



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, September 26, 2024

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, September 26, 2024 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. *President Kious called the meeting to order at 9:38am.*

PRESENT President Chris Kious
Chair Cherryl Strathmann (Remote)
Board Member Ron Ford
Board Member Michael Kenyon
Board Member Anita Lewis
Board Member Michael Linder (Remote)
Board Member Vern Tepe

ABSENT Board Member Mavis Bates
Board Member Michelle Gumz

Also Present: Commissioner Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Dir. of Finance Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Chief of Police Burger; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & staff Kovach, Swanson; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty, Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes July 25, 2024 and August 29, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Ron Ford

AYE: Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe

ABSENT: Mavis Bates, Michelle Gumz

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-24-2906 Resolution Approving Bids for Herbicide Control of Woody Resprouts at Various Preserves

Dir. of NRM Chess presented the bid for the herbicide control at various projects.

This District's idea of "preservation" has evolved since its organization in 1925. In the early 20th century, we thought that installing a fence around a beloved natural area,

restricting activities therein and letting-nature take its course, was the best way we could carry out our mission of caring for nature. Now, we know that there is no preservation without active restoration. Our preserves represent fragments of a much greater landscape. Whereas the land used to be able to reestablish a natural equilibrium after a disturbance, the pieces needed to heal are now often located miles away from the altered landscape (if available at all). Intervention is needed to get these restorative resources where they need to be.

In the face of modern fire suppression and landscape fragmentation, invasive species represent a massive threat to woodland biodiversity. Invasive plant species come in many varieties, but two main distinctions land managers make to categorize management are herbaceous (herb-like, for example: garlic mustard and wild chervil) or woody (a plant that produces wood for structure; shrubs and trees, in essence: buckthorn and honeysuckle).

District staff and contractors annually clear dozens of acres. These clearing projects remove large portions of non-native and invasive woody vegetation from degraded woodlands. The removal of mid- and over-story individuals from a woodland opens the forest floor to sunlight. The sunlight equally favors both beneficial species and invasive non-natives. The contracted work detailed below will target invasive woody species for chemical spot control. Through this process, we will promote desirable plants and restore both the structure and function of the woods. Successive years of effort will reduce the effort and cost needed to maintain these areas in perpetuity.

The District publicly advertised the bid and received four responses. The qualified, lowest bid for each of the four projects are as follows:

Project 1 – Hampshire Forest Preserve – (49.7 acres): Bid of \$27,170.00 by Cardinal State, LLC of Barrington Hills, Illinois.

Project 2 – Hampshire Forest Preserve – (26.4 acres): Bid of \$12,497.00 by Woods to Wetlands, LLC of Streamwood, Illinois.

Project 3 – Burnidge Forest Preserve – (12.2 acres): Bid of \$5,994.60 by Woods to Wetlands, LLC of Streamwood, Illinois.

Project 4 – Grunwald Forest Preserve – (22.6 acres): Bid of \$12,790.00 by Cardinal State, LLC of Barrington Hills, Illinois.

***DISCUSSION:** There was brief conversation regarding the types of chemicals used. Dir. Chess explained that the District uses various methods to ensure best practice is used.*

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

TMP-24-2941 Resolution Approving a Public Art Sculpture Installation at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve for the Centennial Celebration
On June 8, 2025

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the art sculpture installation for the District's Centennial Celebration. As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Forest Preserve District, we are excited to announce a transformative project at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn. To honor a century of conservation efforts, the District plans to restore 35 acres

of agricultural land to its natural state, featuring forests and vibrant prairies. A centerpiece of this initiative is the commissioning of the District's first public art sculpture, which will serve as a focal point for visitors and inspire appreciation for our natural environment. In conjunction with this sculpture, the public will have the opportunity to engage in the restoration of a 12-acre woodland area by planting 800 trees, creating a living legacy of conservation. The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was initiated to identify an artist with a proven track record of public art, ensuring the creation of a meaningful and lasting installation. A Centennial Art Committee was created comprised of five staff members, two Forest Preserve Commissioners, the Kane Forest Preserve Foundation Board President and two artists from local arts organizations. This committee evaluated artist submissions based on criteria such as artistic vision, project approach, and relevant experience.

The RFQ process began with a broad call for artists, attracting five submissions from various qualified candidates. Each submission included two to five sketches, project approaches, and relevant experience. After thoroughly reviewing the initial submissions, the artist review committee narrowed the pool to four artists for interviews. During the interview phase, the four artists presented their proposals in detail, allowing the committee to assess their visions and approaches. Following these discussions, the committee refined the selection to three artists, who were asked to create a three-dimensional model of their proposed sculpture. The artists who provided three-dimensional models received a \$1,000 reimbursement for their efforts. This step ensured the committee could evaluate each design's artistic intent and feasibility.

Ultimately, Mike Baur's submission, which features the sculpture "Guardians," stood out as the most compelling. His design reflects a deep understanding of the natural environment and its cycles, aligning perfectly with the project's vision. Inspired by the intricate patterns formed by fallen branches in Midwest forests, Baur's design features two monoliths crafted from high-strength concrete and steel, capturing the essence of protection and guardianship over our landscapes. Baur will spend the winter months preparing materials and building the formwork in his studio, with installation planned for May 2025. The sculpture is designed to be durable and maintenance-free, aligning with our long-term goals for sustainability and conservation.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Lewis asked if it was a local artist. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that yes, the artist has a local art studio in West Chicago. He noted that the artist stated the cement pieces would be reminiscent of fallen trees. Commissioner Roth noted safety concerns, regarding climbing etc. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that staff discussed concerns regarding children climbing, safety etc. These will be addressed with the artist. Dir. Rooks-Lopez provided the artist packet with images of sculptures the artist has created and sold.*

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

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk presented photos of the Volunteer appreciation dinner held on September 18, 2024. She noted that this event was set in a more formal setting, than years passed. Dir. Metanchuk shared pictures of The Fox River Day event on September 21, 2024 was a success, a lot of garbage was collected. She promoted the Harvest Festival at Oakhurst Forest Preserve on September 29, 2024. Finally, a video was shared of the Carpentersville dam removal project. Commissioner Lewis asked about the project timeline. Dir. of Planning and Land Mgmt. responded that the project is currently ahead of schedule, the tentative project completion date is in October.

Dir. Metanchuk reported that staff would be hosting public informational meetings regarding the referendum, and noted that early voting starts today.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:05AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon
SECONDER:	Anita Lewis
AYE:	Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Michael Linder, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe
ABSTAIN:	Anita Lewis
ABSENT:	Mavis Bates, Michelle Gumz

President Christopher Kious
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozi

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Recording Secretary