

**KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 13, 2016**

**I. Call to Order**

President Wehrli called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. in the Kendall County Board Room.

**II. Roll Call**

Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Purcell, Shaw, and Wehrli all were present.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Cullick made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Koukol. All, aye. Opposed, none. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Citizens to be Heard**

No public comments were offered by those present at the meeting.

**V. Director's Report**

Director Guritz reported that Amy Martin is settling into her new position as Equestrian Program Coordinator, and is working to learn our registration and tracking systems. Ellis staff is also working to create a shared calendar for all Ellis functions in order to facilitate communications and scheduling of instructors and event support staff.

Tina Villarreal is working on the 2016 Bridal Expo. Three ads have been placed in local newspaper bridal guides including a \$305 ad in the Kendall County Record which includes the Sandwich Record, Plano Record, and Ledger-Sentinel; a \$250 ad in the Morris, Channahon and Minooka Herald, and a \$104 ad with Free Press Newspapers with distribution in Braidwood, Coal City and Wilmington.

Rebecca Antrim is completing the transition to RecPro. The system needs to be updated to include all Ellis program services, and current program registrants enrolled in programming from December 1, 2015. Additional research and support is needed to address some system capabilities issues including developing the ability to accept and record partial payments.

Joe Rogus with the IDNR will be providing an update on the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease in Kendall County.

Upland Design completed designs of the Hoover Forest Preserve Nature Play-space. Director Guritz stated that cost estimates have been prepared, but the goal is to raise the

funds and volunteer support needed to complete the improvements at no direct cost to the District by phasing in construction and development over time.

A meeting will be held later this month with Speer Financial to review bond refunding opportunities for 2016. Information from the meeting will be presented to the District's Finance Committee for consideration.

## **VI. IDNR Chronic Wasting Disease Update (Joe Rogus-IDNR)**

Joe Rogus, Wildlife Biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources presented updates on the incidence of occurrence of CWD in Kendall County.

The goal is to keep the incidence rate down to 1-2% of the population. In order to monitor spread of the disease, the IDNR harvests deer from areas where CWD has been detected from January 25 through the end of March. IDNR has also established a mandatory check station at Gebhard Woods for the 7-day firearm season in 2015, but with limited data collection results in this first year.

CWD has been detected in deer collected from the Oswego zone, and from responses to requests for assistance with infected deer in the Millbrook area, Baker Woods, and Hoover Forest Preserve. 6 out of 19 samples collected in the Oswego zone tested positive for CWD in 2015. Collection efforts will be expanded to include these four zones in 2016.

IDNR conducted aerial counts of deer in 2015 over a 64 square mile area, roughly 1/5 of the area of Kendall County, counting 524 animals. 300 deer were harvested by hunters in Kendall County in 2015.

Commission discussed a request from the IDNR to allow lethal harvest through sharpshooting within the preserves. Commission denied this request, but communicated consensus to allow the IDNR to retrieve injured deer within forest preserve areas.

## **VII. Hoover Forest Preserve – Stephanie's Garden Nature Play Space Designs (Michelle Kelly – Upland Design)**

Michelle Kelly of Upland Design presented plans for the Nature Play Space at Hoover Forest Preserve. Upland Design donated services to prepare site concept designs and cost estimates to assist with fundraising towards phased development of the site.

The plans presented included elements focusing on water-play, physical play, and artistic expression. The planning process included an initial presentation of designs to the stakeholder's group for input and feedback that took place on November 23, 2015. Play space design focused on creating an area that is safe and ADA accessible, provides engagement over a wide age range, supports and supplements existing educational programs, provides opportunities for both self-directed play and instructor-guided experiences, and is both durable and easy to maintain.

Overall, the main project goals are to create a space that stimulates learning in the natural world; engages children within opportunities for creative play and nature discovery; accommodates the public as well as preschool children; and allows caregivers to actively engage their children, or comfortably step back to allow for independent play.

Upland Design presented themes for the play space area. “Explore” is the first theme, with elements designed to encourage mental, physical and social exploration. This includes the wood cabin area.

“Make” is the second theme, providing opportunities for children to make different sounds, music, and art projects using natural materials.

“Discover” is the third theme, providing opportunities to explore nature including a butterfly garden and native prairie grass maze.

“Build” is the fourth theme, providing play elements utilizing natural materials including water, sticks, and mud.

Upland Design presented play space elements and designs within the four theme areas building on the elements already present. Elements included a log cabin, mud kitchen, butterfly and rain garden, play stage, nature loom, water play area, seating area amphitheater and fire ring, spider-themed prairie grass maze, hobbit tunnel, climbing hills, and effigy mounds (turtle and salamander) that will allow for reuse of excavated material at the site.

Upland Design presented the cost estimates for construction, but suggested that much of the work could be completed with volunteer assistance, with donations of supplies to significantly reduce project costs. The exception to this would be the water play area, which requires specialized contractors to insure that the final element meets code for allowable and intended uses.

