



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

Forest Preserve District, Planning and Utilization Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Thursday, January 30, 2025

9:30 AM

3rd Floor Board Room

I. Call To Order

The Forest Preserve District Planning and Utilization Committee meeting was held Thursday, January 30, 2025 at the Administration Offices located at 1996 S. Kirk Road, Suite 320, Geneva, IL 60134. Chair Strathmann called the meeting to order at 9:50AM.

Remote Attendance Approval

Commissioner Molina.

PRESENT President Bill Lenert
Chair Cheryl Strathmann
Vice Chair Deborah Allan
Commissioner Mavis Bates
Commissioner Chris Kious
Commissioner Myrna Molina (Remote)
Commissioner Ted Penesis

ABSENT Commissioner Dale Berman

II. Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2024

RESULT: APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOVER: Chris Kious

AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis

ABSENT: Dale Berman

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

None.

IV. Bids and Proposals

None.

V. New or Unfinished Business

TMP-25-126 Resolution Authorizing a Second Amendment to the
Intergovernmental License Agreement with the Village of Pingree
Grove

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Pingree Grove. In 2014, the Commission approved a License Agreement with the Village of Pingree Grove for the use of a portion of the Pingree Grove Forest Preserve to develop a community park. Since that time the Village has continued to make improvements to the property including a small gravel parking area and mowed trails. The Village has submitted an updated site plan that they would like to use to pursue grant funding to assist with design and construction costs. The updated plan represents a substantial reduction in scale from the previous plan, but is in

keeping with acceptable uses of the site. This second amendment to the License Agreement, modifies the agreement to reflect the new site plan and extends the term of the agreement for an additional 25 years ending in March 2050.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Deborah Allan
SECONDER: Mavis Bates
AYE: Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis
ABSENT: Dale Berman

TMP-25-127 Resolution Authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Forest Preserve District of Kane County and the Fox Valley Park District

Dir. of Planning and Land Protection Rooks-Lopez presented the memorandum of understanding with the Fox Valley Park District. The Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) applied for and was recently awarded a federal grant to design and construct a pedestrian and bike bridge over the Fox River between their Lippold Park and our Les Arends Forest Preserve. After extensive site studies, it was determined the best western shore landing site is the northern edge of Les Arends and a future intergovernmental easement agreement ("IGA Easement") between the parties will be required. The specific details of the future easement agreement are subject to finalization of engineering and planning of the exact landing placement locations. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding is necessary to comply with preliminary documentation requirements for the federal grant, and addresses the following issues:

- The intent of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) to grant reasonable site access for preliminary studies and layout determination.
- An IGA Easement will be drafted to allow for the bridge's west terminus at Les Arends Forest Preserve.
- The terms of the IGA Easement will be terms generally acceptable to both parties and that they will not unreasonably withhold consent.
- The bridge, its' construction, and all future maintenance, will be at the sole expense of the FVPD.
- FVPD agrees to take all reasonable planning steps to minimize adverse impacts to Les Arends Forest Preserve.
- Both the FVPD and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County are each represented by Kinnally, Flaherty, Krentz, Loran, Hodge & Masur, P.C.

DISCUSSION: *Commissioner Bates rescinded her motion to second, Commissioner Kious provided the second motion for discussion. Commissioner Bates expressed her opposition to the construction of a bridge over the island. She felt that construction such as a bridge, disrupts the natural area. Commissioner Penesis commented that the bridge could be a way to keep people off the island. Commissioner Gripe commented that a pedestrian bridge provides additional mobility; however, he was concerned about the impediment of the waterways with boats, kayaks and/or motor boats. Safety was an additional concern regarding access to the island from the bridge.*

RESULT: **MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE**
TO: Forest Preserve District Executive Committee
MOVER: Deborah Allan
SECONDER: Chris Kious
AYE: Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis
NAY: Mavis Bates
ABSENT: Dale Berman

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

The Committee moved into Executive Closed Session at 10:06AM to discuss License Agreements

- RESULT:** APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
- MOVER:** Chris Kious
- SECONDER:** Ted Penesis
- AYE:** Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Ted Penesis
- ABSENT:** Dale Berman

The Committee returned to Open Session at 10:54AM on a motion by Bates, second by Kious Roll Call vote was taken, unanimous vote. (*Commissioner Penesis departed at 10:50AM*)

VII. Communications

Dir. of Community Engagement Metanchuk promoted the District’s Centennial Celebration event on Sunday June 8, 2025, more details to come. A rendering of the art installation and trail renovations was presented. Exec. Dir. Haberthur explained that the oak trees in Johnson’s Mound were the first to be protected by the District in 1925. The planting event has been designed to tie the old and the new together. The first tree planting of our second century of conservation next to the first trees protected, help show the need for conservation over generation. Dir Metanchuk promoted the IAPD legislative breakfast on March 7th, 2025 at 11:00AM, Commissioners who wish to attend were asked to rsvp.

VIII. Chairman's Comments

None.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:59AM

- RESULT:** APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
- MOVER:** Bill Lenert
- SECONDER:** Chris Kious
- AYE:** Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Chris Kious, Myrna Molina, Bill Lenert
- ABSENT:** Dale Berman, Ted Penesis

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Gabriella Figliozzi

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Recording Secretary