

Week of July 14
Board of Directors Meeting
July 15, 2025, 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 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Call Meeting to Order – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

Roll Call – *Joe Suchecki, Secretary*

Chair Comments – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

Public Comments – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

Action: Motion for Approving and Placing on file Meeting Minutes from May 20 – *Joe Suchecki, Secretary*

Mission Moment – “That’s what Friends are for: partner to the forest preserves since 2010” – Jeannine Kannegiesser, Friends Executive Director

Old Business – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

New Business – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

- *Friends Forest Tour Report – anticipating its two-year anniversary – Mike Dyer, Chair*
- *Upcoming Events – Board Engagement Opportunities – Lulu Hertenstein, Corporate and Community Giving Officer*

Committee Reports

- *Finance Committee – Ashley Guest, Treasurer*
 - *Action: Motion to Accept Financial Dashboard Summary Report through May 31*
 - *Action: Approve 990 recently completed by Lauterbach and Amen so it can be filed*
 - *Inform: Finance committee meets after the board meeting*

Ex-Officios and Staff Liaisons Report

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

Adjournment – *Mike Dyer, Chair*

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes July 15, 2025

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County met at the District Headquarters at 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton, on July 15, 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, Larry Larson, Tom Murphy, Carl Shultz, Dave Stang, Joe Suchecki, Jeannette Wells, and Tom Williams. Absent were Denise Krohn and Bob Watt. Ashley Guest joined the meeting after the roll was called. Staff present were Audra Bonnet, Lulu Hertenstein, and Jeannine Kannegiesser. 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 May 20, 2025 Minutes

Secretary Suchecki asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the last meeting held on May 20, 2025. There were no comments on the draft minutes. Mr. Suchecki entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Williams. Second by Mr. Stang. The motion to approve the May 20, 2025 minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

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

Mission Moment

Chair Dyer introduced the Friends Executive Director, Jeannine Kannegiesser, who provided a summary and update on the Friends' mission to the Board. The Friends remain active and dedicated to its primary mission to raise funds supporting key projects and programs of the Forest Preserve of DuPage County. The Friends continues to concentrate fund raising on several areas including the new DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, the Blandings turtle project, and the District's greatest needs projects. Ms. Kannegiesser reported that funds will be needed for these and other master planning projects.

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She then provided an update on the key upcoming fundraising events – the Duck Race in August and A Night for Nature in September. Both events will be held at new locations this year, and Friends' staff currently are engaged in planning and promoting both events. Ms. Kannegiesser asked Board members to spread the word and help support the success of these efforts.

Ms. Kannegiesser then provided some key benchmarks from Friends efforts last year and reported that the Friends had 25 Community Partners, 143,390 donations, and 469 Ambassador-level donors that helped the Friends have a very positive impact on District operations. The District will continue to need Friends' support for the ongoing projects and others in the planning stage in the coming year.

Chair Dyer thanked her for the informative update.

Old Business

The Chair indicated that there was no old business before the Board

New Business

Chair Dyer reported that the Friends Forest Walks continue to be popular and are now entering their third year as an activity. More than 500 people have participated in the walks, and Mr. Dyer suggested that the walks offer an opportunity to educate the participants on the Friends work. He welcomed suggestions for new locations or ideas to coordinate the walks with other activities.

Ms. Hertenstein and Ms. Bonnet updated the Board on planning activities for the Duck Race and A Night for Nature. Both events need additional sponsors, and staff asked Board members to make contacts to help secure some additional funding for both events. The details on the auction at A Night for Nature at the Danada House are still being finalized.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Guest presented the Financial Dashboard Summary through May 2025. The Friends total assets at the end of the month were \$982,753 including \$569,110 in unrestricted funds and \$413,642 in restricted funds. Net income for the first five months of 2025 was \$97,086.

Chair Dyer made a motion to accept the financial dashboard through May 2025. Second by Mr. Murphy. The motion to accept the Financial Dashboard was approved by unanimous voice vote consent.

Treasurer Guest then presented the Friends annual federal tax filing Form 990 for 2024 to the Board. The Form 990 was prepared by the accounting firm of Lauterbach and Amen. The Form 990 was sent to Board members in the meeting packet for review. There were no questions on the Form 990. Ms. Kannegiesser noted that a minor change to the Form 990 sent to the Board

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was needed to revise a heading regarding events. The change has no material effect on the information reported on the form.

Ms. Guest entertained a motion to accept the Form 990 with the revised heading. Ms. Wells made a motion to accept the Form 990 as revised. Second by Mr. Larson. There was no discussion. The motion to accept the Form 990 with the revised heading passed by unanimous voice vote. The form will be signed and submitted.

Ex-Officio and Staff Liaison Reports

Commissioner Gahrns reported on recent Commission activities and indicated that many infrastructure projects are on the agenda including renovation of Maple Meadows Golf Course, demolition of the buildings associated with the horse farm property and replacement of several bridges. The Commissioner also reported that the District and land owner reached agreement on the sale of a key piece of property along the West Branch which will allow continuation of the West Branch Regional Trail. Commissioner Gahrns also reported on some recent information on the archeology of DuPage County and thought such information would be an informative and interesting addition to the District's efforts.

The Chair thanked Commissioner Gahrns for his presentation.

Adjournment

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

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:35 pm.