

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 21, 2010**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at the Administration Building, Conference Room C at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were committee members, Ms. Fauci, Ms. DeFauw, Mr. Walt, Mr. Augsburger, Mr. Gudmunson, Mr. Anderson and Superintendent Hannan. Ms. Turner and Mr. Newport arrived after the call to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following a call to order, Ms. Fauci asked if there were any changes to the August 17, 2010 minutes. Mr. Augsburger moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. DeFauw, and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Fauci asked for an approval of the evening's agenda. Mr. Gudmunson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Walt and the motion passed unanimously.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Fauci welcomed the guests for the evening, including Mr. Greg Millburg of the Farm Bureau, Steve Reed of the County Board and Peggy Doty of the Natural Resources Education Center.

Ms. Fauci then noted that Mr. Tim Murray, local filmmaker, was also present and would be presenting the final half of his film on prairie and woodland burn management and controlled burn techniques. She noted that he will also be filming the restoration of the Miller - Ellwood cabin project and that has been coming along very well.

FOREST PRESERVE MONTHLY REPORTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

Following the conclusion of the film, Mr. Hannan began his report by noting that the Ellwood Cabin project was indeed coming along very well. The logs have been moved to the Hoppe property and the foundation has been poured and the limestone from the Hoppe barns was used as a natural façade to the foundation exterior.

Tim Kilby log cabin restoration expert will be up to supervise the construction for one week. The cabin project will be worked on throughout the next year. He closed by noting that scouts have also been planting trees at the Hoppe property.

Mr. Hannan then reported that the Northwest Suburban Astronomers will be hosting a Star Party on 10-9-10 at the Afton Forest Preserve.

Recently the Illinois Department of Public Health does an annual renewal certification of the conditions of the local campgrounds. He noted that we received an excellent report on the grounds facilities and maintenance at Russell and MacQueen. Full licensure is now assured from August 30, 2010 to next summer when another inspection is made.

County Administrator Ray Bockman and Mary Supple noted that the Committee needs to discuss the release of Executive Session minutes. Mr. Hannan recommended that the minutes containing references to pending land acquisitions not be released until certain land preservation efforts are completed. He noted that he would do a review of the minutes and bring any that do not contain such references to the Committee for release by the end of this year.

Mr. Hannan then showed photos of the park benches that have been donated by various groups, such as Jeff's Trees as well as private donors who wish to do a memorial for their family members.

Mr. Hannan asked Ms. Doty to review the highlights of the PDRMA review she was asked to work with them on.

Before beginning, Ms. Doty commented that a Bald Eagle has been spotted at Russell Preserve again.

Ms. Doty then noted that she was familiar with the PDRMA organization from previous associations and had a very positive impression of them. However, she was still somewhat apprehensive regarding how they would take the U of I overview of risk management that the NREC operates under. However, they worked very well with her and produced a series of recommendations that they felt could assist the NREC. She commented that they were extremely thorough in their advice and she was with their focus on the insurance protections available for the NREC while serving the students and campers.

She closed by noting that this Saturday (9-25-10) at the NREC, there would be a "Gone to the Bird's Fundraiser from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Pete Olson allowed the NREC to use his prints on the handout for the event. There will be several activities for children and families. She recommended that for individuals unable to attend, the donation of a bag of black oil sunflower seeds would be very appreciated.

2011 BUDGET

Ms. Fauci requested that if there is a vote to move the budget to public review, that a letter be added that clearly states this is still a draft budget.

Mr. Hannan noted that he had distributed a draft budget previously last month for review. He noted that there are several options up for discussion from the levy amount to issues related to the University of Illinois Extension.

Since the Forest Preserve budget is balanced and have not had to access any emergency funds, and are a separate governmental agency, the District is not being recommended for the reductions as other County offices are. There were no questions or discussion at this time on placing the budget on file for public review.

Ms. Turner moved to place the budget on file for public review, seconded by Mr. Augsburger and the motion passed unanimously.

The budget will now be placed, after the Commissioners vote, on the internet and at the Sandwich City Hall, the Genoa Public Works office and the County Administrators office.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Ms. Fauci referred to previous discussions regarding what should be the qualifications for individuals negotiating land acquisitions on behalf of the Committee. She noted that it appeared to be the consensus of the Committee that a land acquisition specialist be used for these processes in the future.

Mr. Walt asked what the costs would be to acquire a land acquisition specialist. Mr. Hannan responded that Dan Lobbes, with The Conservation Foundation who had been used previously, was approximately \$85 per hour. He then reviewed what had been done on that purchase by Mr. Lobbes and the Conservation Foundation. He commented that the District has used similar practices with previous acquisitions partnering with other organizations like the Conservation Foundation.

Mr. Walt asked if everyone really agreed that hiring someone for this role was really necessary. Mr. Augsburger replied that \$85 per hour seemed to be a very appropriate figure and not at all unreasonable for the demands the Committee and County would expect of the position.

Ms. Fauci noted that there could be an amendment to the new land acquisition guidelines allowing for this decision to be made on a case by case basis.

Mr. Anderson moved to accept the guidelines with this amendment, seconded by Mr. Walt. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 1 opposed.

Mr. Turner, voting in opposition, noted that she did not believe this document was necessary.

Ms. Fauci noted that the information on how land is acquired should be posted on the County website to assure full transparency.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Fauci noted that the Committee would now be going into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition issues as well as to conduct the annual evaluation of Superintendent Hannan. She called for a motion to move into Executive Session.

Mr. Walt moved to take the Committee into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Anderson. A roll call vote was held with 8 votes in the affirmative and none in the negative.

Following the conclusion of the Executive session, Ms. Fauci noted that the Committee had reached agreement that Mr. Hannan has successfully achieved and in many cases exceeded all stated goals and benchmarks for his performance. Ms. Turner moved to forward the Committee's determination to the County Administrator, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson
Forest Preserve District Committee
JF:kjr