

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 July 24, 2018**

The Forest Preserve Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium. Vice-Chairman Bagby called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Porterfield, and Vice-Chairman Bagby. Ms. Little, Mr. Roman and Chairman Brown were absent. A quorum was established with four Members present and three absent.

Others present were Terry Hannan, John Frieders, Tracy Jones, Mark Pietrowski and Chuck Walters.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Mr. Hughes and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2018 Forest Preserve Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Walters asked to speak later in the meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hannan reviewed the Forest Preserve's monthly reports for May and June with the Committee Members. Mr. Hannan reported Maintenance and safety checks of buildings and grounds, seasonal mowing, firewood cutting splitting and stacking, 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, drinking water sampling .

Summer is always busy with heavier use of Shelter houses and the Lodge by scouts, families and other groups. Natural Resource Center Educational Staff have been involved in teaching school groups and conducting Summer Camps at Russell Woods.

Mr. Hannan has been putting together PDRMA Risk Management and Loss Control review and forest preserve safety in progress for 2018 compliance.

Mr. Hannan reviewed the timeline for the Somonauk to Sannauk Trail project. He noted that the bid specifications for the trail work were completed and that bids would be advertised on August 8th, with the successful bid to be approved at the August 28th Forest Preserve Committee Meeting. In addition, Mr. Hannan outlined the timeline for the 2019 Forest Preserve District Annual Budget. He anticipated having copies available for the Committee Members at the August County Board meeting with Committee review at the August 28th Committee Meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Porterfield asked if we have a trail map, specifically a map of trailways for city, county and others with sufficient signage for users depending on activity (i.e. bikes, snowmobiles, hikers, horse riders.) Mr. Hannan indicated that the Forest Preserve District did have trail maps for biking and for the Forest Preserve trails on the County web site in addition to links to other maps sites as well.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh informed the Committee of the upcoming Bold Spirits of DeKalb County coming on August 11th highlighting the local distillers and brewers located in DeKalb County. Tasting tickets are available for a modest charge.

ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT CODE

At the June 20th, 2018 DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Commissioners meeting the Forest Preserve District Code was referred back to the Forest Preserve Committee. Vice-Chairman Bagby provided the committee with a summary of suggested amendments that various individuals had brought forward.

Mr. Hughes asked if we had resolved the issue of whether as salaried officials, the members of the Forest Preserve Operations Committee needed to be identified as “Exempt” employees. Mr. Bagby stated that the imputed hourly workload of the members did not approach the maximum hour threshold and as policy making officials would neither be considered non-exempt. Further, the County Board Chairman and Vice Chairman each drew a salary without being specified one way or the other.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh moved, seconded by Mr. Porterfield to make the following amendments:

First, it was moved to add the following to the definitions section (Section 91.00) in the appropriate place in the alphabetical list:

Committee, Ad-hoc - A committee consisting of Commissioners formed for a specific task or project, limited in scope and duration, to assist the Commission with its work. Changes to such a committee may be made by a resolution or ordinance of the Commission.

Committee, Advisory - A committee consisting of members of the public and/or commissioners formed for a specific task or project, limited in scope and duration, to assist the Commission with its work. Changes to such a committee may be made by a resolution or ordinance of the Commission.

Committee, Standing - A permanent committee consisting of Commissioners with a broad charge delegated by the Commission. Changes to the role and/or function of such a committee require a change in the Forest Preserve District Code.

Second, it was moved to add the following to Section 4.10(g):

Only one standing committee Chairman and members may be eligible for compensation pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.30 below.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh noted that she had earlier suggested a change which she did not see in the printed amendment. With Mr. Porterfield's consent, she suggested the following change to the definition relating to Gender in Section 91.00. The current language "A word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to females" be changed to read:

A word importing the masculine gender shall apply for all persons.

Mrs. Haji-Sheikh moved, seconded by Mr. Porterfield to make the friendly amendment. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chairman Bagby noted that the purpose of the amendment limiting compensation to one committee was to protect the Forest Preserve District budget from additional expense. He further noted that this did leave the District free to create additional committees to conduct its business, they simply would not receive compensation. Ideally, this would provide the District Commission President with the incentive to use the committee that is already "paid for."

The motion on the approval of these two amendments carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Porterfield to remove the word "Consecutive" from Section 4.10 paragraph d, third (3) sentence; and Add "in one, (1) Calendar year" after Standing Committee Meetings".

The amendment would change the current text (approved at the May Meeting) which read:

If a member misses three consecutive Standing Committee meetings, the President, at his discretion, may request that the Commission, in conjunction with the County Board, reassigns the member to a County Board Committee...

to

If a member misses three Standing Committee meetings in one (1) calendar year, the President, at his discretion, may request that the Commission, in conjunction with the County Board, reassigns the member to a County Board Committee...

Mr. Hughes explained that the purpose of his amendment was to prevent a member from attending one in four meetings and still be a committee member in good standing. Vice Chairman Bagby noted that removing a member from the committee was still at the Commission's and the Commission President's discretion. Illness, etc. could prevent a member from attending which could be considered.

Vice Chairman Bagby suggested adding the words "more than" before the word three to make the Forest Preserve District policy consistent with that of the County Board. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh indicated that there was some confusion on whether this was in fact the policy of the Board and the policy exists in a PDF online, but not on the County's web site. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh suggested we make approval of this amendment contingent on identifying what the actual policy is.

With the contingency stated above, the motion on the approval of this amendment carried 4-0.

It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the Code with the amendments subject to final review of changes made.

(A special meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee will be called for August 8th, 2018 to forward the Ordinance adopting the Code to the Forest Preserve Commissioners once any additional amendments the Committee have been adopted.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Porterfield moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (5) at 8:02 p.m. Mrs. Haji-Sheikh seconded the motion which carried by a 4-0 roll call vote. Those voting aye were Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Porterfield and Vice Chairman Bagby. None were opposed.

The committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 8:24 p.m.

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

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.