

**Board of Directors Meeting
November 19, 2024
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, located at 900 North Wood Dale Road in Addison. If you plan to attend or for more information, please contact 630-871-6400 or fundraising@dupageforest.org.

Call to Order and Welcome – Bob Watt, Chair

Roll Call – Joe Suchecki, Secretary

Public Comment – Bob Watt, Chair

Mission Moment – Forest Preserve District of DuPage County President Daniel Hebreard

Action: Motion for Approving and Placing on file Board Meeting Minutes for board meeting of September 24, 2024 – Secretary *pro tempore* Tom Murphy

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – Ashley Guest, Treasurer
 - Action: Motion to Accept Financial Dashboard Summary through September 30, 2023
 - Information: Investments Update

Ex-Officios and Staff Liaisons Reports

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

Old Business – Bob Watt, Chair

Action: Motion to Approve 2024 Officers Slate for the Friends Board including Chair: Mike Dyer; Vice Chair: Jeanette Wells; Treasurer: Ashley Guest; Secretary: Joe Suchecki

New Business – Bob Watt, Chair

- Action: Motion to Approve District Funding Transfer Requests
- Action: Motion to Approve 2025 Friends Board Meeting Dates
- Information: Recognition of our community of supporters

Adjournment and Welcome to Donor Reception – Bob Watt, Chair

Next Board of Directors Meeting – January 21, 2025, 5:30 p.m. at District headquarters, located at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton, IL.

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 19, 2024

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (“Friends”) met at The Preserve at Oak Meadows, 900 North Wood Dale Road, Addison, IL on November 19, 2024.

Call to Order and Welcome

Chairman Bob Watt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed Board members, staff and guests.

Roll Call:

Tom Murphy, acting as secretary pro tempore, called the roll. In attendance were directors: Mike Dyer, Ashley Guest, Larry Larson, Tom Murphy, Carl Schultz, Dave Stang, and Chair Bob Watt. Absent were directors: Diane Addante, Brian Battle, and Joe Suchecki. Staff present included Mary Andrusyk, Alexandra Bettini, Lulú Hertenstein, and Jeannine Kannegiesser. Ex Officio member and Commissioner Jeff Gahrns and District President Hebreard were also present. Additional District staff, volunteers and donors attended this meeting, which was immediately followed by a Friends donor reception.

A quorum of the Board was present.

Public Comment

Chair Watt asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Mission Moment and Report on Referendum

Chair Watt introduced Dan Hebreard, President of the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (the “District”). President Hebreard reported that with the assistance of the Conservation Foundation, which led a coalition of referendum supporters and an advocacy campaign, the recent referendum to increase the property tax cap of the District passed with approximately 63% support. He also reported that the referendums of the other nearby counties that were on the November ballot also passed (Lake and Kane Counties), although the vote on the McHenry County referendum was very close, and its passage had only been confirmed in the last day. President Hebreard also thanked all those in attendance for their efforts in support of the referendum.

Approval of the September 24, 2024 Minutes:

Chair Watt asked if there were any comments on or corrections to the minutes of the September 24, 2024 meeting and none were noted. On a motion by Mr. Stang, seconded by Mr. Schultz, the minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Finance Committee Report

Ms. Ashley Guest, Chair of the Finance Committee discussed the highlights of the Financial Dashboard Summary as of September 30, 2024, which was included in the materials provided to the Board before

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

the meeting and asked for it to be approved. Upon motion by Mr. Larson, seconded by Mr. Dyer, it was approved by a unanimous voice vote. Ms. Guest also reported on the investments of the Friends and noted that approximately \$1.2 million of T-bills are maturing on December 5 and after moving money to the District the balance will be reinvested.

Ex-Officio and Staff Liaison Reports

Commissioner Gahris reported that the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center is expected to open in 2025. He noted that now that the election has occurred and the referendum regarding District funding has passed, the District will be able to assess how that might affect future grants. He reported that with the additional funding available, the District board of commissioners is considering the budget for the coming year and expects to approve it in the next month. He also mentioned that a presentation regarding the Blanding Turtle project had been made to the District board in which the Friends support of the project was noted.

Chief Partnership and Philanthropy Officer Kannegiesser then addressed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She also noted the service of the staff members in attendance and acknowledged the services of Diane Addante and Brian Battle who are rolling off the Board. She also noted that cumulatively Friends has raised approximately \$3 million and granted approximately \$2 million for forest preserve initiatives since the organization was founded in 2010.

Old Business

Election of Officers

The slate of officers for 2025 was presented to the Board at the September meeting. On a motion made by Mr. Larson and seconded by Mr. Stang; the following slate of officers was approved for 2025 by a unanimous voice vote:

Chair, Mike Dyer
Vice Chair, Jeanette Wells
Treasury, Ashley Guest
Secretary, Joe Suchecki

New Business

District Funding Transfer Request

The Chair then turned the meeting to the District's request for a funding transfer as outlined in a memo from Mr. A Brian Kuszewski, the District's Assistant Finance Director to the Board dated November 5, 2024 and included in the package of materials provided to Board members in advance of the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Dyer, seconded by Ms. Guest, by a unanimous voice vote the transfer of \$639,622.55 from the Friends to the District was unanimously approved. The funds support construction of the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center, Natural Resources projects, Blanding's Turtle Program, Education Programs, Wildlife Rehabilitation, Preserve and Recreational Improvements.

2025 Meeting Dates

Upon a motion by Ms. Guest, seconded by Mr. Larson, the following schedule of meetings for 2025 was unanimously approved by a voice vote:

January 21
March 18

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

May 20

July 15

September 23

November 18*

The Chair then spent a few minutes thanking the donors to Friends for their generous contributions.

A video was then presented regarding Giving Tuesday, and it was noted that members of the Friends' Board have agreed collectively to match up to \$13,000 of donations between Giving Tuesday and the end of the year.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.