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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Forest Preserve Operations Committee Minutes
August 23, 2022**

The DeKalb County Forest Preserve Operations Committee met for their regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the Sannauk Forest Preserve in Somonauk, Illinois on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Those Members present were Ms. Mary Cozad, Mr. Patrick Deutsch, Mr. John Emerson, Ms. Maureen Little, and Chairman Craig Roman. Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb and Ms. Michelle Pickett were absent at the time of roll call. A quorum was established with five Members present and two absent.

Forest Preserve District Superintendent Terry Hannan was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Ms. Little, seconded by Ms. Cozad and approved unanimously by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Cozad moved to approve the July 26, 2022 minutes as presented. Mr. Emerson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PLACING THE FY2023 FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT ANNUAL APPROPRIATION & LEVY ON FILE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Mr. Hannan provided the Committee with a draft Levy Ordinance and Annual Appropriation Ordinance for their review. He noted that driving to the meeting tonight he spoke on the phone with County Comptroller Robert Miller and realized that his figured are not correct. Mr. Hannan expressed that the Forest Preserve District will be looking to take the same approach as the County and only levying new construction for revenues. This would keep the rate essentially the same as last year and would be cost neutral to DeKalb County Tax Payers.

Mr. Hannan continued that the Resolution would stay the same but the rate and the totals would be lower than are currently being displayed. He also noted that the Forest Preserve District is and would continue to remain lower than 1% of the total property tax bill in DeKalb County.

Mr. Emerson moved to forward the Resolution placing the FY2023 Forest Preserve District Annual Appropriation and Levy on File for Public Inspection with the understanding that the District would only levy on new construction. Mr. Emerson seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Ms. Terri Mann-Lamb and Ms. Michelle Pickett arrived. All seven Members were now present.

MONTHLY REPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Sannauk Forest Preserve is located between Sandwich and Somonauk. Acquired as the very first forest preserve in 1939. Sannauk was long ago the Somonauk Golf Course until the early 1930's and some of the old greens, sand traps and tee areas can still be seen in the forest. The woodlands, especially along Somonauk Creek, are diverse in structure and have one of the very best displays of spring flora. Skunk Cabbage, Turtlehead, Turk's Cap Lilies and a host of other uncommon lowland plants abound. The District's largest stand of Sycamore trees grow in Sannauk and, while not native to this region, Bald Cypress seedlings were planted in the early 1970's along the lower road. Sannauk has three enclosed and two open-air picnic shelters, hiking trails, a playground, a sledding hill, and fishing along Somonauk Creek. There is an historical marker at Sannauk showing the original Illinois and Wisconsin boundary going right through Sannauk Forest Preserve. The 1 and ½ mile limestone Somonauk Trail, connects the Village of Somonauk, the Somonauk Library, to Sannauk Forest Preserve.

Mr. Hannan reviewed his monthly reports for May, June, July, and August 2022. Some activities that have been happening at the various preserves have been the Watershed Summer Camp at Russell Woods, the DeKalb Library Summer Program at Afton, and Adventure Works at MacQueen.

Sycamore Boy Scout Troop 33 installed steps from the prairie trail up the hill to the Great Western Trail at Sycamore Forest Preserve for their Eagle Scout Project. Other Eagle Scout Projects were done at the Afton South Prairie Wetland Bank and another at Sycamore Forest Preserve.

Mr. Hannan continued to review the monthly reports which illustrated lots of families and activities/events happening throughout the various preserves along with summer staff and natural resource maintenance that is occurring throughout the months.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Mann-Lamb moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Land Acquisition per 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5) at 6:25 p.m. Ms. Pickett seconded the motion and it carried by a 7-0-0 roll call vote. Those Members voting yea were Ms. Cozad, Mr. Deutsch, Mr. Emerson, Ms. Little, Ms. Mann-Lamb, Ms. Pickett, and Chair Roman. None were opposed and no one was absent.

The Committee entered back into their Open Meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Mr. Hannan shared that at the August Forest Preserve District Commissioners Meeting, they would be recognizing the Sycamore Lions Club for their 28 years of cleanup on the Great Western Trail and for their donation of the Lions Picnic Shelter and bench at the Sycamore Forest Preserve.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Emerson and seconded by Ms. Mann-Lamb to adjourn the Committee Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Roman, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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