

MINUTES OF THE FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD  
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2013 IN THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: Acting Chair Celia Craze called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

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

ALSO PRESENT were City Council liaison Rodney Roberts and Celia Craze, Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, Janet Hagelgans, Yoni Siegel and Bill Rich.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved by a vote of 6-0.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: Newly appointed Board member Donna Almquist introduced herself and was welcomed to the Board.

ELECTION OF FPAB CHAIR: By unanimous vote, Robert Snyder was elected chair.

ELECTION OF FPAB VICE CHAIR: By unanimous vote, Susan Gregersen was elected vice chair.

Chairman Robert Snyder assumed the gavel.

REVIEW OF JANET HAGELGANS FOREST PRESERVE RANGER REPORT: Ms. Hagelgans reviewed her report of observations and activities from June 2011 to September 2011, when she volunteered as the forest preserve park ranger. She noted lots of littering near the gardens, dumping of yard waste near Gardenway, as well as appliances being dumped in the yard waste/compost yard. The Board discussed actions which could be taken to address these concerns.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF NOVEMBER, 2012 CLEARING IN HAMILTON PRESERVE: Ms. Craze gave the Board a summary of the circumstances surrounding the mistaken clearing of vegetation around the Hamilton Gardens, in the Hamilton Tract of the forest preserve, in November, 2012. Ms. Craze described that it appears that there was a discussion between city staff and member(s) of the garden club about removal of vegetation around the community garden plots, and within the forest preserve. Finally, it appeared that the work undertaken by city crews in clearing around the gardens and within the forest preserve was not adequately supervised, and therefore there was no opportunity for the encroachment into forest preserve protected areas to be observed and the actions halted.

In discussion the Board concluded that the clearing within the preserve was the result of inadequacies in planning and supervision of the work, and that this event should be viewed as a teaching moment, and not an action which necessitated disciplinary action. In addition to the Board's findings, the Board found that city personnel should better plan any work proposed to be done in the forest preserve, that proposed work should be

adequately reviewed for compliance with the Management and Maintenance Guidelines, work of a non-routine, previously reviewed or specifically permitted nature should be reviewed by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, and that the community garden language in the guidelines should be reviewed to eliminate any vague language.

Staff has asked to prepare a report summarizing the Board's discussion and findings.

**BOARD MEETING PROTOCOL AND CONDUCT:** The Board chose to table this item in favor of allowing such direction to be addressed by the City Council.

**COMMUNICATION WITH THE GARDEN CLUB:** It was noted that the Garden Club had a meeting the following week. It was decided that the FPAB should try to establish a dialogue with the Garden Club regarding the forest preserve regulations.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board was scheduled for June 27, 2012 at 7 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Gregersen and seconded by Mr. Ossi, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Celia W. Craze

These minutes were approved by a vote of .