

Week of May 20
Board of Directors Meeting
May 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Headquarters, Board Room

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County board of directors will conduct its meeting in person at the Danada headquarters building, located at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Call Meeting to Order – *Bob Watt, Chair*

Roll Call – *Diane Addante, Board Member*

Action: Motion for Approving and Placing on file Meeting Minutes from March 26 – *Diane Addante, Board Member*

Public Comments – *Bob Watt, Chair*

New Business – *Bob Watt, Chair*

- Action: Motion to Approve 2023 Audit as presented by Ann Scales, *Lauterbach and Amen*
- Action: Motion to approve nomination of a Friends Board Member

Chair Comments - – *Bob Watt, Chair*

Committee Reports

- Development Committee – *Dave Stang, Committee Chair*
- Finance Committee – *Jeannine Kannegiesser, Executive Director of Friends*
 - Action: Motion to Accept Financial Dashboard Summary Report through March 31
 - Action: Motion to Approve Funding Transfer request to Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Ex-Officios and Staff Liaisons Report

- *Jeff Gahris – District Commissioner and Ex-Officio Liaison*
- *Jeannine Kannegiesser – Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer, FPDDC*

Adjournment – *Bob Watt, Chair*

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Directors Meeting – July 23, at 5:30 p.m. at District HQ
- Finance Committee Meeting – July 23 at 6:30 p.m. at District HQ
- Development Committee Meeting – August 7 at 5:30 p.m. at District HQ
- Board of Directors Meeting – September 24 at 5:30 p.m. at District HQ

**Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024**

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County met at the District Headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, on May 21, 2024.

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Watt called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call: Acting Secretary Diane Addante called the roll. In attendance were: Chairman Watt, Mike Dyer, Carl Schultz, Diane Addante, Larry Larson, Dave Stang and Jeanette Wells. Absent were: Brian Battle, Ashley Guest and Joe Suchecki. Staff present were Jeannine Kannegiesser, Audra Bonnet, and Andrew Brown. Commissioner Jeff Gahris was also present. Ann Scales from Lauterbach and Amen was present until after the audit report was approved.

The Chair declared a quorum present.

Approval of the March 26, 2024 Minutes: Acting Secretary Addante asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Larry Larson moved, and it was seconded, that we approve the minutes from the March 26, 2024 meeting as distributed. Ayes–7; Nays – 0; Motion Adopted

Public Comment: None

New Business

Audit

Ann Scales, CPA, from Lauterbach and Amen, presented the audit findings for 2023. The financial statements of the Friends were found to be in good order.

Diane Addante moved, and it was seconded, that we approve the 2023 Friends Audit as presented by Ann Scales. Ayes–7; Nays–0; Motion Adopted

New Member Nomination

Chairman Watt presented Tom Murphy as a candidate for Friends Board. The Development Committee reviewed his application and Tom has met with Friends leadership to discuss board service. Tom is a retired lawyer with extensive nonprofit board experience and has an appreciation for our preserves.

Larry Larson moved, and it was seconded, that we approve Tom Murphy's nomination for Friends Board. Ayes–7; Nays–0; Motion Adopted

Tom's application will go before the Commissioners at an upcoming meeting for confirmation. Members were encouraged to attend in support of Tom.

Chairman Watt indicated that we have room for several more board members, suggestions welcome.

Chair Comments

Chairman Watt noted that since we last met, “An Evening with Goeffrey Baer” occurred at Mayslake. 141 tickets were sold, providing net revenue of \$6,619.

We hosted an engagement program at St. James Farm for donors and volunteers about cicadas. The program was well-received, with former Forest Preserve staff member and current natural area steward Carl Strang sharing his expertise.

The Native Plant Pre-Sale welcomed 300 shoppers during the three-hour sale. Many thanks to Bob, Carl, Joe, Jeanette, and Larry for representing Friends there.

