



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

Chair Cheryl Strathmann, President Christopher Kious, President Pro Tem, Mavis Bates,
Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz, Mike Kenyon, Anita Lewis, Mike Linder, Vern Tepe

Thursday, July 25, 2024

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 10:11AM.

PRESENT Chair Cheryl Strathmann
Board Member Mavis Bates
Board Member Ron Ford (Remote)
Board Member Michael Kenyon
President Chris Kious
Board Member Anita Lewis
Board Member Michael Linder (Remote)
Board Member Vern Tepe

ABSENT Board Member Michelle Gumz

Also Present: Commissioners Allan, Molina, Roth; Exec. Dir. Haberthur; CFO Petschke; Ops. Dir. Jensen; NRM Dir. Chess; Dir. of Planning & Land Protection Rooks-Lopez; HR Dir. Clough; Sgt. Hayes; Dir. of Community Affairs Metanchuk; Admin staff Rafferty, Figliozzi, Attorney Hodge and members of the public.

II. Approval of Minutes from June 27, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER: Michael Linder
AYE: Mavis Bates, Ron Ford, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder Cheryl Strathmann, and Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Michelle Gumz

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

TMP-24-2663 Resolution Approving Bids for Tree and Brush Clearing at Portions of Dick Young, Pingree Grove, Hannaford Woods/Nickels Farm and Bliss Woods Forest Preserves

NRM Dir. Chess presented bids for the tree and brush clearing at various preserves. The objectives of these projects are to remove non-native brush and small mesic trees in degraded oak woodlands, as well as from large scale tallgrass prairie restorations.

Woody invasive species, such as common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), are some of the other primary threats to biodiversity in Kane County's forests. These species create a thick mid-story cover that prevents light from reaching native understory plants. They also grow very well in shade; oak saplings do not. This adaptation prevents the regeneration of native trees. Grassland invasive species, like callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), have similar impacts to prairie communities by choking out the native grasses and forbs. Mechanical removal of these invasive species, combined with chemical follow-up, will help to restore the ecosystems to a healthier condition. This, in turn, will provide better habitat quality for the entire suite of wildlife that these preserves support. In particular, the habitat value for birds is greatly enhanced with the removal of these invasive shrubs. Native insects don't feed on buckthorn, so their coverage decreases the concentration of caterpillars across the sites. Additionally, their plentiful berries are nutrient poor and cause a laxative effect that makes them a starvation food. Contractors were sought to bid on clearing projects across four heavily infested forest preserves. (*Commissioner Ford departed at 10:27AM*)

DISCUSSION: *None.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz

TMP-24-2626 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Construction of a Shelter at Campton Forest Preserve

Dir. of Ops. Jensen presented the bid for the reconstruction of a shelter at Campton Forest Preserve. The initial component of Campton Forest Preserve was purchased in 1972, and was 166 acres of the current total of 377 acres. In 1980, Shelter #1 was constructed atop a hill that overlooks the surrounding woodland and grasslands. Parking lot improvements and an equestrian parking area were added in 2007 to create the existing footprint. Shelter #1 had just completed a renovation in 2023, but it was deemed a total loss due to fire damage it sustained. Campton Shelter #1 receives year-round use, from supporting picnic reservations and scout group events to serving as a resting place for equestrian and winter time sledding activities. This project will include the removal of the existing concrete foundation and for the purchase and installation of a new shelter and concrete pad, connecting to existing ADA access points from the parking lot and restroom. The bid was publicly advertised, with 6 responding bidders. Hargrave Construction Company of South Elgin, IL was the lowest, qualified bidder with a cost of \$183,910.00. Additionally, we are recommending a 10% contingency allowance to cover any unforeseen costs that may arise during the engineering and construction process of \$18,391.00, for a total cost not to exceed \$202,301.00.

Funds were not budgeted for this project; however, the shelter replacement is part of an open insurance claim through the District's insurance management company Park District Risk Management Company (PDRMA).

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Kenyon commented that the awarded bidder is known for their quality work. Commissioner Strathmann asked about the fire. Dir. Jensen responded that the fire was secondary to a fatal vehicle accident that crashed into the shelter. The shelter was deemed unsafe and removed by staff.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Anita Lewis
SECONDER: Michael Kenyon
AYE: Mavis Bates, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz

TMP-24-2668 Resolution Approving a Bid for the Construction and Replacement of a Drain Tile at Otter Creek Forest Preserve

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the bid for construction of a drain tile at Otter Creek Forest Preserve. In 2023 the District was contacted by a resident of Creekside subdivision and the City of Elgin concerning a potential drain tile failure within the Otter Creek Forest Preserve. The suspect tile was assessed by Huddleston engineering and determined to need full replacement. The District conducted a formal bid process for the improvements. Bids were publicly advertised, with six (6) bidders responding. Hartstrand Water Solutions LLC. was the lowest qualified bidder with a base bid of \$40,129.00. Additionally, \$8,000.00 shall be set aside as contingency to cover any unanticipated additional costs, that may arise during construction for a total project amount of \$48,129.00.

DISCUSSION: *Dir. Rooks-Lopez explained that the District has been working on obtaining permits through Army Corps of Engineers. Commissioner Roth asked about the life expectancy of the drain tile replacement. Dir. Rooks-Lopez stated it should last a long time, estimated 50 years.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael Linder Cheryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz

V. New or Unfinished Business

None.

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

None.

VII. Communications

Comm. Affairs Dir. Metanchuk presented new items on the District's website. The new accessibility adjustments include seizure safe profile adjustments, vision impaired, ADHD friendly options and more. She noted that the website has an added tag line on the landing page. Dir. Metanchuk promoted the annual Rusty Rodeo event, August 10th, 2024 from 10AM to 12PM at two new locations. Dir. Metanchuk promoted the first annual Kane Foundation Golf Outing, September 12, 2024 at Hughes Creek Golf Course. Information was shared regarding the referendum. Staff is allowed to provide factual information only, a QR code was made available for Commissioners to provide information to their constituents.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:29AM.

RESULT: **APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
MOVER: Michael Kenyon
SECONDER: Anita Lewis
AYE: Mavis Bates, Michael Kenyon, Chris Kious, Anita Lewis, Michael
 Linder Cherryl Strathmann, Vern Tepe
ABSENT: Ron Ford, Michelle Gumz

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary