

## League of Women Voters

### Kane County Government Monitoring Report

MEETING: [Forest Preserve Executive](#)

DATE: February 6, 2009      REPORTING: D Bakk

MEMBERS: Hoscheit, Fahy, Hurlbut, Kenyon, R. McConnaughay, R. Mitchell, Shoemaker, Tredup, Wojnicki, Wyatt. Also present: board members Allan, Lewis, Leonburger, Frasz, Ford?

Press: Yes, *Examiner*

#### SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Explanation: This executive committee is comprised of the various FP committee heads whose purpose is to come together to listen, comment and pass resolutions that will then be forwarded to the county board for a final vote. Reports were from the following:

- Enterprise Committee: Golf Course and Stadium (this item had an attached report from Skender Construction with subcontractor activity for the renovation of Elfstrom Stadium)
- Utilization Committee: Consideration of various equipment and jobs: ie. i. New Ditch bank mowers; ii. Mohawk Vehicle lifts; iii. presentation of bids for deepening of the well at Binnie Forest Preserve; iv. presentation of bids for the demolition of the Illinois Youth Home structures. Hoscheit said CDBG funds were used for part of this project (\$295,000+). Any unused funds from this project will go back into the land acquisition fund; v. Consideration of a license agreement with the Citizens Advocate Team and Friends of Fox River to establish an environmental educational center in the main house at the Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve. There was concern that the designated non-profits may not have resources for improvement costs.
- IDNR Request: Discussion about Illinois Department of Natural Resources to get permission to conduct a Chronic Wasting Disease monitoring program. CWD is a contagious disease of deer and elk that attacks the brain and is always fatal. (More info at <http://dnr.state.il.us>.) IDNR was asking to do testing on a deer sample in Kane County near DeKalb County where testing has already been completed.
- President's Report: The financial committee is coming up and an audit report will be available in order to review.

**MOST CRITICAL ISSUE:** Late last year when the observer attended a FP meeting, she obtained a packet from the pile of documents/attachments for use during the meeting which were clearly marked "Press." After the meeting she suggested to Mr. Quinlan that these attachments be uploaded on the web for citizens to view like other committee meetings. He replied that he did not have the administrative staff to do this, and that

hard copies were available to anyone who wanted to stop by and pick them up at the meeting.

At this meeting the observer once again took a packet from the “press” pile and was quickly approached by Mr. Quinlan who scolded her for taking a packet and explaining since she was not press she was not allowed to have the “press” packet.

**NEXT CRITICAL ISSUE:** The funds used for the youth home demolition came partly from Kane County Community Development Block Grant funds. Our Kane County LWVs have been advocating for more supportive housing for the mentally ill and developmental disabilities populations. The LWV committee believed that the forest preserve had ample funds to do that project. As a result there were less funds to help the MIDD housing projects. The FP report they will most likely have funds left over and it will go back into land acquisition.

**COMMENTS/NOTES:** While an email from the FP office was sent saying they would be happy to send future executive attachments to the League, this does not satisfy our continued requests for government to provide all citizens (not just the League) easy access to those documents available for viewing. This is called “transparency.”

**RECOMMEND ACTION:** There needs to be a follow-up with more observers monitoring the issue above to assure all citizens can obtain the public documents from meetings, especially the forest preserve.