

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER**

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

PRESENT were members Valerie Elliott, Damien Ossi, Willis Witter, Donna Hoffmeister, Jason Martin and Joseph Murray. Ms. Gregersen had indicated that she would be absent.

ALSO PRESENT was Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, and J Davis, member of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with changes.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting were approved with changes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Jason Martin was welcomed to the Board. He gave the Board a brief summary of his background and interests.

UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEE E – CITY WEBSITE : Ms. Hoffmeister distributed a list of possible topic areas and member assignments from a 2012 meeting. Board members agreed to the following assignments of topic areas to review and report on to the entire Board:

Early and recent history – Joe Murray and Jason Martin

Trees – Joe Murray and Damien Ossi

Mushrooms - To be determined

Other plants – Joe Murray and Damien Ossi

Birds – Valerie Elliott

Mammals – Valerie Elliott

Amphibians – Donna Hoffmeister

Stream life – Donna Hoffmeister

Insects – Jason Martin

Invasive plants – Joe Murray and Damien Ossi

It was also suggested to work with Greenbelt Biota on these tasks preparation. Mr. Martin agreed to bring the subject up at their next meeting.

TRAIL EROSION IN AREA A: The Board had previously approved a motion to send a report to the Council regarding the trail erosion in Area A. Ms. Craze was asked to prepare the report. Mr. Ossi agreed to send Ms. Craze photos to attach to the report.

Ms. Craze was asked to work with Public Works to reserve logs 8-12 inches in diameter and 6-8 feet in length, of any hardwood, and disease free, for possible use in the installation of water bars.

REVISION TO BY-LAWS: The revised by-laws were reviewed and changes suggested. Action on the by-laws will be scheduled for the next FPAB meeting.

AMERICAN CHESTNUT TREE FOUNDATION: Mr. Murray brought up this item, advising that saplings from the foundation would be available at no cost and suggesting that the city could identify locations for planting of these trees. Mr. Murray asked if there might be places in the preserve for such replanting, possibly along the edges. The trees are bred to be disease resistant, and would have to have protective screening to protect against foraging. It was the Board's opinion that there shouldn't be planting in the forest preserve while the study was underway.

Ms. Davis said she would bring up this item for Council discussion.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia Craze, Director

These minutes were approved by consent.