

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Robert Snyder called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

PRESENT were members Donna Almquist, Susan Gregersen, Donna Hoffmeister, Damian Ossi, Robert Snyder, Yoni Siegel and Willis Witter. Ms. Elliott and Mr. Murray had been excused.

ALSO PRESENT was Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development. Rodney Roberts arrived at 7:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved without change.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: By a vote of 7-0, the minutes of the meeting of February 20, 2014 were approved.

Chairman Snyder distributes copies of several pages from the book Tending the Wild that had been provided by Mr. Murray.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF MOTION ON PROPOSED REPORT ON CLARIFICATION AND AFFIRMATION OF OTHER FPAB POSITIONS ON THE COMMUNITY GARDENS: The Board reviewed a motion made at the previous meeting.

Ms. Almquist made the following motion: "I move to withdraw the motion made February 20, 2014 that recommended a report be sent to City Council summarizing and clarifying the main points in the FPAB's three garden reports". The Chairman ruled a second was not required. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL EVALUATION/REPORT ON FOREST PRESERVE HEALTH: It was explained that the additional evaluation/report would be undertaken by Dr. Joan Maloof with the Old Growth Forest Network. This report would be in addition to the Department of Natural Resources report, which is currently under review at the staff level. The cost of the study would be \$300.

No further action was taken.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE TRAIL MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENT IN AREA D OF THE FOREST PRESERVE: Mr. Witter gave a report of his observations from walking this area. He noted the area had many streams, with lots of erosion around the streams. Possible trail alignments were discussed, as well as the necessity to obtain City Council approval of any trail work.

Ms. Gregersen called the attention of the Board to page 26 of the Management and Maintenance Guidelines which outline the process to designate trails. It was suggested that the easiest way to proceed with trail planning would be to recreate the old trail.

The Board asked if city staff was conducting annual walk-throughs of the preserves, as called for in the Management and Maintenance Guidelines. Ms. Craze advised that this was not being done on an annual basis due to staffing limitations.

DISCUSSION OF STREAM CONDITION AT GREENBRIAR PARK: Chairman Snyder reported that he had attended a City Council meeting during which the Council discussed a plan to stabilize the stream in the Greenbriar Park. He had gone to see the stream and believed the stream was not in a significantly degraded condition, and he believed there were mature trees in the park. He suggested that the Greenbriar Park would be a nice addition to the Forest Preserve.

Councilmember Roberts offered comments on his assessment of the stream and park. During discussion members expressed concern that the scope of the stream stabilization project could result in unnecessary impact and might not improve the condition of the stream habitat.

It was agreed to ask Terri Hruby, Assistant Planning Director, to attend the next meeting of the FPAB to discuss the project.

Ms. Gregersen asked about the use of asphalt millings around the Gardenway gardens. Ms. Craze explained that the millings were used to stabilize the ground during recently approved routine maintenance, and the millings would be removed and area restored when the work was complete.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia W. Craze

Director

These minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0.

APPROVED