

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 20, 2012**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday November 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Administration Bldg, Conference East. In attendance were committee members: Ms. Fauci, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Augsburger, Mr. Deverell, Ms. Turner, Ms. DeFauw and Superintendent Hannan. Ms. Fullerton and Mr. Newport were absent. Guest Melissa Castillo was also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fauci asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2012 meeting. Mr. Augsburger moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Mr. Deverell and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Fauci began by noting that it appears no Executive Session will actually be needed tonight, so the Agenda will be amended to reflect that. She then asked for an approval of the evening's amended agenda. Mr. Deverell moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Ms. Turner and the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET LEVY AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES

Ms. Fauci began by opening the Public Hearing for the FY2013 Budget. Hearing no comments from the audience, she then closed the Hearing. The Budget and levy will now be finalized with the full Board.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Mr. Hannan began by noting that, as usual, the monthly reports are contained in the Committee's County Board information packets.

He noted that he is currently finishing up the final report for the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant (\$200,000.00) that assisted on the Prairie Oaks purchase. The final report shows the ICECF that the Forest Preserve District completed all the work that was outlined in the acquisition, land restoration and providing public access to the site.

The Northwest Suburban Astronomers held their 2nd public Star Party last weekend at Potawatomi Woods. He commented that there were about 50 people in attendance and the evening was also the night of the meteor shower.

Ms. Fauci commented that events like this are a tangible economic benefit to the County when you take into consideration gas and food sales that result from in County and out of County visitors in attendance.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms. Fauci took a moment to read from an Unseen Guide to New York, the story of the bench dedicated to Andrew Haswell. Haswell, credited as the Father of Modern New York, was commemorated with a bench in Central Park by the American Scenic and Historic Locations Society. Despite the great importance of his work to the development of Central park and other green spaces, the bench is located in a quite remote location. The moral of the story is that no one doing this critical work does it for the bench.

As new County Committees will be formed after the elections, Ms. Fauci then expressed her thanks to the Committee for their hard work and dedication during the past years.

Mr. Anderson, who will be departing this year, noted that he had served on the Committee for 8 years and that this is a great Committee to work on. He noted that it is rare that a Committee member can see and enjoy the tangible efforts of their work and also know these are efforts that will endure.

Mr. Hannan then reviewed some of the highlights of the work done by the Forest Preserve Committee and Forest Preserve staff:

- Supported the Land Acquisition Referendum
- The auction for the Afton land addition with grant assistance. Restoration and land improvements at the new Afton South Prairie
- Concluded the Hoppe addition in partnership with the NRCS, relocation of the 1835 Miller -Ellwood cabin on site, cleaning up this site and restoration of the South Branch Prairie
- Acquired and opened Prairie Oaks Preserve with grant assistance. Land restoration and public access near completion.
- The trail between Somonauk and Sannauk Preserve planned.
- Future trail corridor between Genoa and Kingston mostly established
- Planned expansion of Wetland Bank
- PDRMA was brought on board for preventative Risk management and safety
- Consistently operated on a balanced budget
- Return taxpayers investments in beautiful and well maintained Forest Preserves for less than 1% of their tax bill

He then expressed thanks to Forest Preserve staff and Committee members for the work done for the good of the Forest Preserve District and the County.

Mr. Augsburger noted that the positive Forest Preserve work taken by this Committee will be enjoyed by County residents for decades to come. He also added that the District is fortunate to have Superintendent Hannan.

Mr. Hannan thanked Mr. Augsburger and commented that they are, indeed, in the "forever business" in preserving and restoring land and we are fortunate also to have skilled forest preserve staff doing good work, volunteers and other partnerships making the forest preserves great places to visit.

Ms. Turner noted how many activities have grown and blossomed over the years including environmental education.

Ms. Fauci noted that the land acquisitions that have been done, were done in a truly bipartisan and fair way with willing sellers and rational approaches and criteria for determining the best use of the acquisition funds.

Mr. Anderson then asked what will happen this year at the Potawatomi Woods Preserve regarding Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing and the IDNR. Mr. Hannan noted that the state may not fund the hunting and testing activities this year. Additionally, the IDNR has seen several retirements and those positions have not been filled. The District will simply have to adopt a wait and see approach and the CWD results from IDNR.

Ms. Fauci commented that she has heard several individuals at statewide Forest Preserve meetings express that CWD is a crucial issue for the state.

Mr. Augsburger stated that as a hunter, trapper, fisherman – he supports the IDNR program and hopes that many others will become more rational about the importance of eradication programs.

Ms. Fauci asked for any comments from our visitor. Ms. Castillo asked if someone could explain what the issues were surrounding the CWD program and the activities involved in that. The Committee explained that in order to contain and manage CWD, it is critical to keep deer herds managed at a level to prevent rampant transmission and potential mutation of the disease. Therefore a process of culling the herds is done to assist in that.

Ms. Fauci closed by noting that while some find this process difficult, it is done to restrain the spread of this disease.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson
Forest Preserve District Committee
JF:kjr