

**Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Board of Directors Meeting Nov. 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
The Preserve at Oak Meadows
900 North Wood Dale Road, Addison, IL**

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County board of directors will conduct its meeting in person at The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison.

Public comments are welcome. Speaker(s) must submit public comment in person or provide the written comment to be made part of the public record by the end of business the day prior to the meeting by completing the on-line form found on the District's website www.dupageforest.org/our-board/board-meetings. Please call for more information or if you plan to attend 630-871-6400.

Call to Order and Welcome — *Mike Dyer, Board Chair*

Roll Call — *Joe Suchecki, Secretary*

Public Comments — *Mike Dyer*

Chair Comments — *Mike Dyer*

Approval of Minutes — *Joe Suchecki*

- Action: Motion to Approve and Place on File Board Meeting Minutes for Board Meeting of Sept. 23, 2025

Slate of Officers for the Friends Board of Directors — *Mike Dyer*

- Action: Motion to Approve 2026 Slate of Officers for the Friends Board of Directors

Jeanette Wells, Chair
Dave Stang, Vice Chair
Tom Murphy, Treasurer
Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Finance Committee — *Ashley Guest, Treasurer*

- Action: Motion to Approve Financial Dashboard as Presented through Sept.31, 2025
- Action: Motion to Approve November Funding Request
- Action: Motion to Approve Grant to Support the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Captive Rearing and Population Augmentation in 2026

Inform: Volunteers of Distinction Award in Memory of Dorothy Hoger — *Jeanette Wells, Vice Chair*

Inform: Video Presentation — *Mike Dyer*

New Business — *Mike Dyer*

- Action: Motion to Approve 2026 Board Meeting Dates

Adjournment — *Mike Dyer*

Dates to Remember

- Board of Directors Meeting – Jan. 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at Forest Preserve District Headquarters in Wheaton

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County met at the Preserve at Oak Meadows, 900 North Wood Dale Road, Addison, on November 18, 2025.

Call to Order

Chair Mike Dyer called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Roll Call:

Secretary Joe Suchecki called the roll. In attendance were Chair Mike Dyer, Ashley Guest, Denise Krohn, Larry Larson, Tom Murphy, Carl Shultz, Dave Stang, Joe Suchecki, Jeannette Wells, and Tom Williams. Staff present were Audra Bonnet, Lulu Hertenstein, Jeannine Kannegiesser and Brian Kuszewski. Commissioner Jeff Gahr also was present.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Chair's Welcome

Chair Dyer welcomed board members, staff and the public to the annual business meeting and thanked everyone for attending as well as for their time and efforts on behalf of the Friends.

Public Comment

Chair Dyer asked if there were any public comments. The Chair recognized Dan Hebreard, President of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. President Hebreard expressed his thanks to the Friends Board for all their work in 2025 to support the mission of the District. He also expressed his gratitude to the public for their support of open space, improvements to District preserves and safe places to enjoy nature.

Chair Dyer thanked President Hebreard for his comments and the District's support of the Friends activities. He also expressed his appreciation to the nearly 1,000 donors and community partners who support the Friends efforts each year. The strong public and corporate support of the Friends help extend the District's vision and stewardship of everything we love in our DuPage forest preserves.

Chair Dyer also thanked the District's commissioners, directors, staff and volunteers for their endless dedication to conserve land and preserve native plants and animals for the entire DuPage County community. The Friends is proud to contribute support for the District's mission through philanthropic efforts.

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Approval of the September 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Secretary Suchecki asked if there were any corrections or edits to the draft last Board meeting minutes held on September 23, 2025. There were no comments on the draft minutes. Mr. Suchecki entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Mr. Larson. Second by Mr. Williams. The motion to approve the September 23, 2025, minutes was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Slate of Officers for the 2026 Friends Board of Directors

Chair Dyer presented a proposed slate of Officers for the 2026 Friends Board of Directors for the Board's consideration. The Proposed officers for 2026 are:

Jeannette Wells, Chair
Dave Stang, Vice-Chair
Tom Murphy, Treasurer
Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Chair Dyer entertained a motion to approve the proposed slate of officers for 2026. Mr. Larson made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented. Second by Ms. Guest. Chair Dyer asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The proposed slate of officers for the 2026 Friends Board of Directors was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Chair Dyer called on the Treasurer to provide a report on the status of Friends finances as well as requests for funds for District projects. Treasurer Guest presented the Financial Dashboard Summary through September 30, 2025. The Friends total assets at the end of the September were \$822,254 including \$612,454 in unrestricted funds and \$207,244 in restricted funds. Net income for the first nine months of 2025 was \$(65,968) reflecting a large disbursement to the District of \$257,614.

