

Report of the Forest Preserve District Meeting  
March 2, 2006

The meeting began at 10:15. In attendance were sixteen eighth graders from the Chicago City Day School. They were being honored and treated to lunch for their three year program at Miami Woods in Morton Grove. The Friends of the Chicago River have been working with them. Twice a week they take a thirty minute bus ride. The fourth graders test the water quality and plant seeds, the sixth graders test the river flow and collect and categorize plants, and the seventh graders titrate the pH phosphates temperature. The program has also helped to restore the woods by getting rid of invasive plants, like buckthorn and garlic mustard.

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County, along with their partners, Friends of the Forest Preserve, and Chicago Area Mountain Bikers, and with the financial help of five grants, produced the pamphlet, "Ten City Escapes." These feature ten easy day trips on public transit to ten nearby Cook County Forest Preserves. Unique features in each site are clearly stated. After the presentation, a discussion followed on ways to distribute the pamphlet.

The following were approved:

1. Improve seventeen acres of globally significant wetland habitat of the Lower Des Plaines River.
2. Solicit a request for proposal (RFP) and to operate and manage the District's stable facility at Harms and Golf Road in Morton Grove.
3. Approve with the partnership of IDNR and the city of Des Plaines to bridge the gap in the District's Des Plaines River 21 mile trail system from Lake Cook Road to North Avenue.
4. Approved the purchase of 89 acres for the Bluff Springs Fen as a buffer to the Nature Conservancy.
5. Approved a resolution to allow Brookfield Zoo to borrow \$1.5 million from the District's Working Cash Fund.
6. Approved an ordinance to vacate streets and alleys in the Wolf Road Prairie that were platted in 1925. This will insure the quality of ecological life of the prairie.

A speaker appealed to the Board to hire more diverse ethnic people. He also complimented the board on their behavior. He said this was due to the studence in the audience.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.  
The next meeting will be April 6 th.

Observed and reported by Arline Doblin