

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Audrey Johnson  
Gloria Lind  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance  
Mike Brien, Director of Natural Resources  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager

**GUESTS**

**Gary Brown Ann Wasser Debbi Hamilton Becky Maier Russell Kaney Ernie Fuhr Emily Porter  
Dave Ross Dave Byrnes Gary Anderson Ryan Scudder Michelle Borgiali Craig Campbell**

**ROLL CALL** The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM, by President Jeff Tilly. Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Audrey Johnson led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the budget hearing and board minutes on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

**Russell Kaney**, charter member of the Winnebago historical society spoke on behalf of saving the Holt House from demolition.

**Ryan Scudder**, spoke on behalf of saving the Holt House.

**Gary Anderson**, spoke on behalf of saving the Holt House.

**Michelle Borgiali**, Vice President of the Severson Dells Education Foundation board, spoke on behalf of Severson Dells to give insight as to the reason they had purchased the Elliot Golf Course and the use of the Severson Dells name.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Bills for October – Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for October. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for October in the amount of \$897,318.68 **Motion passed unanimously.**

2025 Board Meeting Schedule – Gloria Lind made a motion to approve of the 2025 board meeting schedule. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Demolition of Corn Crib – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the demolition of the corn crib. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed 5 to 1.**

Demolition of Small Barn- Mike Eickman made a motion to approve of the demolition of the small barn. **Roll call vote taken; motion passed 5 to 1.**

Demolition of the Holt House – Judy Barnard made a motion to approve of the demolition of the Holt House. **Roll Call Vote Taken; Motion Denied 5 to 1.**

Contract for Kishwaukee Gorge Forestry Mowing – Jerry Paulson made a motion to approve of the contract for Kishwaukee Gorge forestry mowing. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report. Vaughn let the board know that the campgrounds and golf courses are officially closed for the season.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report. Mike Brien announced that the department was able to have one day of prescribed burnings due to the weather conditions. He also mentioned the volunteer group from Christian Life that was organized by Stewardship Coordinator, Keith Krey. 182 students helped plant trees, remove invasive species and collect native seed.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman submitted a written report.

Marketing – Renee Pixler submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

Law Enforcement – Sheriff's Department submitted a written report.

Partner Groups – Alex Mills from Klehm Arboretum made the board aware that Klehm had received numerous grants during the month of October.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. December 6 - Employee Appreciation & Recognition Luncheon at Klehm Arboretum from 11:30am–2:30pm.
2. December 7 – Backpacking with Burpee at Ferguson Forest Preserve starting at 10:00am.
3. December 7 – Walk with U Guided Hike at Headquarters Forest Preserve from 9:00am-10:00am.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:15 PM Audrey Johnson made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition, litigation, the Severson Dells Nature Center lease and personnel.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mike Eickman made a motion to go back into open session at 8:15 PM. No action was taken while in closed session. Audrey Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM; motion passed unanimously. Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, December 18 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Wendlandt  
Recording Secretary