

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Valerie Elliott, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Joseph Murray and Willis Witter. Ms. Siegel arrived at 7:50 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT was Jessica Bellah, Community Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development, Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, and Rodney Roberts, member of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board approved the minutes from June 25, 2015 with changes.

PUMPKIN WALK: Present was Melissa Ehrenreich for the Pumpkin Walk. Ms. Ehrenreich stated that the permit requested this year for the Pumpkin Walk is identical to last year's except that the organizers would like to block off Northway to traffic and run shuttle buses from the Roosevelt Center. The request is to use the same trail in Area A as was used last year.

Ms. Elliott asked for volunteers to check the pumpkin walk path before and after the event. Mr. Witter, Mr. Ossi and Ms. Hoffmeister volunteered.

There was discussion whether to locate the pumpkin walk in Area A, as requested, or in Area B. There was concern with the quality of the trails in the event of rain. It was the consensus of the board that the event should be held in Area B, but in the event of rain it should be held in Area A. Mr. Roberts asked that Council be copied on the permit.

TRAIL EROSION IN AREA A: Ms. Bellah summarized her recommendation for stabilizing the heavily used eroded trail in Area A. Some points made during discussion:

- Use of trees found near the site for the water bars, instead of using pressure treated lumber.
- Present condition and walkability of the trail.
- Backfill should be naturally sourced.
- Scheduling of the work.
- Use of experienced personnel with volunteers.

Ms. Elliott asked that members inspect the trail and this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

RFP AND SELECTION OF CONSULTANT FOR THE FOREST PRESERVE FOREST HEALTH ASSESSMENT: Ms. Craze gave a brief update. Ms. Elliott noted that detailed emails had been sent by Board members, and she believed the emails themselves would best inform the Council as to the opinions of the Board members. It was decided that the emails from the board would be forwarded to Council.

No further action was taken.

DISCUSSION OF FPAB VISION, MISSION AND GOALS: Ms. Elliott outlined the tasks she suggested for discussion of FPAB's vision, mission and goals. She suggested that subcommittees be created in the following areas:

1. Recommendations
2. Audit – evaluate the condition of the forest preserve
3. Sponsor activities
4. Coordinate with other boards

There was discussion about the willingness of board members to take on additional duties. Ms. Elliott stated that she will develop a list of specific, measurable tasks for the board to review.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2015 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia Craze, Director

These minutes were approved by consent.