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, Jennifer Abbatacola, Alex Arroyo, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

Thursday, May 28, 2026 9:30 AM 3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, May 28, 2026 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S;30. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioners Molina, Penesis

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

Also Present: Commissioners: Juby (Remote), Molina (Remote), Penesis (Remote): Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFAO Petschke & staff Carrano; Ops. Dir. Jensen & staff Estes; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez & staff Tegge; HR Dir. Clough; Dir. of Comm. Engagement staff Kovach; Admin staff Figliozzi, Rafferty and Attorney Sterk of Ancel and Glink.

II. Approval of Minutes of April 30, 2026

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

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

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-26-690 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Resurfacing of Riverbend Parking Lot Within the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve, South Elgin, IL

Dir. of Ops. Jensen presented the resurfacing project of the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve parking lot. The Riverbend parking lot is a satellite parking lot to the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve, located south of the main preserve entrance directly off of Illinois Route 31. It provides the public with direct access to the Riverbend Trail, which connects the Fox River Trail to the municipal bike trail along Randall Rd. In addition to quick access of the trail, a unique waterfall structure is a short walk from the parking lot. This parking lot was originally a gravel lot prior to 2008, but was prioritized within the capital budget to be paved due to the growing patron use. Since that time the pavement is in need of repair due to its age and normal wear and tear. This

project was advertised using the District's online bidding platform with four responding bidders. The qualified lowest bid was Arthur J. Lootens & Sons, Inc. of West Chicago, IL with a cost of $35,136.40 for the Base Bid and Option 1. Additionally, staff is requesting a 5% contingency to cover any unforeseen costs during construction, for a project total not to exceed $36,893.22. Funding for this project was approved in the Fiscal Year 2026 budget under account 03-21-24-7050, Operations Land Area Development, project # 11013 totaling $38,000.00. Sufficient funds of $38,000.00 are available to cover the Base Bid and 5% contingency for a total cost of $36,893.22.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kious asked about the perimeter of the lot, noting it was small and asked if the District had plans to enlarge it due to traffic. He felt that the intersection feels unsafe when there is traffic. Exec. Dir. Haberthur responded that the District does not have current plans to expand the lot, however the current focus is on fixing the pavement in the preserve as this preserve has increased in popularity. Commissioner Bates asked if the asphalt gets recycled. Ops. Dir. Jensen responded that yes, typically the contractors recycle what they can.*

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

TMP-26-688 Resolution Approving a Bid for the RTP Grant Trail Restoration Project at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve, Elgin, IL

Landscape Architect Tegge presented the trail restoration project at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve. In 2025, the District received a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for trail improvements at Fitchie Creek Forest Preserve. The project includes drainage improvements and the restoration of 2,700 linear feet of existing limestone trail that currently experience perennial flooding and erosion. The RTP grant will reimburse the District 80% of the construction costs up to a total of $200,000.00, upon completion of the project. The District conducted a formal bid process for the project. Bids were publicly advertised, with 5 bidders responding. The responsible, lowest bidder was Schroeder Asphalt Services, Inc. with a base bid of $123,308.75. Additionally, a 10% contingency of $12,330.25 shall be set aside to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of $135,639.00. Funds totaling $300,000.00 were allocated in Fiscal Year 2026/27 for this project; of which sufficient funds of $277,890.00 remain.

DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-26-668 Resolution Authorizing an Extension to the Historical Structures Operating and Caretaking Agreement with the Preservation Partners of Fox Valley Through June 30, 2027

Exec. Dir. Haberthur presented the extension agreement with Preservation Partners. Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley has been managing the Fabyan Villa Museum at Fabyan Forest Preserve and the Durant-Peterson House at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve since the mid 1990's. On October 25, 2017, the Pioneer Sholes Restoration Society was dissolved, and the operations, income and artifacts transferred to Preservation Partners. Preservation Partners provides exclusive exhibits management, staffing, tours, program coordination and marketing for the Fabyan Villa Museum, the Durant-Peterson House Museum, and Sholes School Museum.

Additionally, Preservation Partners coordinates programming and tours of the Fabyan Japanese Garden. The District retains ownership of all land and structures and is responsible for the cost and coordination of maintenance, repairs, and utilities for the buildings as well as grounds and landscape maintenance. The District is seeking approval to extend the existing contract through June 30, 2027, to align with the District's fiscal year. The new contract will extend the current agreement at the same rate, providing Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley with an annual sum of $115,000 for their services. Of this amount, $78,000 is allocated to the operation of the Fabyan Villa Museum, $10,000 for the Japanese Garden, and $27,000 for the operation of the Durant-Peterson House Museum and the Sholes School Museum. The District's legal counsel and risk management provider (PDRMA) have reviewed the agreement. Funds totaling $115,000 are budgeted for this agreement in the 2026 and 2027 fiscal year. Sufficient funds totaling $115,000 are available for this expense totaling $115,000.
DISCUSSION: *None.*

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

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

None.

VII. Communications

Communications and Marketing Supervisor Kovach presented the District's Grand Opening event of the newly constructed Archery range. The ribbon cutting will include a live presentation by the 4H program in Kane County. Additionally, certified archery staff will teach during the duration of the event. The Grand Opening is scheduled for the 6th of June, 2026. Commissioner Lewis asked what the age limit is for the youth. Ms. Kovach responded that the typical age is estimated at 8 years old. The strength is the key for this age group. Commissioner Bates asked about permitting. Ms. Kovach responded that permits and registration would go live on June 6, 2026. She included that the grand opening would have paper waivers for the free session. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that the District is modeling after DuPage archery in Blackwell Forest Preserve. Additionally, he discussed the maintenance of the targets and equipment noting that the permit fees would cover those costs. The range will be open to the public during normal preserve hours, sunrise to sunset. The District's Officers will be patrolling periodically for safety and permit checks; however, the range will be self-policed by the users. The District encourages the public to utilize safety measures and report any violations.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:51AM.

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

Gabriella Figliozzi
Recording Secretary