

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
May 20, 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 – Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Public Comment

Audit Presentation – Ann Scales, Lauterbach and Amen

Motion to accept audit as presented

Meeting Minutes Approval – Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Motion to approve and file board meeting minutes for March 18, 2025

New Business – Mike Dyer, Chair

Motion to Approve District Funding Request

Reports

Treasurer's Report

Motion to Accept Financial Dashboard Summary through March 31, 2025

Other Committee Reports

Staff and Ex-Officio Reports

Adjournment – Mike Dyer, Chair

Next Board of Directors Meeting – July 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m. at District HQ

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County met at the District Headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton on May 20, 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, Denise Krohn, Larry Larson, Dave Stang, Joe Suchecki, Bob Watt and Tom Williams. Absent were: Ashley Guest, Tom Murphy and Carl Shultz. Staff present were Audra Bonnet, Lulu Hertenstein, Jeannine Kannegiesser and Brian Kuszewski. Commissioner Jeff Gahrns 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. He extended a special welcome to new board members Denise Krohn and Tom Williams.

Approval of the March 18, 2025 Minutes:

Secretary Suchecki asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last meeting held on March 18, 2025. There were no comments on the draft minutes. Mr. Suchecki entertained a motion to approve and accept the meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Larson. Second by Mr. Stang. 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

Financial Audit Presentation

The Chair introduced Ms. Ann Scales from the accounting firm of Lauterbach and Amen. Ms. Scales presented an overview of the recently completed annual financial audit of the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2024. The audit found that the Friends' financial statements and records met generally accepted accounting standards. Lauterbach and Amen also presented a letter to the Board dated May 1, 2025, providing additional information regarding the audit.

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Following Ms. Scales presentation, Chair Dyer asked for a motion to accept the financial audit report. Motion to accept by Ms. Wells. Second by Mr. Stang. The motion to accept the 2024 financial audit was approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

The Chair recognized Ms. Kannegiesser who provided information to the Board on a request for the transfer of funds from the Friends to the District. The request dated May 5, 2025, requested the transfer of \$257,694 to reimburse the District for expenditures previously incurred for approved programs. Ms. Kannegiesser explained that the request for the transfer of funds was one of the routine and periodic requests to transfer monies to the District.

Chair Dyer asked if Board members had any questions regarding the request. Hearing none, the Chair entertained a motion to approve the funds transfer request. Motion to approve by Mr. Watt. Second by Mr. Larson. The motion to approve the transfer of \$257,694 to the District was approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Wells presented the Financial Dashboard Summary through March 2025. The Friends total assets at the end of the month were \$931,342 including \$543,223 in unrestricted funds and \$387,948 in restricted funds. Net income for the first quarter of 2025 was \$118,216.

There was some discussion regarding the information in the Financial Dashboard comparing year-to-date actual versus annual budget. Mr. Stang suggested that the Dashboard would be more informative if year-to-date actual was compared to a pro-rated annual budget number rather than the annual budget. Staff will look into the matter.

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

Ex-Officio and Staff Liaison Reports

Commissioner Gahrns reported on recent Commission activities and indicated that many exciting initiatives are being considered. The DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center is nearing completion, and demolition of the old building will soon begin. The bids for construction of the new Natural Resources Building came in favorably, and the Commissioners approved a contract with the winning bidder. Ground-breaking for the new facility will occur in early June. Commissioner Gahrns also reported that the Danada House is now up and running after improvements and renovations.

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Ms. Bonnet provided an overview of fundraising and gifts to the friends in the first quarter. Ms. Hertenstein reported on future events including the Duck Race on August 9th this year and A Night for Nature at Danada House on September 18th.

Following staff reports, Mr. Watt announced that he will be resigning from the Board since he will be moving out of the area.

Adjournment

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

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm.