

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
February 24, 2015**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District Committee met Tuesday February 24, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the Gathertorium of the DeKalb County Legislative Center. In attendance were committee members: Mr. Brown, Mr. Metzger, Mr. Oncken, Ms. Polanco, Ms. Turner, Ms. Haji-Sheikh and Superintendent Hannan. Mr. Emerson was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Turner called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2014 meeting. Mr. Oncken moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Polanco and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Turner called for a motion to approve an amended agenda. Ms. Haji-Sheikh moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Oncken and the motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hannan began by noting to the Committee that their packets contained the reports and activities for the month. He then highlighted that the recent Winter Fest had over 300 in attendance this year. He also noted a photo included of a pileated woodpecker recently spotted at the NREC. He commented that this species of woodpecker (as large as a crow) has not been seen in the county for at least 60 years. He noted that there is also a Natural Resources Management Report and the January 2015 activities report in the packet as well.

Mr. Hannan reported that the sled hills have been temporarily closed at Sannauk and Russell Woods Preserves due to unsafe conditions. The hills will remain closed unless there is sufficient new snow to improve the conditions.

Mr. Hannan then reminded the Committee of the annual FY 2014 budget amendments and transfer Resolution will be before the forest preserve commissioners in March. He concluded by handing the Resolution for the Committee's review.

Mr. Oncken then moved to approve Resolution FP-R-2015-01, seconded by Mr. Brown and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hannan reported that there had been some recent discussions regarding a local citizen who was interested in putting a paint ball arena onto the old Evergreen Village site.

However, such an activity would not fall within the requirements for the property as set by the State and Federal guidelines. He then handed out a draft plan to illustrate the possible conservation and passive recreation uses for the property and potential trail connection to the Great Western Trail. He noted that he was hopeful there would be a landowner meeting within the next two months to begin to finalize the proposed trail connection to the Great Western Trail.

Mr. Oncken asked if the area would be off-leash for pets. Mr. Hannan noted that could be discussed later, however Sycamore Park District and DeKalb Park District are working on off leash dog parks. Ms. Turner commented that there were limitations on pet waste because of the area flood plain status.

Mr. Hannan noted that he has applied for a Com Ed / Open Lands Green Regions Grant to continue the progress on the trail west to connect the Village of Genoa and Kingston. The portion of the path from Genoa to Russell Woods has been completed. Mr. Hannan and others are working to complete the leg of the path that would lead to Kingston west of Pleasant Hill Rd. Mr. Hannan noted that the trail grant would be worth approximately \$10,000.00, an additional \$20,000.00 would come from the Forest Preserve District, Kishwaukee Sunrise Rotary and DeKalb County Community Foundation. He remarked that the path would be primarily a limestone path.

Ms. Haji-Sheikh asked if the current path is gravel as well. Mr. Hannan responded that the majority is, though there is a small section of asphalt.

Mr. Brown asked if Genoa High School made use of the path. Mr. Hannan replied that students and athletic teams use the pathway and trails at Russell Woods.

He then reported that this upcoming Saturday, The Gardener's Pathway event would be held by the University of Illinois Extension and the Master Gardener's Program at Kishwaukee College. The Forest Preserve will have an information booth at the event.

Mr. Hannan then closed by noting that the annual inspections of campgrounds by Illinois Dept. of Health were conducted at Russell Woods and Mac Queen and permits issued.

UPDATE ON THE SHABBONA TRAIL PROJECT

Mr. Hannan began by highlighting a trail information handout from the Shabbona Trail planning group and noting that they would like to meet with the Committee at the proposed Shabbona trail site in April. The group of residents comprising the group would also be applying for a grant and the Forest Preserve District has pledged \$10,000.00 to the project. There will be an initial \$3,000.00 payment for engineering and grant writing needs with the balance to occur later in the project. He added that the trail group will also be pursuing other grant options. The trail is planned to begin construction hopefully in 2016- 2017 (see attached trail information brochure)

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Haji-Sheikh reported that she attended a recent meeting with the DeKalb Transportation group. She noted that the group is expecting a 21% increase in population growth in the area between now and 2040.

She then reminded the Committee that she has been active with the Pedal Pal movement and had been contacted with the question of whether there would be a bike rack at the Evergreen Village site. She noted that she still has an extra rack from the grant last year and would be happy to see that used there. Mr. Hannan said bike racks were definitely planned for the site.

Mr. Oncken reported that there was a discussion held at the recent Jail Solutions committee to ask the Forest Preserve if they would surrender to the County General Fund the \$100,000.00 grant they are to be awarded by Waste Management.

Mr. Metzger noted that this question has been sent to the State's Attorney for clarification as to whether such a surrender would be allowable under the contract with Waste Management. Ms. Turner noted that she does not believe Waste Management would be in favor of such a change as they are very focused on promoting green activities, conservation and environmental education initiatives. Ms. Haji-Sheikh stated she would be against such a move.

Mr. Hannan closed by showing a short film about the summer camps at the Natural Resource Center made by local filmmaker Tim Murray.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Haji-Sheikh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Oncken. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Turner, Chairperson
Forest Preserve District Committee
AT:kjr

Shabbona

Proposed Multi-use Path

3.1 mile path to connect:

- Shabbona Indian Creek Schools
- Downtown businesses
- Shabbona Lake State Park
- Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve
- Indian Oaks Country Club
- Lions Park
- Local Residents



Trail Uses

Safe Passage for Students

Recreational Bicycling

10,000 Steps for Fitness

Relaxing Strolls

Community Enrichment

Educational Opportunities



A Multi-Use Community Trail



Shabbona

10,000 Steps for a Healthy Lifestyle!

Explore our scenic wonders

The trail will allow the thousands of visitors to the state park to safely see what our small town has to offer. It will provide local residents the opportunity to safely move from place to place easily. The path will also connect to more than 30 miles of trails within the state park. Walkers and cyclists will see health benefits in addition to the beautiful scenery.



www.ShabbonaPathway.com