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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

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

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

Others present were Terry Hannan and Roy Plote.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Ms. Little and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2018 Forest Preserve Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hannan reviewed the Forest Preserve's monthly reports with the Committee Members. He Committee reviewed photos of the MacQueen Forest Preserve's Annual "Geezers Campout" which is a group of gentlemen that get together annually and make chilly, socialize, and camp in shelter house. . A "Birds-eye" view of Afton Forest Preserve was viewed and Mr. Hannan shared that Afton is listed as a National Bird Hotspot with 232 bird species that have been recorded at Afton. Here is link showing all birds recorded at Afton. <http://ebird.org/ebird/hotspot/L392428> Local photographer, Tom Robbins, provided another beautiful Forest Preserve photo. The Committee studied a photo of the Kingsbury Creek and Trail Bridge connecting MacQueen and Potawatomi Woods. *Tom's other photos can be viewed by visiting:* http://www.pbase.com/salty_one.

Additionally regarding photography, Mr. Hannan read aloud to the Committee a letter he received from County resident Gene Perry. Mr. Perry shared that during the DeKalb Kiwanis show at the Egyptian Theatre on April 7th, he is planning to offer for sale some laminated photographs of birds, flowers, and insects (mostly butterflies) that were all taken in DeKalb County and many of which were taken in forest preserves. Proceeds from sale of the photographs will be donated to support activities of the DeKalb County Forest Preserve. This is being done as a Kiwanis activity and does not imply Forest Preserve official sponsorship in anyway though. Mr. Perry's letter went on to explain how he and his wife have very much enjoyed the area's forest preserves and as a retired professor he now enjoys taking nature photographs.

Mr. Hannan further reviewed the monthly maintenance reports, and photos of Sycamore Troop 40 Scouts recently camping at the Sycamore Forest Preserve and picking up branches and litter as a Community Service Project. There were also photos reviewed of Sycamore Forest Preserve when it flooded last month and no damage was done and beginning the 2018 Prairie Burn Season, which is still underway.

Lastly, with the reports, the Committee reviewed the Natural Resources Management Activities Report and the monthly visitor's figures.

Mr. Hannan shared that County Board Member Steve Reid has offered to volunteer and donate all of the age-appropriate items to furnish the re-located and re-constructed 1845 Miller-Elwood log cabin. Mr. Hannan read the following Agreement of Understanding from Steve Reid regarding the log cabin, *"The only thing that I desire from my involvement in this project is that the Miller Cabin becomes something that the County can be proud of. I would like to make this donation and volunteer effort to be my gift to the County. I intend to furnish the cabin with appropriate items of the period. I would like the cabin to be somewhat realistic and I would like to have an influence on what items are included in the cabin. I definitely would not like to see items that aren't appropriate to the period in the cabin. This is the one sticking point I have. After the restoration is open, I will continue to upgrade the furnishings and add to the collection. Once that I know that the cabin is on schedule to be complete, I will more aggressively seek the remaining items for the restoration. Committee member access to the cabin would be necessary as well.*

In regards to the interior of the cabin, I am concerned about several issues. I wish to have a say in the placement of furnishings and the design of the interior of the cabin. There are a couple decisions that still need to be made regarding where to put the loft access and ladder and the stove placement. These decisions will impact the placement of furnishings and how believable the restoration will be.

The cabin must be made more weatherproof for the preservation of the furnishings. There also are the issues of pests and potential vandalism. These will require regular monitoring for damage. I would volunteer to do this and we should have several others regularly checking on it.

I look forward to helping to compile a book from county histories and other historical resources of anecdotes of wilderness life of the pioneers. I have long been interested in Illinois Pioneer History and there are few museums in the Midwest that concentrate on this period of time. The preservation of this part of our history is important to me because so much of it has been lost or is unknown by our residents."

The Forest Preserve Committee thanked Mr. Reid for his generosity. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh noted that she would like to see Mr. Hannan have veto power on what happens within and around the cabin for a safety net. Mr. Hannan noted he has met with the Mr. Reid and has a very good working relationship with him. He also clarified that a security camera is planned to be placed in the cabin once furnished.

FY 2017 YEAR-END BUDGET TRANSFERS & AMENDMENTS RESOLUTION

Mr. Hannan reviewed the three identified appropriations, transfers and amendments to balance the FY 2017 budget. These were also reviewed by the Finance Director, Mr. Hannan shared. Nothing out of the ordinary was being asked to be amended.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Roman and was approved unanimously to forward the FY 2017 Year-End Budget Resolution to the full Board of Commissioners recommending its approval.

UPDATE TO THE TRAVEL POLICY

Mr. Hannan noted that the updates to the travel policy mirrors the overall County Travel Policy. However, there is a need to now approve the same changes for the Forest Preserve District. The County approved their updates last month.

It was moved by Mr. Bagby, seconded by Mr. Porterfield and approved unanimously to forward the Travel Policy Updates to the full Board of Commissioners recommending their approval.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Roman shared with the Committee that he has already been out running on the Great Western Trail this year and Mr. Porterfield briefly brought up the trail updates by the Lagoon in the City of DeKalb.

It was announced that the Russell Hustle 5K Trail Run & 2K Fun Run at Russell Woods in Genoa will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018. All proceeds will go to St. Mary School in Sycamore for the school scholarship fund. Race day registration will open at 8:00am. 5K Trail Run will start at 10:00am. 2K Fun Run will follow at about 11:00am.

Russell Hustle Info link: <https://raceroster.com/events/2018/15717/russell-hustle-5k-trail-run-2k-fun-run>

Mr. Bagby asked if the newly purchased property adjacent to Potawatomi Woods has been closed on. Mr. Hannan shared that they have closed on the property and have a new Farm License Agreement in place with the farm tenants. About 49 acres will be restored into floodplain prairie and habitat, and 103 acres farmed. As of now there will not be an additional name for the property. It is just being referred to as the Potawatomi Addition.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh asked Mr. Hannan if he would inquire on an update regarding the bat nets that were going to be placed at Wilkinson-Renwick Marsh.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Porterfield moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 6:26 p.m. Mr. Bagby seconded the motion and it carried by a 6-0-1 roll call vote. Those voting yea were Mr. Bagby, Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. None were opposed and Mr. Hughes was absent.

The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 6:43 p.m.

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APPROVAL OF AFTON SOUTH BRANCH LAND TRADE

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh moved to approve a land trade of about 2.5 acres on both sides of Little Rock Creek (owned by Robert Maple) south of McGirr Rd. at Afton South Prairie for about 5 acres of land on the east side of Mr. Maples farmstead. Ms. Little seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously to forward the recommendation to the full Board of Commissioners recommending its unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Mr. Roman and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Bob Brown

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary