



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

## Forest Preserve District Commission Agenda

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

8:30 AM

County Board Room

### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Full Commission meeting was held Monday, January 13, 2026 at the Kane County Government Center located at 719 S. Batavia Ave., Geneva, IL 60134. President Lenert called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

#### Remote Attendance Approval

*Commissioners Allan, Molina*

### II. Roll Call

#### PRESENT:

President Forest Preserve District Bill Lenert  
Secretary Forest Preserve District Mo Iqbal  
Commissioner Alex Arroyo (Arrived in person at 8:46AM)  
Commissioner Mavis Bates  
Commissioner Sonia Garcia  
Commissioner Jon Gripe  
Commissioner Michelle Gumz (Arrived in person at 8:38AM)  
Commissioner Leslie Juby  
Commissioner Chris Kious (Arrived in person at 8:33AM)  
Commissioner Anita Lewis  
Commissioner Michael Linder  
Commissioner Ted Penesis  
Commissioner Bill Roth  
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez (Arrived in person at 8:46AM)  
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann  
Commissioner Clifford Surges  
Commissioner Bill Tarver  
Commissioner Vern Tepe (Arrived in person at 8:40AM)  
Commissioner Rick Williams  
Commissioner David Young

#### REMOTE:

Commissioner Deborah Allan  
Commissioner Myrna Molina

#### ABSENT:

*None.*

**Also Present:** Exec. Dir. Haberthur, CFAO Petschke; Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir Clough; NRM Dir. Chess; Ops. Dir. Jensen; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk & Staff Kovach; Chief of Police Burger; Attorney Price; Exec. Assist. Figliozzi, KCIT staff Peters and members of the public.

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

*President Lenert asked Commissioner Gripe to lead the pledge.*

### IV. Public Comment (Each Speaker is limited to 3 minutes)

*Ginger Romano resident of Kane County, spoke in regards to a zoning topic in South Elgin related to an industrial solar company. She voiced her concern of the endangered Blanding's*

turtles in that area and the partial removal of the equestrian trail at the Burlington Forest Preserve due to the arrival of the bison. (Commissioner Kious arrived in person at 8:33am).

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes from December 9, 2025**

**RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

**MOVER:** Chris Kious

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Rick Williams

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Michelle Gumz, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem December 2025**

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Jon Gripe

**SECONDER:** Bill Roth

**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Rick Williams

**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Michelle Gumz, Jarett Sanchez, Vern Tepe

**VII. Presentations - None**

**VIII. Finance and Administration - None**

**IX. Land Acquisition- None**

**X. Planning and Utilization- None**

**XI. Executive**

**FP-R-26-01-3201 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.**

(Commissioner Gumz arrived in person at 8:38AM) CFAO Petschke presented the amendment to the license agreement with the 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. (Commissioner Tepe arrived in person at 8:40AM)

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Young asked for clarification on the ownership of the facilities. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District owns the Cougars Stadium, the Soccer Club facility, and the Ice Arena.

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**

**MOVER:** Jon Gripe

**SECONDER:** Bill Roth  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Rick Williams  
**ABSTAIN:** Vern Tepe  
**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Jarett Sanchez

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

The Commission moved into Executive closed session at 8:42AM to discuss license agreements and personnel.

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE**  
**MOVER:** Michelle Gumz  
**SECONDER:** Bill Roth  
**AYE:** Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams  
**ABSENT:** Alex Arroyo, Jarett Sanchez

The Commission returned to Open session at 8:54AM on a motion by Roth, second by Linder, Voice Vote, unanimous. (*Commissioners Arroyo and Sanchez arrived in person during closed session*)

**XIII. New or Unfinished Business**

*None.*

**XIV. Communications**

*Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk presented the District's current events. She promoted Polar Palooza, held Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at Creek Bend Nature Center in LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. Senior strolls are offered each month to provide an opportunity for seniors to walk with a naturalist. Dates and times are found in the District's Treeline Newsletter. Lastly, Dir. Metanchuk reported that the District reached over 1M views on social media for the bison post.*

**XV. President's Comments**

*President Lenert commented that the arrival of the bison has received a very successful response overall including social media. He commended staff for their marketing efforts and hard work. Exec. Dir. Haberthur noted that the plan is to have the preserve open in the spring for all to enjoy.*

**XVI. Department Reports**

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**  
**MOVER:** Chris Kious  
**AYE:** Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams

**XVII. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:03AM*

**RESULT:** **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**  
**MOVER:** Bill Roth

**SECONDER:**

Mike Linder

**AYE:**

Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Sonia Garcia, Jon Gripe, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Leslie Juby, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Bill Roth, Jarett Sanchez, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Bill Tarver, Vern Tepe, Rick Williams

Bill Lenert, Chairman  
Forest Preserve District Commission  
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

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