

*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 Operations Committee Minutes  
February 26, 2019**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Operations Committee met on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium in Sycamore, Illinois. Chairman Paul Stoddard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Those Members present were Mrs. Misty Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Tim Hughes, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Chris Porterfield, Mr. Craig Roman, Mr. Jeff Whelan, and Chairman Paul Stoddard. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others present included Terry Hannan, Barb Larson, Norman Larson, and Amy Doll.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chairman Stoddard suggested that due to there being guests who were in attendance, he suggested moving the Executive Session for the purposes of Land Acquisition up after Public Comments.

**It was moved by Ms. Little, seconded by Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, and it was carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda with the new order as suggested by the Chair.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Porterfield and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2019 Meeting and the February 13, 2019 Special Meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Mrs. Haji-Sheikh moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Roman seconded the motion and it carried by a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Those voting yea were Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Mr. Whelan, and Chairman Stoddard. None were opposed and no one was absent.**

*The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 7:26 p.m.*

Due to there not being an item on the agenda to approve a land acquisition, the Committee decided to hold a Special Forest Preserve Operations Committee Meeting at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> prior to the Executive Committee Meeting.

**Mr. Roman moved to re-enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 7:29 p.m. Mr. Porterfield seconded the motion and it was carried by a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Those voting yea were Mrs. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Hughes,**

**Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Roman, Mr. Whelan, and Chairman Stoddard. None were opposed and no one was absent.**

*The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 8:03 p.m.*

### **MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Hannan reviewed the January/February 2019 Monthly Forest Preserve Report with the Committee. He additionally shared that the surface layer of limestone screenings have been placed over the gravel base and the large drainage box culvert have been installed on the Somonauk Trail. The hope is that the trail will open in May of 2019.

Removing dead Ash Trees that are infected with the Emerald Ash Borer along trails and other public areas continues on for visitor safety. Some trails remain closed to date.

Shelter usages continue to be high at all preserves from the public and many Scout Groups. Mr. Hannan showed photos of Scouts at MacQueen Lodge with MacQueen Forest Preserve Manager Justine and her great hospitality and personality with many Scout Groups.

Ms. Hannan also showed some photos depicting winter scenes throughout the different preserves and that winter maintenance and cleanup have been an ongoing chore with this year's winter weather.

Forest Preserve Staff have been working with the Fecon Forestry Mower this winter to wide trails and remove non-native invasive plants.

Lastly, the Annual Forest Preserve and Conservation District Conference was held at Starved Rock State Park Lodge February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff Members Josh Clark, Patrick McCrea, and Peggy Doty all gave great presentations at the annual event.

- [January/February 2019 Monthly Report](#)

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Hannan and Chairman Stoddard noted that once the weather finally clears this year, the hope is to be able to get out and have more Committee Meeting in forest preserves than they did last year. Chairman Stoddard reiterated that a bus tour is still in the works for 2019 as well.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Mr. Whelan and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman Paul Stoddard

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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