

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 16, 2010**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at the DeKalb County Administration Building Conference Room C at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were committee members: Ms. Fauci, Ms. DeFauw, Ms. Turner, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Walt, Mr. Gudmunson, Mr. Newport and Superintendent Hannan. Mr. Augsburger arrived after the call to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Fauci called the meeting to order and then asked if there were any changes to the October 19, 2010 minutes. Ms. Turner moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Gudmunson and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Fauci asked if there were any changes needed to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Walt moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Fauci noted there were no guests at the meeting this evening.

FOREST PRESERVE MONTHLY REPORTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Hannan began by noting that the 2011 Levy and Appropriation ordinances would move forward as well as the acquisition of the Sparks property at the next County Board and Forest Preserve Commissioners meeting. He commented that there had been discussion during the prior Executive Session requesting that the status of the 43 acres as build-able be determined and that it was determined build-able by the Planning and Zoning office. He noted there would be a presentation to the full Board of Commissioners at the meeting along with the discussion of a partnership with The Conservation Foundation on the purchase. The issue would then be passed to the full Board of Commissioners for consideration.

Mr. Hannan then reported that he had made a presentation at Oakcrest Retirement Community and the DeKalb County Genealogical society with over 100 people in attendance. Tim Murray and Al Roloff also spoke and Tim's film was shown on the restoration of the Ellwood cabin as well as a Power Point presentation on the cabin progress. He commented that a number of donations were offered that night to assist with the completion of the project. While many were monetary in nature, some of the donations were of antiques that could be used in the cabin.

He noted that many trees had been planted at the cabin site and that the roof beam and rafters had also arrived and been placed. The roof would soon be placed, and hopefully before the first snow of the season.

Mr. Hannan noted that the restoration group is hunting for windows authentic to the period. He reminded the Committee that the cabin dates to 1835 making many of the logs being used approximately 270 years old from the acorn.

Mr. Hannan then reported that he will be meeting soon with Aaron Grandgeorge and some of the Somonauk landowners who may be able to help with the Somonauk to Sannauk path.

He noted that among the other report information in the accompanying packet is a report on a very successful prairie seed collection as well as the Jeff's Trees project of 400 trees planted at Afton and additional bench donation.

Mr. Hannan then reported that volunteers from the Sycamore Salem Lutheran Church had spent time pulling nails out of the old timber planking of the Ellwood cabin so that wood could be re-used in the construction.

He then read a letter from a Boy Scout troop in Chicago with a 92 year old Scoutmaster. The letter was very complimentary about their recent stay at the MacQueen Preserve. They were especially pleased with the in site manager, Justine, who brought them cupcakes during their stay. Mr. Hannan noted that this is something Justine often does for camping groups at the site.

He pointed the Committee's attention to a natural resources report on invasive species and noted that they were usually quite easy to identify in the fall as they are the only plants that remain green after the typical growing season.

Mr. Hannan then closed by expressing his sincere thanks to the Committee for their work and dedication over the past years and for their service to the County and its citizens. He noted that many good things had been accomplished under their direction. Additionally, he commended them for their commitment to seek public office and to do the hard tasks that needed to be done. In response, the Committee extended its thanks to Mr. Hannan and staff for work and expertise as well.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Ms. Fauci also extended her thanks to the Committee members for their work and, more importantly, for their cooperation. She noted that their willingness to seek consensus for the greater good of the citizens they serve was quite commendable. She then noted that it appeared the Committee would not need to enter Executive Session this evening as no new information was currently available.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Augsburger noted that he had seen cars on the Sparks property and it appeared they were in the process of vacating the property. Mr. Hannan commented that this may have just been the owners closing the property down for the season.

Mr. Anderson noted that he had recently sighted 3 Snow Geese on his lake and Mr. Gudmunson noted an owl sighting in his field. Mr. Ausgurger commented that he had

been hearing his resident Sandhill Cranes that nest near his property. There followed a short discussion on the breadth of diversity of the local flora and fauna.

Mr. Augsburger then closed by sharing a photo taken during the first Bow Hunting outing of the season.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Turner moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson
Forest Preserve District Committee
JF:kjr