



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

Forest Preserve District Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lenert, Michelle Gumz, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Anita Lewis, Bill Roth,
Cherryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

Thursday, January 8, 2026

8:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Executive Committee meeting was held Thursday, January 8th, 2026. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134.

Remote Attendance Approval

None.

PRESENT President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert
 Commissioner Jon Gripe
 Commissioner Michelle Gumz
 Commissioner Mo Iqbal (Arrived at 8:33AM)
 Commissioner Leslie Juby
 Commissioner Anita Lewis
 Commissioner Bill Roth
 Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann
 Commissioner Rick Williams (Arrived in person at 8:34AM)

ABSENT *None.*

Also Present: Commissioners Allan (Remote), Kious, Molina (Remote); Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFAO Petschke, staff Carrano; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough, staff Misner; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Ops. Jensen; Chief of Police Burger; Exec. Asst. Figliozzi & staff Rafferty and Attorney Sterk.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2025

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Michelle Gumz

AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann

ABSENT: Mo Iqbal, Rick Williams

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

None. (Commissioner Iqbal arrived in person at 8:33AM)

IV. Presentation and Approval of Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem from December 2025

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Mo Iqbal

SECONDER: Cherryl Strathmann

AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann

ABSENT: Rick Williams

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-26-012 Resolution Approving An Execution Of The Fourth Amendment to the License Agreement With Strikers Fox Valley Soccer Club Facility Allowing An Assignment Of The Lease To Fox Valley Soccer Club, Inc.

CFAO Petschke presented the amendment to the license agreement with Strikers Soccer club. Strikers has operated the indoor soccer facility at 1000 S. Kirk Road in Geneva under a license agreement with the District since September 2004. The organization currently provides soccer training and club competition for participants ages 8 through 23 (U8–U23).

The proposed fourth amendment to the License Agreement would permit assignment of the lease to Forge, a newly formed soccer organization created through the merger of Strikers and Campton United Soccer Club. Forge plans to expand programming to include ages 3–8. Under the new structure, Forge will operate programming out of both the District’s indoor facility in Geneva and the Campton United indoor facility in St. Charles, using the new entity’s name. District staff met with representatives from both Strikers and Campton United Soccer Club.

Representatives explained that the merger will enhance player development pathways, serving athletes from recreational participation through the highest levels of competition. This unification combines two of the longest-standing nonprofit soccer organizations in Kane County. Forge will assume the existing Strikers License Agreement under the same terms, with one modification: license payments must be made in full, upfront, for the first three years of the agreement. These payments will be due on September 1 in 2026, 2027, and 2028. Following this initial three-year period, payments will revert to equal installments due on September 1 and January 1 for the remainder of the license term.

Over the term of the agreement, the District will receive license fees totaling:

- \$80,000 annually for each year from 2026–2029, and
- \$85,000 annually for each year from 2029–2034.

There is no financial expense to the District. Forge will be responsible for all operating and maintenance costs associated with the building and grounds within the licensed area. Revenue generated from this License Agreement will be deposited into the General Fund.

(Commissioner Williams arrived in person at 8:34AM)

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Gripe asked about the annual license fees. President Lenert responded that the annual fee was established a few years ago. He noted the terms and the increase in the license fee from 2029-2034. Commissioner Gripe asked what fund the revenue gets allocated to. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the funds are allocated to the General Fund, noting that the District does follow a capital improvement list for the facility, however it is the responsibility of the tenant. Dir. Haberthur noted additionally that the District has worked with Campton United for a long time and it has been a positive relationship.*

RESULT: MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE

TO: Forest Preserve District Commission

MOVER: Michelle Gumz

SECONDER: Bill Roth

AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: None.

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

The Committee moved into Executive Closed Session at 8:37AM to discuss license agreements and personnel.

RESULT: APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE

MOVER: Jon Gripe

SECONDER: Bill Roth

AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: None.

The Committee returned to Open Session at 9:03AM on a motion by Roth, second by Lewis, voice vote, unanimous.

VII. Communications

Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk provided an update on the District's media outreach data regarding the bison. She shared photos and a video that was uploaded to the District's social media. There have been over a million views, the engagement of the bison has exceeded expectations. Various newspapers have contacted the District and conducted interviews with Exec. Dir. Haberthur. Dir. Metanchuk noted that the arrival of the bison has been a tremendous project for the District and the results have been very positive.

Commissioner Gumz commented that the arrival of the bison was emotional to watch. Commissioner Gripe asked if the District could conduct a livestream. Dir. Metanchuk responded that staff is looking into the expense and gathering quotes to evaluate if it is feasible in the budget.

There was discussion regarding safety with pets, specifically dogs near the fence. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that for the safety of the public and their dogs, regulations will need to be amplified. The biggest concern is dogs off leash, it is not allowed, and can become a safety concern for both the pets and the bison. Commissioner Juby suggested adding a radius around the fence for dogs and the public in general. President Lenert responded that staff would work on implementations of fines for those who violate the regulations as well as any other precautions to keep the general public and the bison safe for all to enjoy.

VIII. President's Comments

None.

Commissioner Gumz invited staff and fellow Commissioners to attend the Kane County DUI Court graduation ceremony at the Kane County Judicial Center at 11:30AM. She emphasized that the Forest Preserve District plays a part in recovery for those struggling with addiction by providing a place in nature for the public to enjoy and aid their mental health.

IX. Financial Reports

Finance reports A-C were moved together.

A. Bond Investment Analysis Report through November 2025

B. Cash & Investment Report through November 2025

C. Income Statement through November 2025

RESULT: REPORTS ON FILE BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Bill Roth

AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams

ABSENT: None.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:22AM.

RESULT: APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE

MOVER: Bill Roth

SECONDER: Rick Williams
AYE: Anita Lewis Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby,
Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, Cheryl Strathmann, Rick Williams
ABSENT: *None.*

Bill Lenert, President
Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi, Recording Secretary