

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 IN THE GREENBELT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

PRESENT were members Valerie Elliott, John Paul Schmit, Damien Ossi, Susan Gregersen and Lauren Young. Mr. Martin, Mr. Murray and Ms. Hoffmeister were absent.

ALSO PRESENT was Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, Richard Fink, Public Works Department, and J Davis, Member of City Council.

OPENING ROUND: Chair Valerie Elliott invited all present to check in and update the group with any items of interest

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting were approved by consent.

SUSTAINABLE LAND CARE POLICY: Mr. Fink was present to discuss the draft policy. Items discussed included:

- There needs to be an exception for herbicide use for invasive plant management.
- Does the policy apply to the Forest Preserve? Yes – see page 1 of the document.
- Public Works would not go into the Forest Preserve to perform any type of maintenance unless directed to do so.
- Should the policy state that the Forest Preserve has its own standards? The policy could be revised to be more specific.
- Discussion of different types of city land – forest preserve, gardens, dog park, playgrounds, ball fields.
- There could be specific guidelines for different types of city land.
- The policy is an improvement over the status quo. It should be a living document.
- When the draft is complete, the draft would probably go public and the City Council would probably schedule a work session to discuss the policy.
- Page 9 addresses areas of high value for invasive removal. Wildlife habitat should be first.
- Instead of hand removal suggested using the term mechanical removal.
- Consider using the term Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) approved pesticides.

The Board approved the Sustainable Land Care Policy by consent.

FOREST PRESERVE HEALTH ASSESSMENT: The Board discussed the schedule for further review of the health assessment. It was decided to continue board discussion at the November meeting and to bring the consultant back for further discussion at the December meeting.

Issues included:

- How to increase/improve the FIDS habitat.
- There should be specific proposals for dealing with water runoff – possibly consulting the watershed groups.
- Explanation of the data collection.
- How to go about making revisions to the ordinance and guidelines.
- Treatment of invasive species.
- Completeness of recommendations.
- How to prioritize what to do.
- Need a detailed map of the plant communities.
- Review the proposal for completeness of the report.
- How were plots located/selected? Was the method unbiased?
- Did not provide location data for sample plots. This relates to repeatability for future studies.
- No data on the density of invasive species.
- How to judge the accuracy of the polygons.
- How were plots chosen? Were they randomly generated?
- Were streams and trails field located?
- There should be a list of what data was used and collected.
- What is the source of the stream data?
- Study did not identify plants correctly.
- Provide a list of herbaceous plants.
- Provide a list of personnel and titles of persons on the team.
- Need to know everything the consultants did and in order that it was performed.
- There should be fixed points to measure data historically.

PUMPKIN WALK: Ms. Young volunteered to do the pre-walk inspection. Mr. Ossi will do the after walk inspection.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2016 at the Municipal Building.

CLOSING REMARKS: Final comments by Board members were shared.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia Craze, Director

These minutes were approved by consent.