

**MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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, Susan Gregersen, Damien Ossi, Willis Witter and Joseph Murray. Ms. Hoffmeister had indicated that she would be absent.

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

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.

BY-LAWS UPDATE: Ms. Craze suggested that the FPAB update their by-laws. It was agreed to bring this item back on the next meeting agenda.

A MORTON THOMAS FOREST HEALTH ASSESSMENT: Ms. Craze stated she would have an update at the next meeting.

PUMPKIN WALK: The Pumpkin Walk was very well attended with over 350 attendees. The trail did not sustain significant damage. Pedestrian access worked well. There was brief discussion of the use of candles this year, and the possibility to using battery operated candles in the future.

UPDATE FROM SUBCOMMITTEE A – AUDIT THE FOREST PRESERVE: The Board discussed how this could be accomplished, with one option being to divide the preserve into areas, and another option being to divide the assessment into different functional areas/issues (trails, littering). Ms. Elliott expressed an interest in evaluating the trails and reporting on their condition. Mr. Ossi wished to visit other parcels in the forest preserve. It was suggested that the FPAB's assessment could be delayed until A Morton Thomas finishes their field work for the forest health assessment.

TRAIL EROSION IN AREA A: In 2011 the FPAB voted to recommend trail maintenance along this trail due to the extreme erosion but no action was ever taken on this recommendation. Ms. Gregersen suggested that the trail maintenance as outlined by Ms. Bellah in a previous report could be implemented as a test. It was agreed that that only natural materials should be used, and preferably the water bars should be from fallen trees in the area.

It was agreed to adopt the report of Ms. Bellah and to forward this report to the City Council. Mr. Ossi volunteered to write the report.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Celia Craze, Director

These minutes were approved by consent.