill Lenert  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Michael Linder  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Monica Silva  
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Clifford Surges (Arrived in person at 9:03 AM)  
Commissioner Vern Tepe  
Commissioner Rick Williams  
Commissioner David Young  
Commissioner Gary Daugherty  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Ron Ford

#### REMOTE

#### ABSENT

**Others Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFO Petschke & staff Carrano; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough & staff Cleave, Herakovich; NRM Dir. Chess; Ops. Dir. Jensen & Staff Umstead; 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)**

*Kane County resident Mark Schrage commented on meeting agenda procedures for the Forest Preserve District. He stated he was unable to locate the meeting agenda through the Kane County website.*

*Community Affairs Dir. Metanchuk explained to the public that the Forest Preserve District is a separate governmental entity. Although the District shares the same Board members per the Downstate Forest Preserve Act, the District has a website where all agenda packets and minutes are posted within the statutory posting requirements/ Dir. Metanchuk navigated the website and shared for all the view, at [www.kaneforest.com](http://www.kaneforest.com).*

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from April 9, 2024**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

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

**ABSENT:** Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, and Clifford Surges

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

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Mavis Bates

**SECONDER:** Cherryl Strathmann

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

**ABSENT:** Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, and Clifford Surges

**VII. Presentations**

**Governor's Volunteer Service Award: Outstanding Senior Volunteer Winner Donald Purn**

*Volunteer Coordinator Robb Cleave introduced and presented the 23/24 Governor's Volunteer Service award to Don Purn. Don Purn is a longtime co-steward, alongside June Keibler for the Schweitzer Woods natural areas. Mr. Purn has assisted in the improvements of the exterior of the Schweitzer Woods environmental center for the pollinator species. He has cataloged with professional level photographs over many years. He works with the Friends of the Fox organization that utilize the space as well. Mr. Purn is a history buff, an amazing resource for the natural areas and the historical background of the property. Mr. Purn accepted the award and spoke briefly of his love and passion of the volunteer work.*

**VIII. Finance and Administration**

**FP-R-24-05-3085** Resolution Authorizing a Five-Year Renewal to the Use and License Agreement with Anderson Humane  
*(Commissioner Berman arrived in person at 8:48 AM)*

*Chief of Planning and Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez presented the renewal of the Anderson Humane lease agreement. Anderson Humane Wildlife formerly known as Fox Valley Wildlife Center has been in operation at Elburn Forest Preserve since 2001. This organization operates a wildlife hospital for the care of sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife of Kane County. The current agreement expired in January of 2024. The terms of the new agreement are consistent with the previous agreements, with the following adjustment:*

The proposed renewal agreement has been updated to allow for the installation of a construction trailer within the parking lot to provide additional nursery care space. The trailer if installed, will be at the sole expense and liability of Anderson Humane, including any County required permits. Anderson Humane will remove the trailer when their lease ends with the District.

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Silva expressed her gratitude to the staff at Anderson Humane for all the work they do. She was in favor of the renewal agreement with Anderson Humane. Commissioner Iqbal had questions regarding the agreement, Attorney Hodge explained that the agreement has been reviewed by legal, and is simply a renewal of the terms for 5 years.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Bill Lenert  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Bill Tarver  
**ABSENT:** Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, and Clifford Surges

**FP-O-24-05-0603 Ordinance for the Annual Budget Appropriation Fiscal Year**

*2024-2025 (Commissioner Davoust arrived in person at 8:57AM)*

*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. CFO Petschke highlighted changes in revenue including Settler's Hill Golf Course and donated lands management. (Commissioner Allan arrived in person at 9:00 AM)*

*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. Exec. Dir. Haberthur discussed the construction and development section, noting the 1925 Centennial Project at the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve.*

**DISCUSSION:** *brief conversation occurred.*

*(Commissioner Surges arrived in person at 9:03 AM)*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon  
**SECONDER:** Dale Berman

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Bill Tarver, Clifford Surges

**ABSENT:** Ron Ford

**IX. Planning and Utilization**

**FP-R-24-05-3086** 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 Iqbal noted two parts to the bid. He asked about the ADA improvements and the asphalt. Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez responded that the ADA improvement is for the boat launch, and the asphalt is for the parking lot.*

**RESULT:** **ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:** Deborah Allan

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Bill Tarver, Clifford Surges

**ABSENT:** Ron Ford

**FP-R-24-05-3087** 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.

*(Commissioner Silva steps away at 9:10 AM)*

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kious stated that this is a great project, this is a popular preserve and used frequently.*

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Dale Berman

**SECONDER:** Bill Roth

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Bill Tarver, Clifford Surges

**ABSENT:** Ron Ford, Monica Silva

**X. New Business**

*None.*

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

*None.*

**XII. Communications**

*Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk presented photos of the earth day event and the annual plant sale event. Campgrounds opened May 1<sup>st</sup>, the online reservations were well received. New addition is an interactive digital Treeline Newsletter with direct links to the registration page.*

*Commissioner Bates asked about the success rate of the oak trees planted. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that an estimated 25-30% do not make it the first year, staff waters throughout the first year as much as possible. Commissioner Bates asked about the cicadas. Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk responded that staff will have information on the District's social media sites. (Commissioner Silva returned at 9:15 AM)*

*Exc. Dir. Haberthur provided an update, noting this past month staff attended the annual IAPD Parks Day in Springfield. Legislators were in attendance discussing OSLAD grants that are in danger of being pulled from funding. The District relies on OSLAD and LWCF grant funding for land purchases and development.*

*Commissioner Allan commented that OSLAD money should never be swept in any way. She explained that this funding was created specifically to protect open lands, the reason legislation was passed was due to development, this was a small way for money to protect the open spaces, that was the whole reason this tax was created in the first place.*

*Commissioner Surges raised the concern of e-bikes on the trails. He noted there was an incident with an individual riding extremely fast and noted that this has been a re-occurring issue. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District is aware of the concerns and are working on addressing speed limit signage. Police Chief Burger stated that the e-bikes allowed are class 1 and 2, this is to allow everyone to enjoy the trails, however the issue is the same in relation to speeding, such as cars, it cannot control everyone to follow the speed limits, however staff is on alert and trying to mitigate as much as possible.*

**XIII. President's Comments**

*President Kious stated that staff has been looking into these issues and will continue to mitigate as much as possible.*

*Commissioner Kenyon promoted the Foundation Golf Outing on September 12, 2024. There will be sponsorship opportunities. More information will be provided.*

**XIV. Department Reports**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Mavis Bates

**SECONDER:** Michelle Gumz

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver

**ABSENT:** Ron Ford

**XV. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:26AM*

**RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon

**SECONDER:** Mark Davoust

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, Mark Davoust, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Bill Roth, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams, David Young, Deborah Allan, Gary Daugherty, Jarett Sanchez, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver

**ABSENT:** Ron Ford

Chris Kious, Chairman  
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