

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
April 24, 2018**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Committee met on Tuesday, April 24, 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, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, and Chairman Brown. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others present were Terry Hannan.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Brown noted that there was no need to go into Executive Session this meeting and that the item was carried over from the previous month on accident.

It was moved by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, seconded by Mr. Hughes, and it was carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda with the elimination of an Executive Session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Roman, seconded by Mr. Bagby and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 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. Mr. Hannan reported, as usual, in the months of March and April there were maintenance and safety checks of building and grounds, seasonal mowing, Firewood cutting and splitting, storm clean-up, shelter house and toilet cleaning, litter pick-up and disposal, road grading, trail maintenance, equipment maintenance, scheduling shelter rentals and collecting shelter and camping fees, and drinking water sampling. Shelter houses and Lodges are used every weekend by scouts, families, and other groups throughout the County. The Natural Resource Center Educational Staff is teaching school groups and Summer Camps at Russell Woods and making classroom visits. Additionally the PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and forest preserve safety is in progress for 2018 compliance.

Mr. Hannan also reminded the Committee that the Northwest Suburban Astronomers (NSA), in cooperation with the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District will be hosting a public star party on Saturday, May 5th at Afton Forest Preserve. The District is wrapping up their (longest yet) Burn Season. This year was the first prairie burn at Sycamore Forest Preserve. Mr. Hannan reported that Tim McMahon and a DeKalb Scout Troop will complete his Eagle Scout Project at Merritt Prairie on May 12th and they will camp out and plant 20 Bur and White Oak Trees. The

Committee also reviewed a list of birds (over 46 species) that were found in only a two hour span at Prairie Oaks and Wilkinson Marsh.

Mr. Hannan additionally reviewed with the Committee the District's Project and Maintenance Staff Reports, the Natural Resources Management Activities Report, and the Monthly Attendance Site Report for March 2018.

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION & REVIEW OF FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT CODE

Mr. Hannan shared with the Committee that earlier this year, discussions and internal meetings began on making sure we separate Forest Preserve business from County business. To that end, County Administrator Gary Hanson has taken the County's Code and modified it for the Forest Preserve District and that effort was distributed to the Committee for their review.

As the discussion evolved about compensation, it was Mr. Hanson's understanding that the final consensus was to keep compensation as close as possible to what it currently being paid. That wording is in Section 5.30 on Page 9. Chapter 30 had previously been in the codification of the County Code, yet it was passed by the Forest Preserve District. But because it was "published", it was thought it be best to keep the same chapter and section numbers and titles and the wording from the County Code to the Forest Preserve Code. There is room for changes in either content or formatting, but the hope is that this serves as a starting point from which to make additional changes, if necessary.

It was additionally explained that Mr. Hanson was unable to attend this month's meeting but his intent is for the Committee to receive and review the draft of the proposed Forest Preserve Code. Throughout the next month, if Members have any questions, additions or corrections, they could forward those onto Mr. Hanson or Mr. Hannan for review and incorporation. Mr. Hanson will be attending the May 22nd Forest Preserve Committee Meeting and can discuss any final issues with the code and then the hope is that the Committee will forward the recommendation of approval for a final vote at the June 20th Forest Preserve District Commissioners Meeting. If this scheduled were to be followed, the Code would be implemented with a July 1, 2018 effective date. The County felt July would be a good time for the transition due to the County Board/Forest Preserve District being in Summer Recess that month.

The Committee briefly reviewed the Forest Preserve Code document. Compensation was discussed along with any recourse that would occur if an individual is paid a salary as a Forest Preserve Commissioner and does not attend a number of meetings with no valid excuse. A clarification or Committee name change was also juggled around as an idea. The Committee agreed to take a look at the proposed code throughout the month and revisit this at next month's meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

The Committee briefly discussed the burn season that was happening around the County and how it effects some individuals with allergies.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh shared that the Kishwaukee Kiwanis Club recently cleaned up the bike trail behind Walmart and the movie theatre.

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Mr. Roman thanked the Sycamore Lions Club for cleaning up The Great Western Trail which he witnessed recently when he and his group were running on the trail. He also noticed that there was a lot of standing water in the ditches along the trail and Mr. Hannan responded that the water is there due to field tiles that are draining into the ditch.

Mr. Brown announced that the Mother's Day Flower Walk at Russell Woods is Saturday, May 12th and Camp Russell will be starting up soon for children this summer and the brochure is on the Forest Preserve District's webpage and on the County's Facebook Page.

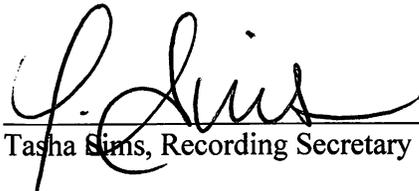
Mrs. Haji-Sheikh lastly added that the Forge Brewhouse has a new location in DeKalb now and they would like to add their location to the PedalPal.org page along with the relocation of their Sycamore location.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman Bob Brown


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary