



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

COMMISSION MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Commission meeting was held Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 9:00 AM at Kane County Government Center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A, Geneva, IL 60134. The meeting was opened by President Chris Kious at 9:00 AM. Remote=*

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Kious asked Commissioner Kenyon to lead the pledge.

III. Roll Call

	Status
President Chris Kious	Present
Commissioner Deborah Allan	Present*
Commissioner Mavis Bates	Present
Commissioner Dale Berman	Present
Commissioner David Brown	Present
Commissioner Mark Davoust	Present
Commissioner Ron Ford	Present
Commissioner Drew Frasz	Present
Commissioner Michelle Gumz	Present*
Commissioner Mo Iqbal	Present
Commissioner Michael Kenyon	Present
Commissioner Tom Koppie	Present* (Arrived via remote @ 9:11 a.m.)
Commissioner Bill Lenert	Present
Commissioner Anita Lewis	Present
Commissioner John Martin	Present
Commissioner Myrna Molina	Present
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Present
Commissioner Kenneth Shepro	Present (Departed @ 9:07 a.m.)
Commissioner Monica Silva	Present*
Commissioner Cherryl Strathmann	Present
Commissioner Clifford Surges	Present
Commissioner Vern Tepe	Present
Board Member Todd Wallace	Present (Arrived in person @ 9:34 a.m.)
Commissioner Barbara Wojnicki	Present

Others Present: Exec. Dir. Meyers*; CFO Stanish & staff Petschke*, Marano*; Chief of Planning Anderson Jr.; Dir. of Ops. Goreth & staff Estes*; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk; Chief of Police Burger & staff Glisson*; KC Auditor Wegman; Attorney Hodge; Dir. Haberthur* & staff

Rodeghero*; Recording Secretary Figliozzi; KCIT Peters, Thompson and members of the press and public.

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

None.

V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes of November 9, 2021

(Commissioner Shepro stepped away @ 9:07 a.m.)

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Barbara Wojnicki, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Tom Koppie, Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem for November 2021

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dale Berman, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Michelle Gumz, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Tom Koppie, Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

VII. Presentations:

A. Presentation and Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

Chief of Finance Stanish, introduced Jamie Wilke, partner of Lauterbach and Amen. Wilke presented an overview of the audit as conducted for 2020-2021. Wilke stated this was a clean audit with no journal comments or concerns. The District has been once again, awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the June 31, 2020 audit. This award is conducted by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Wilke highlighted key items for the District, such as a positive equity increase and the retirement of bond debt. She discussed the annual obligations in the report.

DISCUSSION: *(Commissioner Koppie arrived via remote @ 9:11 a.m.) Davoust commended the District staff for another year of excellence. He noted that this type of audit reporting is not always the case in units of government, he was very pleased and congratulated staff.*

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Mark Davoust, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Kenneth C. Shepro, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

VIII. Agreements

A. FP-R-21-12-2922 Resolution Approving Engineering for the RTP 19-154 Interpretive Trail, Signage & Bridge Project at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

Chief of Planning Anderson Jr. presented the RTP grant project. The District received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve Interpretive Trail, Signage & Bridge Project. This project will enhance and expand the trail system, and aid in the interpretation and explanation of the natural and historic resources throughout the preserve. In addition, it will better-provide for collaborative program opportunities between the District's Environmental Education staff at Creek Bend Nature Center and Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley at the Durant House Museum, and Pioneer Sholes School.

Staff has finalized the conceptual design in concert with the IDNR. We are now ready to move to the next stage. The District initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to complete the preliminary, final engineering and permitting portion of this project. The District requested three RFPs from qualified engineering firms. It was determined that Hey and Associates was the responsive engineering firm for the project. It is in the District's best interest to utilize Hey and Associates to complete the preliminary engineering process.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [21 TO 0]
MOVER:	Mark Davoust, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Ron Ford, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cheryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSTAIN:	Tom Koppie
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

IX. Administration

A. FP-R-21-12-2923 Resolution Approving Revisions to the Mission Statement

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk presented the revisions of the District's Mission Statement. Suggestions made at the Commissioner's 2021 Master Plan Retreat, included additional language such as "well-being" as a result of public actions during the pandemic.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Iqbal expressed his concerns with the District changing verbiage to include conservation. He felt it was an illegal change in the mission. Attorney Hodge responded that no legal means or any legal damage to the verbiage has been indicated. The change in the mission statement is valid and does not affect the District's overall action, therefore the Downstate Forest*

Preserve Act has not been violated by including and/or changing language. Commissioner Kenyon agreed with Attorney Hodge. Brief conversation occurred.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [21-1]
MOVER:	Mavis Bates, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Cherryl Strathmann, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
NAYS:	Mo Iqbal
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

