

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Forest Preserve District 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 District Committee Minutes  
September 27, 2016**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday September 27, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Afton Forest Preserve Maintenance Bldg. In attendance were committee members: Mrs. Turner, Mr. Brown, Ms. Haji-Sheikh, Mr. Metzger, Mr. Emerson and Superintendent Hannan. Ms. Polanco was absent. Mr. Bagby arrived after the call to order. Guests included Ryan Hannan.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Turner called for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2016 meeting. Mr. Emerson moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Haji-Sheikh and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Turner called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Metzger moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hannan noted that the meeting location was moved to Afton this month due to the Gathertorium being booked for election use. That will be the case for the October meeting as well.

**FY 2017 BUDGET**

Mr. Hannan noted that the FY 2017 budget and levy has been placed on file at the last County Board / Forest Preserve Commissioners meeting. He will have the FY 2017 levy and appropriation ordinances ready for the next meeting so the budget can continue moving forward. Mr. Hannan reminded the committee that the total budget dollar amount for this budget is the same as for the last few years.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Mr. Hannan began by reminding the Committee that the monthly reports are included in their packets. Mr. Bagby arrived.

The Sycamore high school Cross Country team continues to utilize the Afton Preserve and the Great Western Trail for practice. They are also looking to do a conference meet tentatively scheduled for 10-22-16. The details are still being finalized. Other teams and coaches who attend their meets have been very complimentary to the Forest Preserve District for the great race conditions and maintenance of the Afton location.

Mr. Hannan showed a photo of the bench that had been donated by Gary Hansen and Joan Berkes-Hanson to the Afton Preserve. They have both commented that Afton has some of the best views of the County.

Local photographer Tom Roberts also provided his yearlong photo record of the Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve. Mr. Hannan noted that on 10-13-16, there will be an hour long tour of the Prairie Oaks site for The Conservation Foundation. A get together will be held at 4:30 at Prairie State Winery in Genoa where there will also be a presentation of Tom Robbins photos taken at the Forest Preserves.

Mr. Hannan commented that there will also be a tour of the Conro property now known as "Swanson Grove" in honor of the original farm owners (Swanson family) who had wanted the area to be utilized as a park or preserve.

The Northwest Astronomers who hold their weekend night stargazing meetings at Afton and Potawatomi Woods sent a beautiful photo of a full moon over Afton.

Mr. Hannan noted that the natural resource reports from Al Roloff and Josh Clark are included in the packets as well. He went on to report that on the Saturday prior to Columbus Day, 10-8-16, there will be the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Jeff's Tree's planting event. People from all over the country come to this event to plant trees in memory of Jeff Arnold. This year's event will be held at the new Sycamore Forest Preserve and families of all ages will be in attendance.

Mr. Hannan further noted that the shelters are getting started at the Sycamore Preserve. The Sycamore Lion's will be contributing roughly \$8,000.00 to the District and will have one shelter named Sycamore Lions Shelter. The second shelter will be dedicated to the VFW veteran's and they have indicated they may fundraise for that as well. Mr. Hannan commented that road widening and parking improvements and trail work, picnic shelters, electrical work is in progress.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Haji-Sheikh complimented Mr. Hannan on again creating a very prudent and thorough budget and financial report for the District. Mr. Hannan commented that the Forest Preserve District staff are very important to that process and that thanks and appreciation should go to them as well.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Turner then asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Metzger moved to take the Committee into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Haji-Sheikh. A roll call vote was held with 6 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative and 1 absent.

Following the Executive Session, Ms. Haji-Sheikh moved to return the Committee to public session, seconded by Mr. Bagby. A roll call vote was held with 6 Committee members voting in the affirmative, none in the negative and 1 absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Metzger moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Turner, Chairperson  
Forest Preserve District Committee  
AT:kjr