Commission discussed the stakeholder’s group constituents, and project history.

Commissioner Davidson expressed appreciation for the plan, but expressed reservations on approving the plan without first having the funding in place.

Commissioner Gryder also expressed appreciation for the plan, but expressed interest in making sure the stakeholder’s group has a process in place for securing Commission approval for each phase of work prior to commencing work.

Commissioner Purcell observed that the fundraising efforts will be required to move the project forward, and questioned whether this project was the District’s priority for donation requests.

Director Guritz stated that regardless of the commitment, project volunteers will need guidance in order to move the project forward.

Commissioner Davidson stated that approval of the plan is needed in order to begin efforts to move the project forward.

Commissioner Gryder stated that naming rights as a policy will need to be discussed with the Board of Commissioners before these rights are communicated to potential donors.

Commissioner Purcell adjourned from the meeting.

Commission provided direction to engage the stakeholder's group to confirm commitment to the project, with consideration put forward on ground rules and drafted policies for moving forward, including ensuring that funding, labor, and supplies needed for a particular phase are in place before starting work to complete each project phase.

### **VIII. WIPFLi, Inc. Updated Letter of Engagement**

Director Guritz provided an updated letter of engagement from WIPFLi, Inc. The letter was updated to include an audit of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant secured as part of the Fox River Bluffs acquisition. A change order was requested from WIPFLi, Inc. to include this scope of work, with the fee subsequently waived at the request of President Wehrli.

### **IX. Wetland Mitigation Banking Discussion**

Commissioner Gryder reported that from the recent ZPAC meeting, wetland mitigation was required for a Fox Metro Water Reclamation District project. In accordance with the US Army Corps of Engineers requirements, the District purchased three wetland credits from the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District. There were no wetland bank credits available for purchase within Kendall County, which opened up discussions on establishing credits for sale on the open market in Kendall County. Fox Metro purchased credits at a cost of \$40,000 per mitigation acre.

Director Guritz provided background on the concept of mitigation banking. The DeKalb County Forest Preserve District created wetland acres it was able to offer on the open market for credit at their Afton Forest Preserve mitigation area. Afton is located along a stream corridor where the DeKalb County Forest Preserve District restored the hydrologic function and wetland vegetation to a 50-acre area. The credits were purchased from various entities over time, and a report was provided detailing the total acreage sold to each.

Director Guritz reported that the work has to go in ahead of time. The wetland areas need to be restored ahead of offering credits for sale, with annual monitoring performed to insure that the quality of the restoration is sustained.

Commissioner Gryder reported that wetland mitigation has been performed in Kendall County in the past for the Orchard Road bridge project.

President Wehrli stated that at this point, efforts are underway to determine if there are potential wetland restoration project areas within forest preserve holdings.

Director Guritz reported that he was working with Kendall County GIS to identify potential project sites. Township maps showing the locations of hydric soils in Kendall County were included in the Commission packets.

#### **X. Baker Woods Forest Preserve – Farm Operator Bid Results**

Director Guritz reported that five bids were received, with Kyle Connell submitting the highest bid of \$202.65 per acre.

President Wehrli stated that the contract will be prepared for approval at the upcoming Commission meeting.

#### **XI. Ellis Summer Camp Schedule and Fees**

Director Guritz presented an updated summer camp fee schedule. The updated schedule includes additional 2-day camp offerings recommended by the Programming and Events Committee. The additional 2-day offerings provide a buffer within the current fiscal year budget for student enrollment should the camps not fill to capacity. The summer camp fee schedule will be presented at the upcoming Commission meeting for approval.

#### **XII. Natural Beginnings Enrollment Updates and Proposed 2-Day Afternoon Session**

Director Guritz reported that there are wait lists for all Natural Beginnings sessions scheduled for 2016. Megan Gessler has requested consideration to open an afternoon 2-day session with a minimum enrollment of eight students. Approval of the additional session will be presented at the upcoming Commission meeting for approval.

#### **XIII. Other Items of Business**

None.

#### **XIV. Citizens to Be Heard**

No public comments were offered by those in attendance.

## **XV. Executive Session**

Commissioner Davidson made a motion to enter into executive session under 2(c)5 of the Open Meetings Act for the purpose of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired; and 2(c)21 for the purpose of discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. Seconded by Commissioner Koukol.

Roll Call: Commissioners Cullick, Davidson, Gilmour, Gryder, Koukol, Prochaska, Shaw, and Wehrli, aye. Executive Session called to order at 7:10 pm.

Commissioner Davidson made a motion to adjourn from executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Prochaska. All, aye. Regular meeting reconvened at 7:30 pm.

## **XVI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Prochaska made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Gryder. Aye, all. Opposed, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Guritz  
Director, Kendall County Forest Preserve District