

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
October 14, 2008**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the Freedom Room in the DeKalb County Legislative Center at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were committee members, Ms. Fauci, Ms. Turner, Ms. DeFauw, Mr. Lyle, Mr. Rosemier and Mr. Anderson as well as Superintendent Hannan. Mr. Gudmunson arrived later in the meeting. Guests included Aaron Ritter, County intern and John Anderson and Roger Steimel, County Board members.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Fauci began by asking if there were any changes to the September 16, 2008 minutes. Mr. Lyle moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Turner and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Fauci asked if there were any other additions or corrections to the agenda. Ms. DeFauw moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Turner and the motion passed unanimously.

**WELCOME TO GUESTS**

Ms. Fauci welcomed Mr. Ritter and Mr. Steimel to the meeting.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION – FY 2009 BUDGET**

Mr. Hannan began by reminding the Committee that the levy and budget must be forwarded to the full body of Commissions for their attention at the November full Board meeting. A public hearing regarding the budget for the District will be held at the November Committee meeting. This public hearing must be held prior to the Commissioners holding a final vote on the budget.

Mr. Rosemier moved to forward the levy and budget to the Commissioners, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosemier asked if the new budget had been built with the assumption that no new property would be obtained or whether there were provisions for management of new acquisitions that might occur outside the current budget structure. Mr. Anderson noted that there could be adjustments made to the budget to address new acquisitions if they arose. Mr. Hannan noted that management of land acquisitions was already addressed in the 10% provision of the referendum.

**FOREST PRESERVE MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mr. Hannan reported that he met with the Army Corp of Engineers for a review of the County's wetland bank. The Corps was very impressed with the biodiversity as well as the management of the bank overall. Mr. Rosemier asked if the Corp provided a written evaluation and Mr. Hannan noted that he would provide the report to the Committee

when available. Ms. Fauci asked what happened to banks that failed the review. Mr. Hannan responded that they would not be forwarded mitigation credits until they reached compliance. He concluded by noting that some wetland banks do fail due to a lack of understanding about the full requirements of the process. Mr. Anderson asked if there were any deficiencies noted, although more wetland trees can be planted. Mr. Hannan noted that John Betker of the Rock Island Corps of Engineers and other Corp of Engineer staff performed the review.

Mr. Hannan then reminded the Committee that that one year ago, and again this September major flooding had struck the County. At that time, some damage did occur to the wetlands involved in the bank and other preserves. However, there will be reimbursement coming to assist in the repairs when the Illinois Emergency Management Agency disburses the Federal funds for the damage.

The minutes then note that Mr. Gudmunson arrived and joined the Committee discussions.

Mr. Hannan then reported that a front page article in the local paper had appeared that discussed local runners training for the LaSalle Bank Marathon in Chicago at the Great Western Trail here in the County. A story was also done on the recent prairie and wetland seed gathering and tree planting efforts by District volunteers. On the same day as the seed gathering a Jeff's Tree's planting event was also held at the Afton Addition.

Ms. Turner asked if there could be a focus story requested on the Jeff's Tree's program. Mr. Hannan indicated he would ask the family and organization if that was something they would like to pursue. Mr. Rosemier asked if the District were still considering pursuing a way to encourage donations to the project through the Preserve web site or other path. Mr. Hannan noted he would see what the family's wishes were in that regard as well. Ms. Fauci noted that the events are always very uplifting and act as a wonderful memorial.

Mr. Hannan commented that an NIU Honors botany class as well as a Kishwaukee College botany class using the Afton and Potawatomi Woods sites as labs for recent class work. Local educator, Paul Sorenson is teaching one of the classes.

Mr. Hannan then closed by handing out PDRMA risk management monthly mailings for the Committee's review.

### **MEMBERS COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci asked if there were any Committee member comments. Hearing none, she proceeded to the Chair's Comments.

### **CHAIR COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci noted a recent National Geographic article on Trail Tending and how valuable the hours of volunteer assistance to the District is. She further noted that the volunteer work assistance was extremely well coordinated by Mr. Hannan.

At this time, Board member John Hulseberg also joined the Committee. Mr. Hulseberg asked if he could address the Committee. He noted that a former Forest Preserve employee, Paul Nolan, would be turning 88 within the next month and is currently experiencing some health difficulties. He asked if the Committee would be interested in purchasing a donation brick for the Shabbona Park District in Mr. Nolan's name honoring his service to the District and the County. Ms. Fauci noted that the Committee would take that under consideration after obtaining further information on the donation amount and timing.

#### **LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE**

Prior to the beginning of the discussion, Ms. Fauci asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Anderson moved the Committee into executive session for the purpose of discussing current information on District land acquisition, seconded by Ms. Turner. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 7 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative. With the exception of Mr. Steimel and Mr. Anderson, the guests left the meeting. Following the Executive Session, Mr. Rosemier moved to return the Committee to public session, seconded by Ms. DeFauw. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 7 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative.

Following the return to active session, Mr. Rosemier moved to bring a presentation to the full Board of Commissioners at their next meeting on the acquisition of the Leland property being considered for acquisition, seconded by Ms. Turner and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson  
Forest Preserve District Committee  
JF:kjr