



FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF KANE COUNTY

PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 9:30 AM at the Kane County Government Center, 719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A, Geneva, IL 60134. Chairman Theresa Barreiro opened the meeting at 9:35 AM.

Members Present:

<u>Attendee Name:</u>	<u>Status:</u>
Chairwoman Theresa Barreiro	Present
Commissioner Drew Frasz	Present
President Michael Kenyon	Present
Commissioner Chris Kious	Present
Commissioner Deborah Allan	Remote
Commissioner Mo Iqbal	Remote
Commissioner Jarett Sanchez	Remote
Commissioner Steve Weber	Remote
Commissioner Barbara Wojnicki	Absent

Others Present:

Executive Director Monica Meyers; Chief Financial Officer Ken J. Stanish; Chief of Planning & Operations Ken N. Anderson; Director of Operations John Goreth; Community Affairs Director Laurie Metanchuk; Attorney Gerald Hodge; and Recording Secretary Cait Rodeghero

II. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2020

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chris Kious, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
AYES:	Theresa Barreiro, Deborah Allan, Drew Frasz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Steve Weber
ABSENT:	Barbara Wojnicki

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

None.

IV. Agreements

A. Presentation and Approval of a Second Amendment with the Fox Valley Park District for the Use of Oakhurst Forest Preserve for a Community Garden

In 2010, the District entered into a Use Permit and License Agreement with the Fox Valley Park District to establish a community garden at Oakhurst Forest Preserve in Aurora.

The agreement allowed the park district to construct the community garden and coordinate all aspects for its operation including reservations, maintenance, monitoring and policing of the 250 garden plots within the 5-acre area including a small gravel parking lot. This program has been extremely popular and as such, the park district is requesting its second extension of the agreement.

This Second Amendment provides for a term extension of another five (5) years through May 31, 2025 and notes both agencies are members of Park District Risk Management Association (PDRMA) regarding insurance coverage. All other terms of the 2010 agreement remain in place.

This Second Amendment was drafted by the District's legal counsel and reviewed by PDRMA.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chris Kious, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
AYES:	Theresa Barreiro, Deborah Allan, Drew Frasz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Steve Weber
ABSENT:	Barbara Wojnicki

V. Grants

A. Presentation and Approval to Accept a ComEd Green Region Program Grant for Wildflower Seeding Projects at Various Preserves

In early 2020, Natural Resource Management staff applied for a ComEd Green Region Grant, in the amount of \$10,000. This June, we received the award notification for this project pending our acceptance. Funds from this grant will be used to remove invasive species across five mow reduction areas and enrich those areas with pollinator-friendly native wildflower seeds. Total project area will encompass approximately 22 acres.

The goals to be accomplished by this grant are twofold. The first goal is to increase pollinator habitat and native biodiversity county wide; these kinds of small pollinator habitats can act as important stops for migratory pollinator species as well as forage for local species. By spreading the work across several preserves, the hope is to aid in the creation of a functional corridor for migrating species like the monarch butterfly.

The second goal of the project is to promote native species restoration and pollinator awareness. Over 8 acres of restoration would take place at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, which is home to Creek Bend Nature Center. The District's environmental education staff hosts numerous programs and camps at the nature center. By restoring the land surrounding the building, it will create a unique opportunity to educate the public about the importance of pollinators. Additionally, some of this area houses our annual Monarchs and Milkweeds festival, a celebration of national pollinator week.

Projects will also occur at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve (8 acres), Fabyan Forest Preserve (5 acres), Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve (4 acres), Tyler Creek Forest Preserve (3 acres), and Brewster Creek Forest Preserve (2 acres). The total project cost is estimated at \$23,000 with the grant reimbursing the District \$10,000. Seed for this project would need to be accounted for in the next Fiscal Year 21/22 Budget, therefore work would be completed over fall and winter of calendar year 2021.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah Allan, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Mo Iqbal, Commissioner
AYES:	Theresa Barreiro, Deborah Allan, Drew Frasz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Steve Weber
ABSENT:	Barbara Wojnicki

VI. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VIII. Communications

John Goreth informed the Committee that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has encountered difficulties maintaining our regional trail systems. The preserves are incredibly busy, inhibiting staff's ability to mow. The Operations Department has also been severely limited in seasonal help. Normally, each division has 15 seasonals helping over the summer. This year, North Operations only has four, and South Operations only has seven. To catch-up on mowing and do so while no one should be on the trail, staff will mow in the evening, after sunset for roughly three hours.

The idea was brought forward by the Operations Department staff and was discussed with the Safety & Wellness Committee, the Public Safety Department, and PDRMA. The mowers are equipped with lights, and two police squads will escort staff on mowers (front and behind). The goal is to try and get back on schedule with preserve mowing. Staff is planning to begin Aug. 4 at the Dundee Maintenance Facility going north, and on Aug. 5 going south to Grove Ave in Elgin. They will mow again in September, prior to Labor Day Weekend.

The Chairwoman asked if staff would be claiming overtime or compensation time. Operations Director Goreth explained that this does not require overtime or compensation time for either Operations or Public Safety staff, as staff will utilize flexible scheduling.

Executive Director Meyers and Operations Director Goreth clarified that this initiative will be done on the Fox River Trail, with the hope of expanding later to the Illinois Prairie Path.

The Committee asked to be notified of exact locations of mowing by staff, and asked about notification to neighbors.

Community Affairs Director Metanchuk said she would post a press release to the District's website and on social media.

IX. Chairman's Comments

None.

X. Adjournment

Adjourned at 9:52 AM.

RESULT:	APPROVED WITH VOICE VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mo Iqbal, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Drew Frasz, Commissioner
AYES:	Theresa Barreiro, Deborah Allan, Drew Frasz, Mo Iqbal, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Jarett Sanchez, Steve Weber
ABSENT:	Barbara Wojnicki

Theresa Barreiro, Chairwoman
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Adjournment until: Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 9:30 am
Via Video Conference held at the
Kane County Government Center, Building A
719 Batavia Avenue, Geneva, Illinois

Respectfully Submitted,

Cait Rodeghero

Cait Rodeghero
Recording Secretary