Donations Report First Quarter

- We received \$69,000 in donations (goal for the year is \$576,000)
- 197 active donors (goal 1,000)
- 121 Ambassador Circle Donors (goal 600)
- 66 new donors
- Four Community Partners secured (goal 25):
 - - Edward Jones
 - Molex
 - Republic Bank
 - Rice Lake Square – sponsored the Native Plant Pre-Sale
- Grant Activity
Friends is applying for CNH and BNSF grants this month and likely the Union Pacific Foundation grant. We have applied for the Nicor grant, which we have received the past two years.

Committee Reports

Development Committee, Dave Stang, Committee Chair

Dave reported that the committee focused on two issues at their last meeting. First, building a database of the largest companies in DuPage County and then working to determine the best way to contact them. Second, the committee wants to establish a more formal timetable for presenting prospective board members. The committee would like to establish July 1 as the date to submit names to the committee. These candidates would be considered at our September meeting and start their service with Friends in November.

Finance Committee, Jeannine Kannegiesser, Executive Director

We currently have \$57,000 in Wintrust Checking and three investments as follows:

\$375,000 – maturing 7/1/24
\$500,000 – maturing 9/5/24
\$366,000 – maturing 10/31/24

We are preparing for a pull of funds for Willowbrook Wildlife Center in November. Our current maturity schedule will ensure we have the funds available and we can continue to invest in the bill maturing on 10/31/24.

Other Key Numbers

Total Assets less Liabilities = \$1.26 million
Net Income = \$63,825
Total Unrestricted Funds = \$405,000
Total Restricted Funds = \$857,000

Carl Schultz moved, and it was seconded, to accept the Financial Dashboard Summary Report through March 31, 2024. Ayes–7; Nays–0; Motion Adopted

The District is requesting \$110,532.89 in May for the following programs:

Conservation/Natural Resources - \$4,069
Blanding's Turtles - \$1,400
Mayslake Peabody Estate - \$31,900
Kline Creek Farm - \$2,350
Willowbrook Wildlife Center - \$50,000
Fullersburg Woods - \$3,095.20
Danada Equestrian Center - \$4,679
Special Events (proceeds support education, wildlife, and wild areas) - \$13,039.69

Diane Addante moved, and it was seconded, to approve the funding transfer request to the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. Ayes–7; Nays–0; Motion Adopted

Ex-Officio and Staff Liaison Reports

Commissioner Gahris reported that several opportunities for land acquisition were being considered. More to follow. These purchases must meet the requirements of being worthy of restoration and preservation. He reported that the Willowbrook Wildlife Center project is on schedule and on budget. Commissioner Gahris shared the plan for establishing the flora in the area in such a way that nearby residents will not feel the area is bare. Sustainability efforts across the District are being recognized. Improvements in the maintenance of landfills are in the works.

Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer Kannegiesser reported that The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County have formalized grant commitments from the following:

- \$2,000,000 from US Department of Energy for the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center at Willowbrook;
- \$100,000 from the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for Greene Valley Forest Preserve Master Plan improvements;
- \$22,000 for body cameras from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

The District is working to finalize grant agreements for:

- \$249,000 for Danada House through the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity;
- Two 2024 Congressional appropriation grants for bridge project through the IL Department of Transportation for Maple Grove and Cenacle Bridge.

Pending or Upcoming grant applications:

- Springbrook Phase III in Blackwell through ILEPA;
- IDNR OSLAD Grant;
- Four additional IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grants.

Members were encouraged to review the *Preserved for YOU* Annual Report. The report shows the importance of how good stories help draw people and resources to the preserves. We were encouraged to share the report with our networks. The Friends Annual Report is near completion.

We viewed the District's educational/fun cicada video which has gotten widespread acclaim.

Upcoming Dates:

6/8 – Friends Forest Tour of Greene Valley, 9 am

6/20 – Nature after Hours at Herrick Lake, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

9/5 – Annual Duck Race, tickets on sale 6/10

9/12 – Night for Nature, St. James Farm

11/19 – Friends Annual Meeting, tentatively set for The Preserve at Oak Meadows

12/3 – Giving Tuesday

Adjournment

Diane Addante moved, and it was seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes-7; Nays-0; Motion Adopted.

Chairman Watt adjourned the meeting at 6:18 pm

Submitted by,

Diane Addante, Secretary Pro Tempore

