

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
August 18, 2008**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday, August 18, 2008 at a Leland property being considered for purchase at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were committee members, Ms. Fauci, Mr. Gudmunson, Ms. DeFauw, Mr. Rosemier and Mr. Anderson as well as Superintendent Hannan. Ms. Turner and Mr. Lyle were absent. Guests included Ms. Peggy Doty, Mr. Dan Lobbes and Mr. Al Roloff.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Fauci began by asking if there were any changes to the July 15, 2008 minutes. Mr. Rosemier moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Fauci noted that following the evening's business, the Committee members and any guests who cared to attend would be allowed to walk through the property area. Ms. Fauci asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the agenda. Ms. DeFauw moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and the motion passed unanimously.

**WELCOME TO GUESTS**

Ms. Fauci welcomed the guests for the evening.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hannan noted that he would be providing the Committee members with the first look at the 2009 budget and reminded the Committee that this would be discussed in September and October with a final vote at the November meeting. He then highlighted several areas of the budget noting that page A shows the revenue for the last two years and then shows the FY2009 budget requests.

In the FY 2009 budget, and he called attention to the item lines that showed projected revenues and expenses. The IDNR grant money for the 2007 Afton Addition had been placed in FY2008 following a conversation with the IDNR indicating that the money would be distributed this fiscal year, rather than the next year. This money will then be placed into the reserved land acquisition fund. Ms. Fauci asked where the money is actually (what banks) held following receipt. Mr. Hannan responded that the funds are deposited in county banks identified by the County Treasurer as having the best interest rate. The Tort Fund will also show a surplus this year following the move to PDRMA insurance coverage. Mr. Hannan commented there will be an insurance reserved fund that can be used to cover any changes identified as needed for the Forest Preserve District to address Risk Management work as per PDRMA. A small increase has also been built into the PDRMA line to address any potential rate increases in 2009.

Mr. Hannan further noted that the IMRF line also shows that the levy will be used to cover the required \$100,000 IMRF actuarial requirement for the year. The levy will then be dropped in future years once that fund reserve actuarial balance has been achieved.

Mr. Anderson asked how the \$100,000 figure was derived. Mr. Hannan responded that was a figure provided by the IMRF actuaries at the state level as required to cover current and future expenses to the fund. Mr. Anderson asked where that fund is held. Mr. Hannan responded that it is his understanding that the funds are to be retained by the County in a reserved fund and then dispersed to the State as needed to cover any draw against the funds. Mr. Anderson commented that it was certainly his preference that the funds be held at the local level. Ms. Fauci noted that the next meeting of the Committee can be held in Sycamore to allow Mr. Gary Hanson, County Chief Financial Officer, to attend and answer any further questions.

Mr. Hannan then noted that the referendum contained reference that 10% of the land acquisition dollars realized could be used for land resource management and maintenance. Mr. Hannan commented that he is recommending that 3% of the 10% figure be used to fund the hiring of a part-time Natural Resource Manager. This position would then assume responsibility for the Land Stewardship programs as well as other natural resource forest, wetland and prairie management work on existing and new properties.

Mr. Hannan then reviewed the various levy percentages allowable and reviewed the various funds and reserves that will be outlined individually in the final budget proposal.

Mr. Hannan then closed by reminding the Committee that he would bring drafts of the appropriations and levy ordinances for review at the next meeting.

Ms. Fauci asked if the Committee members had any further questions on the budget at this time. Mr. Anderson reiterated that he would like Mr. Hanson to attend the next meeting to address any further reserve questions.

### **FOREST PRESERVE MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mr. Hannan noted that as usual, the monthly Forest Preserve reports were included in the packet. He pointed out that the Youth Court Services had recently put in a playground and that there were also several other improvement projects underway such as the repair of the bridge at Russell Woods by Forest Preserve staff. The Highway Department engineer has agreed to arrange a review of the bridge repair work. PDRMA had looked at the bridge and gave it a rating of "OK" during the recent risk review, but the staff has concerns about some wood rot and the overall structural weakness.

Mr. Hannan noted that there was extensive tree damage during the recent heavy storms that went through the County; however he commented that the damage was well contained within the Preserve properties. Forest preserve staff did an excellent job of post storm clean up. The Highway Department lent the Preserve a wood chipper that allowed the staff to do much of the tree and brush chipping. At this time, there is only one location at Nehring Forest Preserve where contractual work with a tree service will be required.

Mr. Hannan also pointed out that two successful prairies walks had been held by the District and thanked Mr. Roloff for his work in leading the events and noted that the attendees were very impressed with the work at Afton. A gentleman recently contacted Mr. Hannan asking to bring his amateur astronomers group to Afton and was also extremely complimentary regarding the beautiful site and the diversity of activities that can be enjoyed there.

In other business, Mr. Hannan noted that when the Forest Preserve bought the Great Western Trail section on the eastern outskirts of Sycamore, it gained a small corner of a structure that was adjacent to the Trail. The Forest Preserve District has been contacted by a woman interested in acquiring the small house and receiving a license easement so that a private party can purchase the structure for a planned health business.

Mr. Rosemier commented that another good use for the property might be a bike rental facility to accommodate individuals wishing to use the Path. Mr. Hanna commented that bike trails are often a boom to areas and noted there were distinct advantages in encouraging entrepreneurial interests that would enhance the Path's popularity. Mr. Hannan commented he would, of course, also notify PDRMA of the easement arrangement. Mr. Hannan then closed by noting that he and Ms. Doty will also be attending an upcoming Genoa City Council meeting to finalize the move of the Ellwood Cabin to the Russell Woods property.

#### **MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci asked if there were any Committee Member comments. Mr. Rosemier noted that he had received an email from the U of I Extension discussing a Kane County "Certified Naturalist" program. He encouraged the development of a similar program in DeKalb and commented that it would be similar to the certification of a Master Gardener. He asked how the District could go about pursuing this with the U of I Extension. Mr. Hannan responded that he would contact the Extension and inquire about what would be required to undertake such a program.

#### **CHAIR COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci noted that she had been contacted by the Kishwaukee Kiwanis regarding some damaged areas of the Peace Road Bike Path that the Kiwanis had been instrumental in creating with the District. The organization reports that it has funds available and would like to provide whatever would be necessary to correct the damage. Mr. Hannan reported that the area in question was a small area damaged by a local farmer exiting their field when the plow damaged the asphalt. Currently the area has been identified by the Highway Department as needing a pipe beneath it and that could result in some major ditch work being involved. He further reported that the Highway Department would also be seal coating the path in 2009 for a cost to the District of approximately \$5,000. Ms. Fauci commented that the Kiwanis has \$15,000 budgeted toward path improvements and recommended that Mr. Hannan contact them to come to an arrangement. Mr. Hannan noted he would do that. Mr. Gudmunson asked if a pipe were put in under the damaged area, where would the water then be routed – to the street or into the field? Mr. Hannan noted that was a question he would need to work with the Highway Department to resolve. Mr. Lobbes commented that perhaps a French drain approach might be a good compromise in that particular situation.

### **LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Prior to the beginning of the discussion, Ms. Fauci asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Rosemier moved the Committee into executive session for the purpose of discussing current information on District land acquisition opportunities, seconded by Ms. DeFauw. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 5 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative and 2 absent. With the exception of Mr. Lobbes, the guests left the area for the duration of the session. Following the Executive Session, Ms. DeFauw moved to return the Committee to public session, seconded by Mr. Rosemier. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 5 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative and 2 absent.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson  
Forest Preserve District Committee  
JF:kjr