1996 S. Kirk Rd. Suite 320
Geneva, IL 60134

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

President Bill Lenert, Chair Cherryl Strathmann, Vice-Chair Deborah Allan, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

Thursday, April 30, 2026 9:30 AM 3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, March 26, 2026 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:38AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

None.

PRESENT	President Bill Lenert
	Chair Cherryl Strathmann
	Vice-Chair Deborah Allan
	Commissioner Jennifer Abbatacola
	Commissioner Mavis Bates
	Commissioner Ted Penesis
	Commissioner Myrna Molina
ABSENT	Commissioner Alex Arroyo
	Commissioner Chris Kious

Also Present: Commissioners: Lewis, Linder, Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFAO Petschke; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess & staff Blackburn; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; HR Dir. Clough; Police Sgt. Hayes; Dir. of Comm. Engagement Metanchuk; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty and Attorney Erin Monforti of Ancel and Glink.

II. Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2026

RESULT:	**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**
MOVER:	Ted Penesis
AYE:	Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

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

Resident of Kane County, Ginger Romano, spoke in regards to agenda item TMP-26-548, a Resolution Approving a Bid for the Phase II Construction of an Electric Bison Fence at Burlington Forest Preserve. She expressed her view of the arrival of the bison at Burlington Forest Preserve. She stated that she was in opposition of the bison being added to the Burlington Forest Preserve due to the rerouting of the horse trails. Ms. Romano stated that the bison have become a tourist attraction and she was not in favor of the increase in the volume of the public.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-26-550 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Renovation of Glenwood Park Forest Preserve

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the renovation project at the Glenwood Forest Preserve.

Glenwood Forest Preserve is located in Batavia along the eastern edge of the Fox River and adjacent to the Fox River and Prairie Path Trails. Glenwood is a riverine preserve situated between the City of Batavia and Fox Valley Park District (FVPD)-owned Lippold Park. The Fox Valley Park District plans to construct a multi-use bridge over the Fox River between Les Arends Forest Preserve and Lippold park in late summer 2026. Once the bridge is installed, staff anticipate a significant increase in visitors to Glenwood Forest Preserve. The current shelter and parking lot were installed in 1984, they are not ADA compliant and are in need of renovation. If approved, this project will:

- Make the site ADA-accessible
- Increase parking by providing eight (8) additional stalls
- Update the shelter and restroom
- Restore the asphalt roadway surface from the parking lot to the entrance.

The District conducted a formal bid process for the improvements. Bids were publicly advertised, with six bidders responding. The responsible, lowest bidder was Obsidian Asphalt Paving, with a base bid of $497,950.11. Additionally, $49,795.00 (10%) shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of $547,745.11.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates stated for the record, that she was not in favor of the Fox Valley Park District pedestrian bridge project. She felt that the project was an intrusion to the natural space. Additionally, she voiced her concern on the removal of trees and flowers for the project. Chair Strathmann clarified that the resolution being presented today was for the renovations of the preserve and not related to the bridge project. Exec. Dir. Haberthur echoed Chair Strathmann, and noted that the estimated renovation timeline would be Spring of 2027.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Ted Penesis
SECONDER: Myrna Molina
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

TMP-26-548 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Phase II Construction of an Electric Bison Fence at Burlington Forest Preserve

NRM Dir. Chess presented the critical expansion of the bison habitat noting the additional acreage is vital for the health of the heard. The District fenced in a 32-acre pasture at Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve in 2024 and a small herd of six bison were released into the enclosure in December 2025 marking the triumphant return to Kane County prairies for the first time in approximately 200 years. In order to provide ample space for the existing herd to continue to expand and graze at an appropriate rate, the District is currently seeking to construct a second phase of fencing which would enclose 52 additional acres. This space will be critical in the future as the herd begins to breed.

The District bid out the construction of this second phase of fencing, comprised of 7,067 linear feet around 52 acres of prairie. The lowest qualified bid was received from KP Fencing LLC dba FencePeoria of Wenona, Illinois in the amount of $142,000. Staff additionally recommends a contingency of $14,000 to cover any unforeseen costs that may arise during this project. Funds totaling $305,000 were approved in FY25/26 for the Bison Reintroduction project. Of that total, $39,167.33 remain. An additional $150,000 is proposed in the District's FY26/27 budget. That total of $189,167.33 would

be sufficient to cover the $156,000 expense ($142,000 bid plus $14,000 contingency). Staff recommends the Committee approve the contract for the construction of an electric fence for the purpose of expanding a bison grazing pasture provided by KP Fencing LLC dba FencePeoria of Wenona, Illinois for a total not to exceed $156,000. ***DISCUSSION:*** *There was discussion regarding the horse trails and if the trails that have been removed would be rerouted. Dir. Chess responded that yes, the multiuse trail would have a new connecting loop with an additional ½ mile.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Deborah Allan
SECONDER: Bill Lenert
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