B. FP-R-21-12-2924 Resolution to Adopt the IMRF Early Retirement Incentive

President Kious presented the Early retirement program. The ERI program allows eligible employees (IMRF members) to purchase up to five years of IMRF service credit. Eligible employees are those with at least twenty years of service who are at least fifty years of age by the date of their retirement. The member's age at retirement will then be increased by the amount of service credit purchased. For example, if a 50-year-old member purchases five years (or 60 months) of service credit, his or her age will be increased to age 55 for the purposes of determining IMRF retirement benefits. As the District has grown to just over 23,000 acres, administration has been reviewing options to provide for additional staff. Offering the IMRF ERI program from January 31, 2022 through January 31, 2023 is one option that has been reviewed. Initial analysis reflects that an early retirement incentive program offered during that time frame could result in a significant payroll savings for the District, which could then be reinvested into the addition of four to six new full time positions.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michelle Gumz, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

X. Land Acquisition

A. FP-R-21-12-2925 Resolution to Purchase a Vacant Residential Parcel Approximately 49.678 Acres Adjacent to Big Rock Forest Preserve in Big Rock Township

Chief of Planning Anderson Jr., presented the following parcel available for purchase in Big Rock Township. The property is located adjacent to the Big Rock Forest Preserve joining this parcel would allow another access to Jericho Road within Big Rock Forest Preserve.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bill Lenert, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Mavis Bates, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

B. FP-R-21-12-2926 Resolution to Purchase a Vacant Residential Parcel Approximately .17 Acres Adjoining Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora Township

Chief of Planning Anderson Jr., presented the following parcel available for purchase in Aurora Township. This parcel will add to the Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Monica Silva, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Myrna Molina, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

XI. Ordinances

A. FP-O-21-12-0580 Ordinance Amending the General Use Ordinance Chapter 3-Regulations of Sports and Games, Section 5- Bicycling, to Allow for Certain Electric Bicycles (e-bikes).

Electronic bikes (e-bikes) have gained popularity over the past several years and public agencies have been updating their ordinances to allow for their use on trails. Additionally, the County, through the Council of Mayors Pedestrian Committee, has entered into an agreement with a bicycle company to provide rental bikes to various communities along the Fox River Trail. E-bikes are included in the rental package that have been accepted in certain communities such as Elgin and Batavia. This adds to the difficulty in enforcement when e-bikes are accepted by some agencies, but not all, along a multi-jurisdictional trail, such as the Fox River Trail. The District's General Use Regulation Ordinance does not allow for the use of e-bikes on our trails as they are considered a motorized vehicle.

Currently, there are three classifications of e-bikes as follows:

- **Class 1:** Requires the use of the pedals for the bike to engage and maintain the battery motor. These bikes have a governor system that limits the speed of the bike to approximately 20 mph. When the rider stops pedaling, the battery motor will cease.
- **Class 2:** Requires the use of the pedals to engage the battery motor. The rider can then stop pedaling and use a throttle to continue propelling the bike. Similar to a Class I e-bike, the Class II e-bikes have a governor system that limits the speed of the bike to approximately 20 mph.
- **Class 3:** Does not require any use of pedals to engage the battery motor. Also, they have no governor system that would limit the speed of the bike. These bikes can go over 40 mph.

Staff is recommending the Committee consider the inclusion of Class 1 and 2 e-bikes as approved bicycles on District trails.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Cherryl Strathmann, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Dale Berman, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

XII. New or Unfinished Business

A. Presentation and Approval of the Forest Preserve District's 2022 Committee Meeting Schedule and Appointments

Exec. Dir. Meyers presented the 2022 Committee calendar for approval.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez, Commissioner
SECONDER:	David Brown, Commissioner
AYES:	Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki
ABSENT:	Kenneth C. Shepro, Todd Wallace

XIII. Closed Session to Discuss Land Acquisition, Contracts, Litigation, and Personnel

None.

XIV. Communications

(Commissioner Wallace arrived in person @ 9:34 a.m.) HR Dir. Yee provided a brief presentation and background of the Leadership Academy Program the Forest Preserve District provides each year for new employees. This year marks the seventh year with a number of graduates. Comm. Affairs Metanchuk directed staff and public to the District's social media Facebook page for the graduate details and picture. Metanchuk reported that the District has been officially awarded the IAPD Distinguishing Agency Accreditation Award.

XV. President's Comments

President Kious congratulated the graduates of the program and the District staff for their overall achievements.

XVI. Department Reports for November 2021

RESULT: PLACED ON FILE BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Drew Frasz, Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Myrna Molina, Commissioner
AYES: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace
ABSENT: Kenneth C. Shepro

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

RESULT: ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Michael Kenyon, Commissioner
SECONDER: Mark Davoust, Commissioner
AYES: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Dale Berman, David Brown, Mark Davoust, Ron Ford, Drew Frasz, Michelle Gumz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace
ABSENT: Kenneth C. Shepro

Chris Kious, Chairman
Forest Preserve District Commission
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozi

Gabriella Figliozi
Recording Secretary


Myrna Molina
Board Secretary

