

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD
Held Thursday, October 29, 2009

Chair, Ruth Kastner called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT were Ruth Kastner, Ginny Mudrock, Kathleen Bucco, Jean Snyder, Franklin Noll, Susan Gregerson and Valerie Elliott.

ALSO PRESENT were Terri Hruby, Assistant Planning Director and Lesley Riddle, Assistant Director of Public Works.

Agenda approved.

PESTICIDE POLICY

Ms. Riddle briefed the Board on the Green Advisory Committee on Sustainability (Green ACES) proposed pesticide policy for City property. Ms. Riddle reviewed the findings and recommendations of the proposed policy of Green Aces. Ms. Riddle indicated that now that she has been with the City for two years she is prepared to develop a pesticide use policy, framed around the work that has been completed by Green ACES. Ms. Riddle indicated The Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) and the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) should be involved in the development of a city pesticide policy. Ms. Riddle will forward a memorandum to Ms. Craze that she prepared discussing her recommendations on the use of pesticides on city property. Ms. Riddle indicated any proposed policy must include a plant healthcare plan and the phasing out of the cosmetic use of pesticides.

Ms. Riddle indicated that she will be creating a policy which will include quarterly reporting of chemicals used. Ms. Riddle also discussed additional steps to be taken including organic resource training, studying pesticide use by private citizens and engaging in citizen outreach. Ms. Riddle explained that her goal is for the City to be pesticide free by next year. In regard to the use of pesticides by private citizens, Ms. Elliott pointed out the abundance of fleas present this year and Ms. Riddle discussed possible chemicals that could be used, and discussed the sign notification requirements for when pesticides are applied on any property.

Ms. Riddle concluded the discussion by inviting any interested FPAB members to participate in the planning of a public outreach event in February on sustainable landscape practices.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Ms. Riddle reviewed the policy that City staff has been following in regard to tree trimming/removal associated with the community gardens. Ms. Riddle indicated that it is her opinion that where the Forest Preserve is taking over the community gardens, the

gardens need to be relocated rather than undertaking a major tree trimming and/or removal. Ms. Riddle explained that in some areas the trees canopies have grown so large that it is not feasible to restore adequate sun exposure to the community gardens, and therefore the gardens are not viable. Ms. Riddle indicated that she believed there are areas in the City where the impacted gardens could be relocated. Ms. Bucco pointed out the possibility of relocating the gardens to an area where there would be access to water. Ms. Kastner indicated that it may be a win-win for everyone if the impacted gardens could be relocated to an area where there is access to water. Ms. Riddle discussed the possibility of rain harvesting. Ms. Riddle agreed to keep the Board informed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair – Ms. Bucco nominated Ms. Kastner. Ms. Mudrock moved the Board nominate Ms. Kastner for position of Vice Chair, and Mr. Noll seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

Chair – Mr. Noll nominated Ms. Mudrock. Ms. Elliott moved the Board nominate Ms. Mudrock for position of Chair, and Ms. Bucco seconded. The motion passed 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

Review of Pumpkin Walk: Ms. Mudrock provided a review of the Pumpkin Walk and indicated that it went very well. Mr. Noll and Ms. Snyder walked through the area the day after and found no evidence of wear and tear on the trail.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda: The Board agreed to meet November 19, 2009 at 7:00pm due to the following week being Thanksgiving. The Board identified agenda items including identifying items for the joint meeting with the GHI Woodland Committee scheduled for February, follow-up on impressions of the recent joint meeting with the GHI Woodland Committee and wording for the Forest Preserve signs. Ms. Mudrock indicated in preparation for the next meeting she would try to access the GHI Woodlands Committee Yahoo group to identify possible items for the February joint meeting agenda. Ms. Bucco suggested that illegal leaf dumping be on the joint meeting agenda.

Names and Signs for the Forest Preserve Areas: The Board discussed the issue of naming the forest preserve areas and installing signs at major entrance points and at Northway Fields. The Board agreed that there are six formal entrance points to the forest preserve: Plateau Place, Laurel Hill Road, Gardenway, Hamilton Place, Boxwood and Northway. Board members agreed that the forest preserve areas are easily identified by referencing the entrance locations and there is no need to formally name them. Board members agreed that small, brown wood post signs be placed at the five major entrance points to inform people they are entering the forest preserve and at the major entrance at Northway Fields a larger regulatory sign should be installed at the fork in the access road. A suggestion was made that the City should develop an educational piece on the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. The Board tabled a motion to approve the following wording

for the minor signs in the interest of gaining input from Ms. Craze: “Entering a Greenbelt Forest Preserve”.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes prepared by Terri Hruby, Assistant Planning Director

Minutes approved by a vote of 5-0.

APPROVED