Ms. Wells made a motion to accept the Financial Dashboard as presented. Second by Mr. Williams. Chair Dyer asked if there were any questions or discussion. There were none. Upon vote, the motion to accept the Financial Dashboard was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Guest reported that the District submitted its November request for funds in a memo dated October 30, 2025. The District requested \$117,977 in Friends' funds for various projects. Ms. Guest entertained a motion to approve the funding request. Mr. Suchecki made a motion to approve the transfer of funds to the District for the stated amount. Second by Mr. Stang. Chair Dyer asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. The motion to approve the District's funding request was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Guest next indicated that the District has requested the Friends to fund a proposed contract agreement for \$25,000 for services to support the District's Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Captive Rearing and Population Augmentation Project for 2026. The proposed contract was

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the subject of a District presentation to the Friends at the September Board meeting. The funds will be used to continue efforts in DuPage County to save the federally-endangered Hines Emerald Dragonfly. A copy of the Grant Agreement was included in the information packet for today's meeting.

Ms. Guest asked for a motion to approve the Funding agreement. Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the agreement and transfer \$25,000 to the District. Second by Mr. Williams. Chair Dyer asked if there was any discussion. Mr. Suchecki voiced his support for this use of Friends funds. Upon voting, the Board approved the motion by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Guest indicated that she had no more items to bring before the Board. Chair Dyer thanked Ms. Guest for her presentation and for all her work on behalf of the Friends as Treasurer over the last few years.

Volunteers of Distinction Award in Memory of Dorothy Hoger

Chair Dyer recognized Vice-Chair Wells to discuss and announce the inaugural Volunteer of Distinction Award for 2025. Ms. Wells provided background information about the award indicating that the Friends was approached by Jeff Jensen and Ann Boisclair who were interested in sponsoring an award to honor Dorothy Hoger. Ms. Hoger was a dedicated District volunteer who spent many years volunteering at the Willowbrook Wildlife Haven helping care for the many animals brought there. Mr. Jensen and Ms. Boisclair wanted to establish an annual award to recognize District volunteers who exemplify the long-term dedication and support that Ms. Hoger completed during her lifetime.

Ms. Wells announced that two volunteers will receive the Dorothy Hoger award for 2025. Jennifer Johnson is a long-time volunteer at Willowbrook – now the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center. Ms. Johnson has volunteered at the center for 27 years and has spent over 10,000 hours volunteering for the District.

The second volunteer recognized was Conrad Fialkowski who is the Natural Resources Steward at Mayslake. Mr. Fialkowski has been involved in the volunteer efforts at Mayslake for 29 years and has donated over 5,000 hours of his time to the District. Both awardees were present to accept their awards.

Following the award presentation, Chair Dyer congratulated the two recipients and thanked them for all of their efforts.

Chair Dyer then invited attendees to view a video presentation summarizing the Friends activities and accomplishments during 2025.

New Business

Following the video presentation, Chair Dyer moved on to one item of new business before the Board. The Chair presented the proposed meeting dates for the Friends Board of Directors for 2026. The proposed dates are as follows:

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January 20
March 17
May 19
July 21
September 22, and
November 17

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2026. Mr. Larson made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates as proposed. Second by Mr. Williams. Upon voice vote, the motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates was passed by unanimous consent.

Chair Dyer then took the opportunity to thank the Friends Board and staff for their efforts over the last year and congratulated them on another successful year. Chair Dyer also thanked the many sponsors, supporters, and donors present for their support of the Friends. The Friends relies on strong support from the community, and the Friends Board looks forward to working together to continue supporting stewardship and investment in our DuPage forest preserves in 2026.

Mr. Dyer then invited everyone attending to stay for a reception following the meeting. He acknowledged Friends Board Member Larry Larson for generously sponsoring tonight's refreshments and reception.

Adjournment

Chair Dyer asked if there was any other business before the Board. Hearing none, the Chair called for adjournment of the meeting. A motion to adjourn the Friends' 2025 annual business meeting was made by Mr. Williams. Second by Mr. Stang. The motion to adjourn the meeting was passed by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Minutes Approved January 20, 2026