

Forest Preserves of Winnebago County
BOARD MEETING
Forest Preserve Headquarters
January 15, 2025

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
Vaughn Stamm, Director of Operations
Sarah Lorenz, Communications Coordinator

ATTORNEY

Roxanne Sosnowski
Andrew Heinisch

GUESTS

Becky Maier Debbi Hamilton
Jill Izer Tracie Boolman
Alex Mills Cherie Dewulf
Ann Wasser

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

PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE Judy Barnard led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Recording secretary Emily Wendlandt called the roll.

APPROVAL of AGENDA and MINUTES Gloria Lind made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 18, 2024 Board meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AWARDS, and PRESENTATIONS

Becky Maier requested that the Winnebago County Forest Preserves offer the same discounts for equestrian campers as they do for the regular campgrounds.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Holt House Update – Jerry Paulson spoke to the board to provide an update on the Holt House and the committee’s most recent efforts in preserving the site. Jeff Tilly asked that both Judy Barnard and Jerry Paulson report to the board every month with updates in conjunction with the Historical Society’s quarterly updates.

Mike Holan let the board know that there are three properties in the queue for purchasing and the board will need to make a decision soon as to whether or not they want to proceed with refinancing bonds to purchase those properties.

ACTION ITEMS

Bills for December – Steve Chapman presented to the board the bills for December. Gloria Lind made a motion to authorize the payment of the bills for December in the amount of \$352,911.22. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Personnel Policy Amendment – Mike Holan and Roxanne Sosnowski presented to the board the proposed amendment to the personnel purchasing policy. Gloria Lind made a motion to accept the amendment to the personnel policy. **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. Mike Brien made the board aware that sharpshooting as well as invasive brush and tree clearing has begun. Mike Brien and Sarah Lorenz are working together to have a larger social media presence to make sure that the public is informed on the Natural Resource Department’s activities.

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

Communications Coordinator – Sarah Lorenz submitted a written report.

Human Resources – Sherry Winebaugh submitted a written report.

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:57 PM Gloria Lind made a motion to go into closed session to discuss litigation, land acquisition and personnel. Mike Eickman made a motion to go back into open session at 7:27 PM. Roll Call Taken. No action was taken while in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Eickman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM; **motion passed unanimously.**

Next board meeting 5:30 PM, Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at Preserve Headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wendlandt
Recording Secretary