TMP-26-549 Resolution Authorizing a Bid for Trail Resurfacing on the Illinois Prairie Path-Batavia Spur

Ops. Dir. Jensen presented the bid for the trail resurfacing project. The District maintains over 45 miles of linear, multipurpose trail throughout Kane County. A preventative maintenance practice began in the early 2000's to resurface a portion of these trails annually. Trails are inspected twice annually for surface condition. Small repairs are conducted immediately and any overall deterioration is noted and prioritized for resurfacing. A 1.4 mile stretch of limestone trail on the Illinois Prairie Path- Batavia Spur from the Kirk Rd bridge to Kane/DuPage County line is in need of resurfacing. The Batavia Spur connects to the Illinois Prairie Path- Aurora Spur and the Fox River Trail and is a popular place to walk, jog, and bike ride. This project was advertised using the District's online bidding platform with four responding bidders. The qualified lowest bid was Arthur J. Lootens & Son, Inc. of West Chicago, IL at a cost of $63,567.00. Additionally, staff is requesting a 5% contingency to cover any unforeseen costs during construction, for a project total not to exceed $66,745.35. Funding for this project was approved in the FY26 budget totaling $75,000. Sufficient funds of $75,000 are available to cover the bid and 5% contingency cost of $66,745.35. ***DISCUSSION:*** *None.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Deborah Allan
SECONDER: Ted Penesis
AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

TMP-26-559 Resolution Accepting the Bid for the Replacement of a Restroom at Big Rock Forest Preserve

Ops. Dir. Jensen presented the bid for the restroom replacement project. The District currently maintains 75 restroom facilities across our holdings. Different styles of restrooms have been utilized throughout our history. Currently three different types of restrooms exist in over 40 Forest Preserves. In order of age, "Romtec" branded prefabricated plastic units, custom-built block vault toilets, and our current precast concrete units can be found throughout the preserves. The District is currently using the CXT (LB Foster Company) precast concrete units for their mix of aesthetics, durability,

and low long-term cost of maintenance. Big Rock Forest Preserve has 5 restroom facilities; 3 located within the Big Rock Campground and 2 located in the southern access. The southern facility located nearest to Siegler Lake is a single-vault plastic Romtec unit that was installed in 2003. Staff are recommending the replacement of this with a double-vault CXT unit to accommodate the increase in popularity of this area for fishing, hiking, biking, and horseback riding. Additionally, in 2025, the District completed a RTP (Recreation Trails Program) grant-funded trail extension whose trailhead aligns with this restroom facility. This project was advertised using the District's online bidding platform with three responding bidders. The qualified lowest bid was Midwest Excavators of Wasco, IL with a cost of $138,992.00. Additionally, staff is requesting a 5% contingency to cover any unforeseen costs during construction, for a project total not to exceed $145,941.60. Funding for this project was approved in FY 26 budget totaling $80,000. In addition to the budgeted funds, sufficient savings are available from other completed projects to cover the additional costs of $65,941.60.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates asked if the toilets were composting toilets. Dir. Jensen responded that the District utilizes a sewer company to empty the pits. He indicated that staff could look into composting toilets. Commissioner Allan asked if the design would be the same as the restroom in Fox River Bluff. Dir. Jensen responded that yes, the style would mimic the same structure.*

RESULT:	**MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO:	Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Deborah Allan
AYE:	Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann
ABSENT:	Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Dir. of Community Affairs reported on the recent Kane Foundation Native Plant sale on April 25, 2026 at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve. She shared pictures and thanked all the volunteers and staff for all the help. The Campgrounds open tomorrow and the gates to Burlington Forest Preserve open at 9AM. Staff is expecting the bison viewing to be very popular. Lastly, Dir. Metanchuk gave a shoutout to the staff that participated and passed their level one certified Archery instruction through the DuPage Blackwell Forest Preserve.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15AM.

RESULT:	**APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Ted Penesis

AYE: Jennifer Abbatacola, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Bill Lenert, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann

ABSENT: Alex Arroyo, Chris Kious

Chair Cherryl Strathmann
Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee
Forest Preserve District of Kane County

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary