

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD THURSDAY, February 26, 2015 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER**

Minutes prepared by Jessica Bellah, Community Planner

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Valerie Elliott, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damien Ossi, Robert Snyder, Yoni Siegel, Joseph Murray and Willis Witter.

ALSO PRESENT was Jessica Bellah, Community Planner, Department of Planning and Community Development, J Davis, member of Council, and Rodney Roberts, member of Council.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board discussed the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2015 in the paragraph titled Review of Code of Conduct for City Boards and Committees. Ms. Gregersen moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Witter. The motion passed by a vote of 6-3-0.

REPORT ON CITY COUNCIL AND ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS WORKSESSION: Mr. Snyder reported on the meeting to the Board.

CODE OF CONDUCT: There were no additional signatories. Mr. Snyder reported that he was submitting comments and edits on the Code of Conduct to the City Clerk, Cindy Murray.

REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY 7 FOREST PRESERVE WALK: Mr. Snyder asked Ms. Elliott for her report on the topic. Some members of the Board and community members walked Area A with walk lead, Brian Knox, President of Sustainable Resource Management, Inc. and the website Eco-goats.com. Ms. Elliott elaborated on the information provided by Mr. Knox and the general conditions of the forest in this area.

FP ASSESSMENT/RFP PROCESS: The Board discussed edits to the scope and language of the draft RFP for a forest health assessment of the forest preserve. The Board discussed the addition of an introductory objective and the addition of consulting education and training for implementing any resulting stewardship plan. The Board was in general agreement that input could continue via email and to table discussion of the RFP until the March meeting.

BOARD ELECTIONS: Mr. Witter nominated Valerie Elliott as Chair. Ms. Gregersen seconded. Ms. Elliott was elected Chair by a vote of 7-2-0.

Mr. Murray nominated Susan Gregersen as Vice Chair. Mr. Witter seconded. Ms. Gregersen was elected chair by a vote of 6-2-1.

## INTRODUCTION TO REVIEW THE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

**GUIDELINES:** The Board discussed the request by Council to review the maintenance and management guidelines. Council Member J. Davis clarified that the motion was for the Board to look at the document and to determine whether any changes are warranted. The Board discussed the best process through which such a review could proceed.

**AREA D AND PUMPKIN WALK:** The Board discussed the 2014 pumpkin walk, previous and future walk locations. Council Member R. Roberts asked that the Board contact the pumpkin walk organizers for input. Council Member J. Davis asked that the Board make sure to provide an official report to council on this topic, outlining reasons and/or concerns regarding the location of the pumpkin walk. Chair Valerie Elliott assigned report item 1 to Ms. Gregersen asking that she draft a report to address the notification process and planning of the pumpkin walk. Chair Valerie Elliott volunteered to draft a report on moving the pumpkin walk to Area D.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 7 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Bellah

These minutes were approved by consent.