



## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

### COMMISSION MINUTES

---

#### I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Commission meeting was held Tuesday, March 8, 2022 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 Bill Lenert to lead the pledge.

#### III. Roll Call

	<b>Status</b>
President Chris Kious	Present
Commissioner Mavis Bates	Present
Commissioner Dale Berman	Present
Commissioner David Brown	Present
Commissioner Ron Ford	Present
Commissioner Drew Frasz	Present
Commissioner Mo Iqbal	Present
Commissioner Michael Kenyon	Present
Commissioner Bill Lenert	Present
Commissioner Anita Lewis	Present
Commissioner John Martin	Present
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Present
Commissioner Cheryl Strathmann	Present
Commissioner Clifford Surges	Present
Commissioner Vern Tepe	Present
Commissioner Barbara Wojnicki	Present
Commissioner Todd Wallace	Present
Commissioner Deborah Allan	Present*
Commissioner Mark Davoust	Present*
Commissioner Michelle Gumz	Present*
Commissioner Tom Koppie	Present*
Commissioner Myrna Molina	Present*
Commissioner Monica Silva	Present*
Commissioner Kenneth Shepro	Present (in person @ 9:20 a.m.)

**Others Present:** Exec. Dir. Meyers; CFO Stanish; Dir. of Ops. Goreth; Landscape Architect Tegge; Dir. of NRM. Haberthur & staff Rodeghero\*; Dir. of Comm. Affairs Metanchuk & Environmental Education Mgr.

McKittrick; Volunteer Coordinator Cleave; Attorney Hodge; Recording Secretary Figliozzi and KCIT staff Peters, Tierney.

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

None.

**V. Presentation and Approval of the Minutes of February 8, 2022**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Ron Ford, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	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
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Kenneth C. Shepro

**VI. Presentation and Approval of the Bills and Commissioners' Per Diem for February 2022**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mavis Bates, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	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
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Kenneth C. Shepro

**VII. Presentations:**

**A. Natural Resource Management 2022 Annual Maintenance Schedule (AMS) Highlights**

*Dir. of Natural Resource Management Haberthur provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Annual Management Schedules (AMS) report. A hard copy was distributed to the Board members. Haberthur provided background information, noting staff meets annually to discuss work needed in the field, management activities and a wish list for future needs. Haberthur provided a comparison chart of work completed for 2020/2021. Highlights included the importance of weed management. Pictures of staff at various preserves applying weed control in order to maintain natural habitats were shared. Haberthur reported on the prescribed burn season, noting last year 2021 was the largest acreage covered due to the mild fall season and that staff was able to hold 41 total burns. Staff devoted a number of hours harvesting, preparing and installing seed, staff received a Com-Ed Pollinator Meadows grant, funds were used for seeding.*

*In 2021, fresh water mussels were successfully propagated, staff is looking forward to installing and continuing with different watersheds. A new disease was discovered among the Blanding's Turtles. This lethal shell eating fungus is being researched, the infected turtles have been quarantined and tests are being administered to find a cure. If successful, they can be released back into their habitat. Haberthur noted staff is working on a feasibility study to have bison in Kane County, more information will be provided. Drone footage was shared of the wetland area of Nelson Lake at Dick Young Forest Preserve that were treated for invasive species with an amphibious vehicle, this*

*demonstrates the type of work that is being contracted to cover large hydric areas within the preserves.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Bates asked about the phragmites, the foreign invader, and noted that the sand-hill cranes are starting to nest in that area. Dir. Haberthur explained that the invasive species looks similar to the native grass, however, staff is able to distinguish the two and are careful to eliminate the nonnative invader.*

*Commissioner Surges asked about volunteer opportunities for the National Honors Society, students that are in need of volunteer hours since the pandemic. Exec. Dir. Meyers referred any and all volunteer needs and inquiries to the District's Volunteer Coordinator, Robb Cleave.*

*Commissioner Iqbal asked about the types of weed management, as well as a possible alternative to the prescribed burns. Dir. Haberthur explained the differences of mechanical versus chemical control. Haberthur also explained, although the burning smoke is not ideal, the quality of the plants and the earth has a greater return rather than mowing, which is not as effective. It is a delicate balance with mowing and burning. He noted that the burning has to be done to maintain the natural grass. Haberthur further noted that, for the carbon balance, it (burning) is better suited. Commissioner Wojnicki commented that the District does not burn the same areas every year. It is on a 5 year return variable.*

## VIII. Agreements

### A. FP-R-22-03-2936 Resolution Approving a Second Amendment to the License Agreement with Centrum East-West Arenas Venture, L.L.C. for the Management of the Fox Valley Ice Arena

*Exec. Dir. Meyers presented the second amendment to the License Agreement with Centrum East West Management Company. In 2008, the District assumed a license agreement with Centrum East-West Arenas Venture to manage the operations of the newly acquired Fox Valley Ice Arena. In 2009, an Amendment was approved by the Commission to utilize 1,600 square feet of space on the first floor for the Public Safety department in exchange for the District assuming the parking lot snow removal. Centrum has asked for a Second Amendment to the License Agreement for the following modifications:*

- Facility Improvements as defined and prioritized from the Kluber Engineering Report that was previously commissioned by the District.
- Proposed facility improvements as requested by RINC Chicago Steel.
- RINC Chicago Steel Ice Usage Agreement.
- Rookies Restaurant Lease.
- Length of term is extended to September 30, 2043, subject to three (3) consecutive five-year options to extend; following the original expiration date of September 30, 2028.
- Annual License fee will be extended with a continued annual increase of 3% for the continuation of the term, including any/all option years.
- District assigns the naming rights of the facility to Centrum in exchange for \$25,000 annually when a naming sponsor contract is active.

