

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 21, 2011**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Wednesday June 21, 2011 at the Natural Resources Education Center (NREC) at Russell Woods Preserve at 6:00 pm. In attendance were committee members: Ms. Fauci, Mr. Anderson, Ms. DeFauw, Mr. Deverell, Mr. Newport, Ms. Turner, Superintendent Hannan and Ms. Doty of the NREC. Ms. Fullerton and Mr. Augsburger were absent. Steve Reid was the evening's guest.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Fauci asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011 meeting. Mr. Anderson moved approval, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hannan noted that the monthly reports were in the Committee packets as usual. He highlighted the recent 8K run held by the Sunrise Rotary. This year's event drew 122 runners and he noted that this fundraising event has helped the Rotary to generate the more than \$50,000.00 raised since 2002. All funds have been donated to the Forest Preserve for park shelters, handicap accessible trails and landscaping. He commented that Jim McMurdo from the Rotary has expressed interest in a longer term commitment for the Sunrise Rotary next project with the District. There have been tentative discussions surrounding the proposed Genoa to Kingston trail and having the Rotary be a major donor for the project. Mr. Hannan commented when the Committee goes to the Miller Ellwood cabin site this evening, they can also see the proposed trail corridor. This project is in preliminary planning and the Sunrise Rotary would like to have their name on the trail as a major partner. This trail could also be a place for their annual 8K run fundraiser for the FP District. Other partners could be Genoa Kingston School Dist. City of Genoa, DeKalb County Community Foundation and others, just like the many government and private partners involved with the DeKalb Sycamore Trail in 1997.

Mr. Hannan then reported that Pete Olson had recently completed his three public spring bird walks at Afton, Wilkinson Marsh and MacQueen and that Ms. Doty had also just wrapped up the NREC spring classes and summer camps were underway. Also, on 7-12-11 and 7-19-11, Al Roloff will again present his "evening on the prairie" talks and walks at 6pm at Afton.

He then noted that he was recently approached by Mike Lamdin, the Sycamore High School cross-country coach about using the Afton Preserve for the Sycamore Invite, an event for 12 cross country teams to compete. The Sycamore team currently trains at Afton and is extremely enthusiastic about the Preserve running trails. They had also

recently brought out the Kaneland cross-country coach who found the location perfect as well. Mr. Newport asked if there would be adequate parking at the site. Mr. Hannan noted that Mr. Landon had personally measured out the lot for the expected buses and cars and felt confident that they would all fit quite well.

Mr. Hannan then reported that the closing was held last Wednesday for the newest acquisition, the Prairie Oaks Forest Preserve. The \$200,000.00 acquisition grant Mr. Hannan applied for from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation should be received within 3 to 4 weeks. He noted that the phase one environmental evaluation had been done and will be a completed development plan soon for the parking and accessibility. The plan will be taken through the Planning and Zoning Committee and then to the full Board for approval along with re-zoning to "Conservation".

He also pointed out an article in the recent Invironments magazine highlighting the MS "Tour De Farms" 150 mile bike ride that occurs annually and uses the Preserves for rest areas.

Mr. Hannan then reported that Peggy Doty was on the board of the 4 Rivers Environmental Coalition and that the group had recently held their first event called "A River Gathering". This event occurred last weekend and was quite a success. Don Miller of Severson Dells did a publication on people's memories of and interactions with rivers. The publication spanned a wide variety of scientific, recreational and aesthetic examples of interactions and memories of certain rivers. Ms. Doty noted that Mr. Hannan was himself a participant in the publication and for the Committee's enjoyment, he read aloud his particular river memory.

Following the reading, Mr. Hannan presented the FY 2010 Audit copies for the Committee's review. He noted the District had a balanced budget and Auditors were pleased with Forest Preserve financial management.

Mr. Anderson noted that there appeared to be a bus entrance for the Genoa High School and it appeared to use part of the Forest Preserve's road. He asked what it is used for. Mr. Hannan responded that this is used solely for emergencies as they began using the blacktopped entrance road near Rt. 72 for bus traffic.

