

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT was Rodney Roberts, City Council, and Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Added to the agenda was discussion of invasive species in Area D, and reflections on the February 19, 2014 city council worksession. The agenda was approved by a vote of 9-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: By a vote of 9-0, the minutes of the meeting of January 23, 2014 were approved with changes.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF REPORT NO. 2014-01 re. TRAPPING IN THE FOREST PRESERVE: The report was approved 5-4.

INVASIVE SPECIES AND FOREST PRESERVE AREA D: Several board members reported on their inspection of Area D. It was noted that invasive vegetation was extensive throughout Area D, and most of the previously existing trails were gone. The Management and Maintenance Guidelines recognize Area D as that area of the preserve most impacted by use, and therefore the most appropriate area to consider should trails be established in the future. It was suggested that the FPAB focus on two issues: keeping the trails open in Area D, and that invasive plant management be discussed as part of a larger invasive plant management strategy.

Chairman Snyder read from "The Truth about Invasive Species".

A variety of perspectives on the issue to invasive species management were discussed, ranging from opinions that the forest be left in an undisturbed state, to opinions that the forest had already been disturbed, and that this disturbance only allows invasive species to increase. There are many professionals on the subject of invasive species management, and hearing these differing perspectives could take some time.

It was suggested that the Pumpkin Walk be relocated to Area D, which would decrease wear in other parts of the forest preserve, and would also provide an opportunity to clean up Area D.

ADDITIONAL GARDEN PLOTS AT HAMILTON PLACE GARDENS: A plan of the Hamilton Gardens area was distributed. Chairman Snyder identified several areas shown on the plan where it might be possible to add garden plots. There was

discussion about those areas shown on the plan where there are drive aisle, or where gardeners currently park. Options to repurpose some of the open areas shown on the plan were mentioned, such as cultivation as a meadow, or to create a grove of fruit trees.

It was decided to continue this discussion to a future agenda.

REFLECTION ON CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION re. COMMUNITY GARDEN MAINTENANCE BOUNDARY: There was a request to clarify a statement made by Mr. Snyder that the motion said the existing fence line is the garden boundary, and that this statement is not contained in all of the garden reports.

Ms. Almquist made a motion that the FPAB send a letter to the City Council which would summarize the main point of the FPAB's three garden reports. Ms. Gregersen seconded. Ms. Craze suggested that since the proposed letter contains difference content than that of the three reports, that it would be more appropriate to send a new report.

There was discussion about what occurred during the February 19, 2014 worksession. The board's discussion addressed the definition of the garden boundary, use of pesticides in the maintenance zone, type of boundary markers to be used and whether the fences should be referenced.

Following several amendments to the original motion, the following motion was restated by Ms. Almquist: *It is moved that a report be presented to city council that summarizes and clarifies the main points in our 3 garden reports. The reasoning for this is so that the intent of our reports are clearly understood and that there are no misunderstandings regarding any of the language used.*

- 1. When we say (in the reports) that the 8 foot mark is the permanent boundary point we mean the permanent maintenance boundary for the end of the buffer zone. The FPAB permanent garden boundary is the gardener's current fence line. The maintenance buffer zone where routine maintenance will occur starts at the gardens' current fence line and measuring out 8 feet. This 8 foot mark will be designated with a marker. This 8 foot mark will be a dividing line between the disturbed area (i.e. gardens and buffer zone) and the undisturbed areas of the forest preserve.*
- 2. The FPAB is concerned about the possible use of toxic and synthetic pesticides in the maintenance buffer zone. This area is open to the public and will be accessed by gardeners and Greenbelt residents who walk through the gardens (sometimes with their dogs). We believe mowing is sufficient to keep vegetation low enough to not encroach on the gardens.*
- 3. The FPAB position is that the current garden fence lines represent the permanent garden boundaries and they shall stay where they are current in*

*February, 2014.*

- 4. The Forest Preserve belongs to all Greenbelt citizens and we have tried to minimize the loss of trees and wildlife habitat.*

Ms. Gregersen had previously seconded the motion.

On a motion by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Witter, the board voted 9-0 to postpone consideration of the motion until the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze

Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of 7-0.