

**FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 15, 2011**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Wednesday November 15, 2011 at 6:00 pm at the County Administration Building. In attendance were committee members: Ms. Fauci, Mr. Anderson, Ms. DeFauw, Ms. Turner and Mr. Augsburg, Mr. Deverrell, Mr. Newport and Superintendent Hannan. Ms. Fullerton arrived after the meeting was called to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Fauci noted there was one change to the posted agenda – item 6 had already been completed. She then asked for an approval of the evening’s amended agenda. Mr. Newport moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Anderson and the motion passed unanimously.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hannan noted that, as usual, all reports are included in the monthly packets. He added that the auditor has requested a resolution attached to the budget regarding a change in the ruling regarding fund balances. This will be attached to the budget and levy recommendation at tomorrow’s County Board meeting – but the Committee needs to pass a motion tonight.

Mr. Newport noted that his Finance Committee has also passed this rule change.

Ms. Fauci asked if this would cause any changes to current practice and Mr. Hannan noted that that the Forest Preserve has actually already been clearly itemizing and stating the reserve fund balances for years, as is now required by the rule change.

Mr. Newport moved to adopt the clarity in reporting policy as recommended by the auditor, seconded by Ms. Turner and the motion passed unanimously.

**OFF LEASH DOG DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hannan then handed out a proposal of revisions to the rules and regulations for off-leash dog areas. He commented that this is similar to the Kane and DuPage County Forest Preserve ordinance language on the subject. The revisions note that even at the off-leash areas dogs are required to be on leash from April 1<sup>st</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup> annually during the grassland bird nesting season. He noted that the Health Department as well as Animal Control have agreed to the ordinance upgrades and revisions. Ms. Fauci asked about the penalties for repeat offenders. Mr. Hannan responded that the Forest Preserve ordinance

states a minimum of \$50 per fine (after warning citations), however the County Ordinance can go higher.

Ms. Turner asked if the language for the April to July period could be made simpler. The Committee then discussed possible clarifications to the statement as posted.

Ms. Fauci asked if biting dogs could be fully banned from the Preserves. Mr. Hannan noted that there is a provision in the ordinance that states the Preserve can have dogs removed from Forest Preserve property that demonstrates aggressive or inappropriate behavior be immediately removed.

Mr. Hannan commented to the Committee that there have been numerous efforts to try to resolve the issues surrounding this on leash off leash situation before this revision became necessary – but to no avail.

Mr. Augsburg moved to accept the proposed revisions, seconded by Ms. DeFauw and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fauci asked if the full ordinance containing the new language could be brought to the Committee at the next meeting. Mr. Hannan indicated he would prepare that.

Mr. Hannan then reported that there have been discussions regarding the proposed Somonauk/Sannauk trail with Mr. Dewey. He noted that a survey and acquisition agreement could be available within the next month. He and Mr. Dewey will also be walking the proposed path within the next week.

Ms. Fauci asked if there were a particularly good time of the year to build a path. Mr. Hannan responded that it will likely start as a mowed path and then be improved as funding efforts are identified and secured.

Ms. Fauci asked when this would go to the full Board. Noted that it can go to the Board the month after review and approval by the Committee.

Mr. Anderson then asked if the Committee meeting would be cancelled. Ms. Fauci noted that several committees have been cancelling December and there does not seem to be sufficient business to require one.

Mr. Anderson moved to cancel the December Forest Preserve Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Newport and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CHAIR COMMENTS**

Ms. Fauci asked about a connection between Nehring to the new sidewalk that is being constructed along Bethany Rd,. Mr. Hannan noted that the city has quite a bit of additional bridge work to be done before this can be completed west to 1st St.. There have been flags and marking placed, but no further movement beyond that.

Mr. Newport noted that there would have to be some brush removed before the connection could be made. Mr. Hannan replied that the path would be on Forest preserve property and Bethany Road right of way. Ms. Fauci noted she will continue to check on the project and report back.

#### **COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Mr. Anderson noted that Canadian geese seem to be extremely prolific this year with large flocks everywhere. Mr. Augsburger reported that his Sandhill Cranes have not left the area yet due to the mild weather.

The Committee then discussed the changing patterns of the migratory birds throughout the area and the effect weather has on that.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Fauci then asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Mr. Anderson moved the Committee into executive session for the purpose of discussing potential District land acquisitions, seconded by Ms. Fullerton. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 8 Committee members voting in the affirmative and none in the negative.

Following the Executive Session, Mr. Augsburger moved to return the Committee to public session, seconded by Ms. DeFauw. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed with 8 Committee members voting in the affirmative and none in the negative.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Deverrell moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Turner. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Fauci, Chairperson  
Forest Preserve District Committee  
JF:kjr