Ms. Fauci noted that she had recently been on the Great Western trail and it was really looking a bit rough in some areas. Mr. Hannan replied that trail work and some resurfacing were on the agenda for the Preserve staff this summer.

He also noted that last Saturday, Paul Searl of the NRCS staff met with Al Roloff, Mr. Hannan and a visiting Hoppe sister to see what had been done to the property to date. He noted that she was extremely pleased to see the progress that had been made especially the 1835 cabin work.

**CHAIR COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci noted that her only comment was that she was extremely eager to see the cabin site.

#### COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Ms. Fauci asked for any Committee member comments. Hearing none, Ms. Fauci recognized guest Steve Reid who had a question on the cabin.

Mr. Reid asked if there was any committee working on how the cabin would be furnished once construction was completed. He was particularly interested in the period that would be chosen for the furnishings and out fittings.

Mr. Hannan noted there was no formal committee, but that they had received some advice from Tim Kilby log cabin restoration expert. He went on to note that Mr. Reid's advice would be appreciated. It was noted that Ms. DeFauw of the Committee would be a good resource as well.

Ms. Fauci asked what furnishings would have been available in the 1830's. Mr. Reid replied that there would not be too much immediately following the Blackhawk wars. He then reviewed some additional facts regarding how the early pioneers survived during this time.

Ms. Fauci asked how early some of the families of Committee and Board members had arrived in the area. Mr. Anderson noted his family goes back to the 1870's.

Mr. Reid noted that he could also recommend the names of other local historians who have been involved in restoration projects, such as Lee Marks who worked on the Stacey's Tavern restoration in Glen Ellyn.

Mr. Hannan said he would exchange information with Mr. Reid. Ms. DeFauw indicated she would also speak with a colleague regarding a furniture plan they are preparing for a location from the same 1835 period as the Miller-Ellwood cabin. Mr. Reid offered to donate some period furniture to the Cabin.

Mr. Deverell commented that he had helped out at the original farm location of the cabin. He noted there was an old donkey barn at that site that was quite impressive and wondered what period that barn might be from. He commented it seemed like a possible treasure for someone.

Ms. Fauci asked if anyone knew of an organization that might be able to make use of the barns. She noted that the barns were not located in an area owned by the District currently, so she was unsure what the plans might be. Additionally, moving the barn to the cabin site might not be economically feasible at this time. Ms. DeFauw noted that she hoped some organization might be recording the locations and uses of agricultural buildings from the county.

Ms. Fauci asked if the Farm Bureau did any recording of that type. Neither Mr. Anderson nor Mr. Newport knew if they did. Ms. Fauci noted that perhaps some photos or records could be placed at the Cabin site in the future.

Mr. Hannan then asked if Ms. Doty wanted to make any reports to the Committee on the summer camps at the NREC.

She noted that she wanted to just comment that area has a tremendous resource in the local Ellwood family members and society and that the cabin will be a great future teaching resource. She commented that if she had one suggestion for the Committee, it might be considering the security of any furnishings or records displayed at the site. Mr. Hannan noted that there would be a gate closing and securing the site when not in use and that the Preserve has also considered having a live in host or an alarm system installed. He noted that a live in host would likely have to have a camper at the property as the cabin would not be fully habitable.

Ms. Doty noted that it is good if the building could be used as frequently as possible as it keeps the area looking occupied and cared for and that goes a long way to discouraging any vandalism or destructive behavior. She noted that she hoped it would be a boon for local historical groups and as a way to give campers attending the NREC camps a more authentic prairie experience from their local community.

She noted that there were over 1,240 students served in April and May for field studies at the NREC and there are only a small amount of openings remaining for the 6 weeks of summer camps. She noted that they had a non-English speaking Korean child recently who had been having issues until they got to the camp and developed a way to communicate despite the language barrier. This sort of example is very heartening to the camp staff. She noted that they have also prepared an area where the students can “dig” for pre-placed fossils and items and that has been quite a hit.

She closed by showing the Committee an actual portion of a mineralized mastodon fossil found by a local farmer several years ago and donated to the NREC.

Ms. Fauci noted it might be a good time to head for the cabin site tour while there was a break in the weather.

#### **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