

**Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Meeting Schedule**

**Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
Development Committee Meeting
Wednesday, Feb.19, 2025, 5 p.m.
Forest Preserve District Headquarters, Board Room**

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County development committee will conduct its meeting in person at the Danada headquarters building, located at 35580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Regular Agenda

Corporate Engagement

Board Development

Events

Fundraising

Adjournment

Public comment is welcomed at the start of each meeting. If you plan to attend a development committee meeting or have questions, contact fundraising@dupageforest.org or 630-871-6400.

Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Development Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025, 5 p.m. Forest Preserve District Headquarters, Board Room

The Friends of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County development committee met in person at the Danada headquarters building, located at 3S580 Naperville Road in Wheaton.

Call to Order Committee chair Dave Stang called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Board members present at the start of the meeting were Dave Stang, Bob Watt, and Larry Larson. Carl Schultz and Jeanette Wells joined the meeting in progress. Staff present at the meeting were Audra Bonnet, Lulú Hertenstein, and Jeannine Kannegiesser.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Regular Agenda

Corporate Engagement: Committee discussed resuming its outreach to local corporations to invite them to engage with the Friends and District. The group revisited a list of potential partners that had been developed by staff and board members in 2024 and since refined. Board members will be researching companies to identify the following things:

- Company mission, values, philanthropic goals and evidence of current or past support of nonprofits.
- If there is alignment in these aspects, board members will seek to identify how and when companies consider partnerships and with whom they should be speaking (contact name and information, grant or sponsorship application cycles).
- Board members will report on their research to Lulú, who will manage updating information for the board. Board members will share their progress by the end of March. Lulú will send requested reminders to board members.
- Board members are encouraged to reach out to contact people and request brief meetings to explore possible partnerships. Staff are available to attend these meetings, as needed.

There was discussion about the types of companies that are interested in philanthropic engagement. Staff shared the current list of partners to illustrate the range of companies engaged with Friends, from small locally owned companies to international corporations. Alignment in values and priorities, capacity to give, and interest in engagement are the common denominators and, in all cases, a connection has been made between staff and/or board members and the people who guide decision making for company's

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philanthropy. Staff will continue to steward current partners and sponsors. The board is encouraged to help grow the community of corporate supporters for Friends.

Board Development:

Larry, Bob and Carl have agreed to be reappointed as their current terms are expiring or have expired. Carl's term officially ended in December; Bob's and Larry's will in April. We'll nominate them for reappointment at our March meeting, and the elected board can confirm them. Jeannine thanked them for their service and willingness to continue to contribute to the Friends' mission.

We have two people who have expressed interest in joining the board and the opportunity is being shared through The Steward and among District volunteers.

One has completed the application, and the board has his application materials. Mike and Jeannine met with the candidate, and he is well qualified and eager to join the board and contribute to its work.

The other candidate was recommended by Mike Dyer and has met Jeannine. When she has submitted her application, Jeannine will share it with the board. There was consensus to share this with the board as soon as available for consideration at their next board meeting.

Events

Lulú distributed the updated Friends' calendar with the selected Duck Race date of August 9. The Duck Race will be at Fullersburg Woods along Salt Creek. She shared that the next events where Friends' board members' presence is important will be the Native Plant Presale on May 15. She also distributed the updated Community Partners and Sponsorship brochure. More copies are available, as needed.

The committee discussed A Night for Nature's silent auction and a suggestion from staff to move towards offering Forest Preserve District experiences more exclusively to focus this portion of the fundraising on ways that people can connect more deeply with nature and the forest preserves through their donations. This idea will be discussed with the full board. Development committee members agreed that experiences are appealing. Details of how this will be rolled out are yet to be determined (silent vs. live auction; offering "buy-it-now" places in group experiences; having multiple of popular items to maximize opportunities for engagement and boost fundraising).

Fundraising

With the DuPage Wildlife Conservation Center campaign and project nearing completion, staff are suggesting the board might consider selecting upcoming priority projects to focus its fundraising. The board received the list of projects that were shared at the District's legislative breakfast. These are projects that would benefit from additional support. They include restoration projects, facility updates, preserve master

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plan elements, and accessibility improvements. The board asked questions about the time horizon for projects, prioritization, and necessity. Jeannine will supplement this information and donor giving trends in the March board packet, and the board will discuss how to elevate a subset of these projects within its campaigning soon. Board members were interested to know how the wildlife center project became a Friends' priority and staff shared the District had set a goal of the project funding coming from outside sources and Friends had partnered in that effort with its campaign.

Adjournment Conversation concluded and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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