*The Second Amendment was prepared by the District's legal counsel.*

**DISCUSSION:** *None. (Commissioner Shepro arrived in person @ 9:20 a.m.)*

**RESULT:** ADOPTED 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, Tom Koppie, Bill Lenert, Anita Lewis, John Martin, Myrna Molina, Jarett Sanchez, Kenneth C. Shepro, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace

## IX. Bids and Proposals

### A. FP-R-22-03-2937 Resolution Approving Final Engineering for the IDNR RTP Grant 19-154 Interpretive Trail, Signage & Bridge Project at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve

*Landscape Architect Tegge, presented the final engineering services for the grant funded LeRoy Oakes interpretive trail project. The Forest Preserve 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. On Dec. 14, 2021, the Commission approved a contract for preliminary engineering with Hey for \$31,650. As part of the value engineering, the District worked with Hey for final engineering and other services. This proposal includes said required professional services at \$45,050. Tegge presented the resolution, he explained the scope of the trail and the installation of mowed trails in the area. This will move users from the Creek Bend nature Center into this area in a more efficient manner. Hay and Associates provided the final engineering.*

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Mark Davoust, Commissioner  
**SECONDER:** Cherryl Strathmann, 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, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace

## X. New and Unfinished Business

### A. FP-R-22-03-2938 Resolution Authorizing Presidents' Expenses Attending the 2022 IAPD/IPRA Annual Conference in Chicago

*Exec. Dir. Meyers presented the conference expenses for the District President for approval. President Kious and staff attended the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference in Chicago, Jan. 27-29, 2022. Expenses for President Kious totaled \$817.64, which included conference registration, hotel (two nights), travel and meals. More than 2,400 parks, recreation and conservation professionals and commissioners attended this multi-day conference, which includes more than 120 educational sessions and workshops, as well as an exhibition hall featuring hundreds*

of product and service vendors. Some commissioners and staff earn continuing-education credits, to maintain professional certification status in their respective fields, through attendance of educational sessions and workshops. Also during the conference, annual meetings are conducted for IAPD, IPRA, the Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts (IACFPD), and the new Forest Preserve and Conservation Section of IPRA of which the District, commissioners and/or staff are members. This year, the District was presented with the Distinguished Agency Accreditation Award and we were joined by Senators Cristina Castro and Donald DeWitte who both received Legislator of the Year Awards.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
<b>AYES:</b>	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, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace

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

*None.*

**XII. Communications**

**A. Kane Forest Foundation Report**

*Commissioner Davoust reported a brief update on the Kane Forest Foundation, noting the annual native plant sale will be held in March. Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk stated the order form was in final stages and would be posted on the website on March 15, 2022. The sale will run March 15 through April 15th, 2022.*

*Commissioner Bates promoted a Kane County event, the Sierra Club will have a zoom meeting discussing native plants and how to choose them for individual gardens.*

**B. 2022-2026 Strategic Plan - Environmental Education Department**

*Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk provided a brief update on the Strategic Plan report, noting this annual plan supports the environmental education department. Barb McKittrick, Environmental Education Manager, encouraged and invited the Commissioners and all public to join programs virtually as well as in person. Since COVID-19, a variety of the programs have shifted to virtual.*

*Dir. Metanchuk reported over 1,200 people attended the Maple Sugaring event over the course of two days. This was the largest attendance recorded. Staff sold out of Maple Syrup. President Kious commented on the excellent job staff does with the demonstrations at the event.*

*Exec. Dir. Meyers thanked staff for the quality reporting with the AMS report as well as the Strategic Plan report.*

**C. 2022 Engineering Excellence Special Achievement Award - Fox River Trail at Raymond Street**

*Exec. Dir. Meyers presented the special achievement award for the Raymond Street tunnel project. Chief of Planning and Operations Anderson Jr. attended the event to receive the award. Pictures were shared.*

**DISCUSSION:** *Commissioner Koppie asked about the timeframe for permitting with the Railroad. Meyers explained that the permitting was not what caused the long term issue during construction, it was the shifting of the rails while the tunnel was being drilled under the railroad line, which caused a lot of start and stopping along the way. The project took a total of eight years. Prior to the construction, the project experienced a couple events of flooding damage and the need for redesign.*

*President Kious appreciated the dedication of the project as it was a necessity for that area, there were a lot issues with flooding. He stated this project is a triumph for the District to give to the constituents.*

**XIII. President's Comments**

*President Kious promoted the Illinois Parks and Recreation magazine, noting a lot of educational information is made available for Forest Preserve Board members.*

**XIV. Department Reports for February 2022**

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Ron Ford, Commissioner  
**SECONDER:** Anita Lewis, 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, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace

**XV. Adjournment**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.*

**RESULT:** ADJOURNED BY VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Michael Kenyon, 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, Kenneth C. Shepro, Monica Silva, Cherryl Strathmann, Clifford Surges, Vern Tepe, Barbara Wojnicki, Todd Wallace

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

Respectfully Submitted,

*Gabriella Figliozzi*

Gabriella Figliozzi  
Recording Secretary

*Myrna Molina*

Myrna Molina  
Board Secretary