

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
March 18, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Friends Board meets at The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Headquarters located at 3S580, Naperville Road, Wheaton, IL 60189. For more information or questions, please contact fundraising@dupageforest.org or 630-871-6400.

Call to Order and Welcome – Mike Dyer, Chair

Roll Call and Meeting Minutes Approval – Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Motion for Approving and Placing on file Board Meeting Minutes for Board Meeting held January 21, 2025

Public Comment

Mission Moment

Seed Collection and Distribution in Forest Preserves - Tanya Ziobrowski, Senior Natural Resources Maintenance Tech

New Business - Mike Dyer, Chair

Priority projects in the forest preserves presentation and board discussion – Jeannine Kannegiesser, Executive Director

Motion to recommend the reappointment of Bob Watt, Larry Larson, and Carl Shultz to board

Motion to nominate Denise Krohn to the board

Motion to nominate Tom Williams to the board

Reports

Treasurer's Report - Ashley Guest, Treasurer

Motion to Accept Financial Dashboard Summary through January 31, 2025

Development Committee Report - Dave Stang, Development Committee Chair

Ex-Officio Reports - Jeff Gahris – District Commissioner and Jeannine Kannegiesser – Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer

Adjournment – Mike Dyer, Chair

Next Board of Directors Meeting – May 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m. at District HQ, to be followed by Finance Committee Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 18, 2025

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County met at the District Headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton on March 18, 2025.

Call to Order

Chair Mike Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Secretary Joe Suchecki called the roll. In attendance were: Chair Mike Dyer, Ashley Guest, Larry Larson, Carl Schultz, Dave Stang, Joe Suchecki, and Bob Watt. Absent were: Tom Murphy and Jeannette Wells. The staff present were Audra Bonnet, Lulu Hertenstein, Jeannine Kannegiesser and Brian Kuszewski. Commissioner Jeff Gahris was also present.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Chair's Welcome

Chair Dyer welcomed board members, staff and guests to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and efforts on behalf of the Friends.

Approval of the January 21, 2025 Minutes:

Secretary Suchecki asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last meeting held on January 21, 2025. There were no comments on the draft minutes. Mr. Suchecki entertained a motion to approve and accept the meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Schultz. Second by Mr. Watt. The motion to approve the minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chair Dyer asked if there were any public comments. No one provided any public comments

Mission Moment

The Chair introduced Ms. Tanya Ziobrowski, Senior Natural Resources Tech with the District. Ms. Ziobrowski gave a presentation on the District's native seed collection and processing activities and explained how District staff go about collecting native seeds and preparing them for distribution at other preserves undergoing restoration. The current seed processing system needs improvements to increase capacity and efficiency, and the needed improvements are included in the plans for the new Natural Resources facility.

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Several Board members asked questions on the program and whether additional resources were needed to improve the program. Chair Dyer thanked Ms. Ziobrowski for her presentation.

New Business

The Chair recognized Ms. Kannegiesser who provided information to the Board on the upcoming priority projects in the District. The District identified 32 projects as part of the strategic planning process in 2019 and has been working through the project list over the years. Ms. Kannegiesser highlighted 11 projects that will be started in the next couple of years.

Ms. Kannegiesser entertained Board discussion regarding how the Friends and donors could contribute to the priority projects. With the completion of the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, the Board discussed the value of identifying some key funding goals and specific projects to give donors an opportunity to focus their donations. Board members generally thought that was a good idea but believed that more discussion is needed. Ms. Kannegiesser asked Board members to provide a list of three suggested priority projects to facilitate further discussion on the prioritization issue.

The Chair next took up the topic of nominating new members of the Board, and recommending their approval and appointment by the District Board of Commissioners.

Three current Board members are due for reappointment having finished their latest three-year term. Mr. Larson, Mr. Schultz, and Mr. Watt indicated their desire to continue serving on the Board. Mr. Suchecki made a motion to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Larson, Mr. Schultz, and Mr. Watt to an additional three-year term. Seconded by Mr. Stang. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Kannegiesser provided information on two new potential Board members: Ms. Denise Krohn and Mr. Tom Williams. Both submitted applications and expressed their interest in serving on the Board. Mr. Watt made a motion to recommend appointment of Ms. Krohn to serve a three-year term on the Board. Second by Ms. Guest. Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Suchecki made a motion to recommend the appointment of Mr. Williams to serve a three-year term on the Board. Second by Mr. Larson. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Chair Dyer indicated that the Board's recommendations would be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for their approval at their next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Guest presented the Financial Dashboard Summary through January 2025. The Friends total assets at the end of the month were \$904,873 including \$534,584 in unrestricted

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funds and \$370,289 in restricted funds. Net income for January 2025 was \$16,810 and disbursements to the District totaled \$2,638.

Ms. Guest entertained a motion to accept the financial dashboard through January 2025. Motion by Mr. Watt. Second by Mr. Larson. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote consent.

Development Committee Report

Mr. Stang led a discussion of the Development Committee activities. The committee is continuing its outreach to companies based in DuPage County. Companies with a higher priority are included on the Development Committee contact table. Mr. Stang encouraged all members to look at the table and complete outreach to those companies that were assigned Members in 2024. Members should research those companies and reach out to establish and maintain contact with them.

Lulu Hertenstein is the contact for information on the table.

Ex-Officio and Staff Liaison Reports

Commissioner Gahrns reported on recent Commission activities and indicated that many exciting initiatives are being considered. With the near completion of the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, the District will place additional efforts on ecosystems. The Commission also is involved in efforts to re-purpose the oak cottage at Green Valley Forest Preserve. Commissioner Gahrns also mentioned that staff are planning for the upcoming Duck Race, A Night for Nature and Native Plant Sale.

Ms. Kannegiesser, Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer, added that the financial audit of the Friends records is going well, and that staff are working on some outreach to Molex Corporation.

Chair Dyer asked if there was any additional business before the Board. There was none.

Adjournment

There not being any other business before the Board, Chair Dyer asked for adjournment.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:46 pm.