



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

# Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem Mavis Bates, Secretary Myrna Molina,  
Dale Berman, Anita Lewis, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

**8:30 AM**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Board Room**

**I. Call To Order**

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, December 5, 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.

**Approval of Remote Attendance**

*Commissioners Sanchez and Lewis were approved to attend via video conference.*

**PRESENT** President Forest Preserve District Chris Kious  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Myrna Molina  
Commissioner Dale Berman  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Vern Tepe (In person at 8:42AM)

**ABSENT** Commissioner Jarett Sanchez  
Commissioner Mavis Bates

**Also Present:** Commissioners Garcia, Gripe, Roth, Penesis; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; Chief of Planning & Land Mgmt. Rooks-Lopez; Finance Dir. Petschke & staff Carrano, Marano; Comm. Engagement staff Kovach; HR Dir. Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty; Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

**II. Approval of Minutes from November 7, 2024**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Dale Berman

**AYE:** Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cherryl Strathmann

**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

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

*None.*

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

**RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**TO:** Forest Preserve District Commission

**MOVER:** Myrna Molina

**SECONDER:** Dale Berman

**AYE:** Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cherryl Strathmann

**ABSENT:** Mavis Bates, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**V. Land Acquisition**

**TMP-24-3069** Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the County of Kane and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County for the Conveyance of Stearns Road Greenway Parcels

*Exec. Dir. Haberthur provided background information of the intergovernmental agreement between Kane County and the Forest Preserve District.*

**DISCUSSION:** *President Kious commented on the bridge, noting the recreational bridge is designed for pedestrians and bicycles, not a motor vehicle bridge. The request from Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT), represents a sharing of long-term maintenance responsibilities. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that the Army Corps. of Engineers requires the Forest Preserve District to be the long-term owners of specified parcels. Commissioner Roth stated he represents the District on the east side of the river. He talked about flooding issues along the shoreline of the Fox River. He asked if restoring the bridge would impact the flooding. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the restoration would not change any water flow to the river, however staff would continue to mitigate beaver issues that can cause flooding in these areas. (8:42 AM Tepe arrived in person)*

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

**VI. New or Unfinished Business**

*None.*

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

*None.*

**VIII. Communications**

*Marketing Coordinator Kovach via remote, presented the upcoming nature education programs found in the Treeline Newsletter. She promoted the annual end of year senior stroll and potluck, held today December 5, 2024 at the Barbara Belding lodge located in Brewster Creek Forest Preserve. The Preservation Partners of Fox Valley host a Holidays by Candlelight event each year at the Durant-Peterson House. The ticketed event will be held Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 3pm to 7pm. Kovach presented the Polar Palooza event, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at Creek Bend Nature Center from Noon to 3pm, there will be various winter crafts and games, registration is not required. Lastly, Kovach presented an App created for the District's celebration of 100 years. The 100-year challenge includes an interactive mission, goose chase and points collected to win a gift basket. More information will be provided.*

**IX. President's Comments**

*President Kious thanked staff and fellow Board members for all their hard work throughout the year. He expressed his gratitude and the successes, such as passing the referendum. He noted the importance of celebrating the District's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. Commissioner Gripe asked what is being farmed. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded, corn and soybeans are most common. He explained that All Grass Farms in Brunner Family Forest Preserve runs a regenerative farm including livestock. Dir. Haberthur noted that the District has an Agricultural Coordinator to keep all the farmers in compliance with the restrictions and requirements. President Kious noted that the Agricultural Coordinator position was realized by the funds from the Early Retirement Incentive (ERI). Commissioner Berman commented that the District runs a smooth operation and commended staff.*

**X. Financial Reports**

*Reports A-C were moved together*

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

**RESULT:**           **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**  
**MOVER:**            Vern Tepe  
**AYE:**               Dale Berman, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Myrna Molina, Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe  
**ABSENT:**           Mavis Bates, Jarett Sanchez

**XI. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:58AM.*

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

ChristopherKious, President  
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary