

## **League of Women Voters**

### **Kane County Government Monitoring Report**

MEETING: [Forest Preserve Utilization Committee](#)

DATE: August 29, 2008      REPORTING: D Bakk

Members: Chairman Davoust, Commissioners: Fahy, Frasz, Greviskes, Kenyon, Leonberger, Shoemaker, Wojinicki and Wolfe

There was no press in attendance: Please see notes below on Critical Issues.

#### SUMMARY OF MEETING:

- ***Bids and Proposals:*** **For Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve Improvements and Paving Project**-amount \$115,000.00 by Champion Paving, Hampshire; **Paul Wolff Pond Outlet Project**-\$37,550 (Beaver problems) DuPage Topsoil; **Provision, delivery, set up and installation of office furniture for new maintenance and trades shops**-\$14,377.54 by Henricksen of Naperville; **Permission to purchase Mowers**-\$104,896. (all passed)
- ***New or Unfinished Business:*** **Garage Sale of surplus equipment which has been replaced during past year.** Advertised in Beacon/Courier. All monies put back into General Fund; **Permission to Demolish structure**--Request to take off demolition list--Fox River Shores and be used by Gary Swick at Dundee Crown HS as an option for storage for his environmental project tools and supplies.; **Permission to Demolish structure**--Fabyan Barn (not architecturally significant) Support from Kane County Development Dept, Preservation Partners and Friends of Fabyan. **Village of South Elgin Easement Request.** Permission to consider an easement request to replace a broken storm water sewer that partially lies within forest preserve property and maintain structure to perpetuity; (all passed) **Rules/regulations for district off leash dog areas and permission to reopen the Schweitzer Forest Preserve off leash dog area:** Discussion about changing open-close time on parks (current time 8 am) reopening did pass. **Fall tour:** Suggestion to take tour of new Brunner purchase in October. Logistics discussed and means of transportation. It was stated that if they were going to have a bus that the public and press must also be invited. Member Kenyon suggested using hay wagons to accommodate visitors.

**2007/2008 Capital Projects Annual Report:** This was a wonderful slide show with information on accomplishments from last year. See <http://www.kaneforest.com/capitalProjects.asp> to view this report. Costs of prairie seeding projects, oak seedlings planted, thinning of plants costs and numbers, resurfacing of trails, Great Western Trail bridge information with connections, etc. were all discussed. The staff was thanked for all their hard work and great job. Chair Davoust remarked that it was unfortunate that

press was not present and that more of the public did not get a chance to see presentation.

**CRITICAL ISSUES: Transparency.** Little if any outreach was done on this meeting. The observer tried to follow the meeting notices on this committee on the Kane County Government's web site. The meeting was noted as cancelled and to be rescheduled, but the rescheduled date did not appear on the web-site. Only after happening to see the notice in the FP's office the day before did she know of the change. The confusion comes in part from the Forest Preserve having its own web-site, but a person would most likely not go there for minutes, notices, etc. but to the Kane County Gov. site. Since the League believes citizens have a right to access records and information in order to ensure transparency in government, it is disappointing that meeting notices have to be so confusing or so much work to access. The fact that there were no reporters there make this more disturbing.

**FUTURE ACTION:** The League should continue to have representatives at public meetings whether they be at the county or local levels.