

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Forest Preserve Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Committee Minutes
February 27, 2018**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Committee met on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., in the Legislative Center's Freedom Room in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Brown called the meeting to order. Those Members present at roll call were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. Mr. Hughes and Ms. Little were absent. A quorum was established with five Members present and two absent.

Others present were Terry Hannan and Peggy Doty.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Mr. Porterfield and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2018 Forest Preserve Committee Meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Roman, and it was carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hannan reiterated that Winterfest at Russell Woods took place on January 20th and it was a very successful event. He additionally reviewed some images of winter activities that were happening throughout the County's Forest Preserves. The new sign has been installed at the east end of Sycamore along Illinois Route 64 and the Great Western Trail, Mr. Hannan shared. Also a few photos of the Afton Wetland Bank water control structures being replaced were reviewed along with tree and shrub removal that was done at the Somonauk to Sannuak Trail. The monthly staff maintenance reports were briefly gone over with the Committee Members too.

Forest Preserve natural Resource Manager Al Roloff retired as of January 1, 2018. Over many years Al has been a great employee, educator and friend. His knowledge, work ethic and wonderful ideas made our forests, prairies and wetlands beautiful places for people and wildlife. His wit, humor and personality touched many people. His enthusiasm brought the excitement and the wonder of nature to forest preserve staff, students from grade school through college, educators and the Forest Preserve Committees, Mr. Hannan shared. Photos of Mr. Roloff and several of his projects were shared with the Committee.

Lastly, the Committee reviewed the Natural Resources Management Activities Report that was now done by Josh Clark, who has taken over the role as Natural Resource Manager for the DeKalb County Forest Preserve as well as briefly studied the monthly visitor figures.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh noted that this item was no longer needed as a placeholder and if the individuals representing Active Transportation come to the meeting, they can be present under Public Comments.

Mr. Hughes arrived at 6:30 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee welcomed Ms. Peggy Doty, Extension Educator, Environmental and Energy Stewardship with the University of Illinois Extension. Prior to her position as an Educator for Boone, DeKalb and Ogle counties, she was the Natural Resources Educator for DeKalb County for 12 years. Ms. Doty still works at the Natural Resource Education Center at Russell Woods where she performs countless educational classes and activities with students, campers, children, and adults.

In 2017, the Natural Resource Education Programming reached a total of 7,223 kid visits which equaled to 3,731 individual children that were reached. Ms. Doty additionally touched on some funding reduction issues that they are facing.

Ms. Doty also shared with the Committee the different events that happened throughout the year at the Natural Resource Center and the individuals who were served. During the presentation a few slides were shown that depicted different trips and training activities that were done with children and adults.

Ms. Doty thanked the Forest Preserve Committee and the District for the continued use of the Nature Center at Russell Woods. Mr. Hannan noted that he receives nothing but compliments on Mr. Doty and Ms. Connie Handel's work at the Natural Resource Center. Visiting the Center provides memories for a lifetime.

In additional discussions with Ms. Doty she shared with the Committee that she tells people are her staff that she isn't out to make environmentalists. There is a bad connotation around that now. They are out to make community members, no matter whether they are computer designers, Waste Management employees, doctors or teachers that they are able to sit at a table and be able to make decisions based on the natural resources of their community. She added that there is nothing that are on our bodies or around us that doesn't come from nature, we just forget it. Ms. Doty shared that her personal goal/mission is to explore with and educate children on understanding connectivity between an object and nature.

The Committee thanked Ms. Doty for joining them and providing some great information about the Natural Resource Education Center.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Porterfield briefly touched on the large amount of visitors at Merritt Prairie, Mr. Hughes described how he has visited Russell Woods many times with his children, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh shared about a red fox she has living in her backyard, and Chairman Brown shared with the Committee about he and his wife are gathering and cooking sap from the maple trees on their land in order to make maple syrup.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Bob Brown

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

Natural Resource Education Programming 2017 Report

- A *kid visit* is any time we are with students/campers/children in which we are offering a new environmental education lesson.
- Lessons can be 30 minutes to all day, i.e. Summer Camps.

Programming	Kid Visits	Individuals
• January – March Recycling	4,473 kv	1,491
• Spring Field Studies	1,313	1,313
• Summer Camp (3,185 hours)	91	81
• Fall Field Studies	592	592
• <u>November – December Recycling</u>	<u>754</u> (4 were 1 time)	<u>254</u> (4 were 1 time)
• Total	7,223	3,731

Peggy

Peggy S. Doty

Educator II, Environmental and Energy Stewardship

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION