

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County  
**BOARD MEETING**  
Forest Preserve Headquarters  
December 18, 2024

**PRESENT**

Judy Barnard  
Mike Eickman  
Gloria Lind  
Cheryl Maggio  
Jerry Paulson  
Emily Porter  
Jeff Tilly

**STAFF**

Mike Holan, Executive Director  
Steve Chapman, Director of Finance  
Roxanne Sosnowski, Attorney  
Sherry Winebaugh, Human Resources Manager  
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations  
Kristy Knapp, Administrative Services Manager  
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator

**GUESTS**

Alex Mills  
Debbi Hamilton  
Becky Maier  
Ann Wasser  
Stephanie Nissen

Tracie Boolman  
Cherie DeWulf  
Jill Izer  
Jenna Goldsmith

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM, by President Jeff Tilly.

**PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE** Gloria Lind led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Emily Porter was sworn in by President Jeff Tilly as a new Commissioner for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

**ROLL CALL** Recording secretary Kristy Knapp called the roll.

**ELECTION of PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT**

Cheryl Maggio asked for nominations for President from the Board. Judy Barnard made a motion, Gloria Lind second to nominate Jeff Tilly for President. Jeff Tilly accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made for President and nominations were closed for President. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 6-0.** Jeff Tilly was voted in as the Board President. Cheryl Maggio asked for nominations for Vice President from the Board. Gloria Lind made a motion, Jeff Tilly second to nominate Mike Eickman for Vice President. Mike Eickman accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made for Vice President and nominations were closed for Vice President. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.** Mike Eickman was voted in as the Board Vice President.

President Jeff Tilly stated he would like to appoint Gloria Lind for Secretary, Steve Chapman for Treasurer, and Cheryl Maggio for Assistant Treasurer, as officers of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

**APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES** Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 20, 2024 Board meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS**

Sarah Lorenz was introduced as the new Communications Coordinator. Sarah gave a brief background on herself and the Board welcomed Sarah.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Jeff Tilly asked for any updates on the Holt house since the last Board meeting. Jerry Paulson stated the steering committee has held two public meetings, which have received a lot of input and enthusiasm on researching the Holt house. Judy Barnard mentioned a tour was held with herself and four other individuals at the Holt house. Judy gave an update on the condition of the house. Jerry stated he has been attending the steering committee meetings and at this time they are getting organized to move ahead. Jerry mentioned, Architect, Gary Anderson, would like more information about what staff needs are for office space. The immediate need is to repair the roof, which the carpenter's union offered to fix it themselves. Mike Holan mentioned that would be a possibility if they have their own insurance and provide the Forest Preserve with a Certificate of Insurance. The next steering committee meeting will be at the Rockford Public Library on January 7, 2025 starting at 6:00pm.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bond Updates – Steve Chapman updated the Board on the current status of the bonds. Steve stated the current bonds will be paid off on December 30, 2028. Under the Debt Extension Law, we are allowed to issue a certain amount of additional bonds without going through a referendum. This would have to be done before the current bonds are paid off. For 1.5 million, this would extend the bonds to 2032 and 2.0 million would be to 2033. These funds would need to be spent within three years and the process from issuing the bonds would be 60 days.

Gaming Revenue – Mike Holan mentioned the gaming company no longer wants to do seasonal gaming, meaning the gaming machines will no longer be at the clubhouses starting next season. The board mentioned adding signs to notify customers.

## ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Officers – President Jeff Tilly does hereby appoint and the Board of Commissioners does hereby confirm the appointment of Gloria Lind for Secretary, Steve Chapman for Treasurer, and Cheryl Maggio for Assistant Treasurer, as officers of the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. The Officers shall serve two-year terms of office, which terms shall commence on December 18, 2024 and shall conclude on December 2, 2026. Roll call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.**

Bills for November– Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for November. Mike Eickman made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for November in the amount of \$737,786.91. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Budget Amendment – Grant Revenue – Mike Holan updated the Board on the budget amendment and the appropriation of the grant revenue from The Conservation Fund for \$42,000. Judy Barnard made a motion to approve the budget amendment to include \$42,000 of revenue from The Conservation Fund and to include \$48,000 in expenditures to complete the Midwest Habitat Fund – Flanigan South Pipeline Phase II project at Funderburg Forest Preserve. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0**

Acceptance of Bid – Nancy Olson Children's Garden Natural Playground at Klehm Arboretum – Mike Holan reviewed the project with the Board. Jerry Paulson made a motion to accept the bid for the Nancy Olson Children's Garden Natural Playground to Stenstrom Excavation and Blacktop Group of Rockford, IL in the amount of \$358,990.00. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## STAFF REPORTS

Preserve Operations - Vaughn Stamm, Matt Weik, Scott Wallace, and Bryan Helmold submitted a written report.

Natural Resource Management – Mike Brien, Mike Groves, Keith Krey and Liz Hucker submitted a written report.

Golf Operations – Vaughn Stamm, Rich Rosenstiel, Tyler Knapp, and Mark Freiman 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 mentioned the DNR announced the OSLAD awards for the current year and the remodel and expansion of the Clarcor restrooms was not funded. Alex stated they appreciate the support of the Forest Preserve in pursuing the funding opportunity.

Jerry Paulson made an announcement that he was invited to the Macktown Holiday Open House and wanted to mention the donation of beautiful antique furniture to the Mack House. The furniture was donated from a museum in Milwaukee that is closing down. The Board asked if the Forest Preserve could put out a press release about the donation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

1. December 19 - Restoration Workday at Macktown Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
2. December 26 – Restoration Workday at Roland Olson Forest Preserve starting at 9:00am.
3. January 3 – Bird Hike at Blackhawk Springs Forest Preserve from 8:00am – 9:30am.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 6:05 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss land acquisition. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.** Judy Barnard made a motion to go back into open session at 6:24 PM. Roll Call taken. No action was taken while in closed session.

### **ACTION ITEMS-Cont.**

Budget Amendment – Land Acquisition – Mike Holan mentioned the budget amendment is for the purchase of the property by Indian Hill. Mike Eickman made a motion to approve the budget amendment to amend the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget in the amount of \$90,000 from the Corporate Fund Balance to the Land Acquisition Corporate Fund. Roll Call vote taken. **Motion passes 7-0.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Gloria Lind made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristy Knapp  
Recording Secretary