

POST BOARD ACTION REPORT
Forest Preserve District of Cook County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, County Building
Thursday, November 15, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONERS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ITEM #1 APPROVED

Rules and Administration November 15, 2012
Finance..... November 15, 2012

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

ANNOUNCEMENT
PRESENTATION BY FRIENDS OF THE CHICAGO RIVER

ITEM #2 RECEIVED AND FILED

Transmitting a Communication dated, November 15, 2012

ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

Friends of the Chicago River is launching the Gully Walkers Program, a volunteer based gully monitoring initiative along the Chicago River and in the Forest Preserves. Gullies are formed when stormwater runoff flows through the landscape in an unnatural fashion; the water that flows through the gullies gathers pollution as it heads to the Chicago River. Identifying these gullies, addressing their source, and restoring the landscape will enhance the natural capacity of the forest preserve holdings as well as the Chicago River. Friends of the Chicago River will recruit and train interested individuals to assist in volunteer based monitoring, including collecting and analyzing the project data, to help restore and protect the natural landscape and improve the health of the Chicago River watershed. The Forest Preserve District of Cook County is delighted to support this program that offers a unique, hands-on learning experience for people interested in citizen science and to increasing efforts to protect our unique natural resources. We are pleased to have with us today Margaret Frisbie, Executive Director of Friends of the Chicago River, to tell us more about this new initiative.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEM OF BUSINESS
REQUEST TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS TO OPENLANDS
FOR PRODUCTION OF A NEXT CENTURY CONSERVATION POLICY PLAN

ITEM #3 APPROVED

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEM #3 cont'd

Transmitting a Communication dated, November 15, 2012

ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

requesting authorization to provide a twenty (20) percent match to funds awarded to Openlands and Metropolis Strategies for production of a Next Century Conservation Plan for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (The "Forest Preserve"). These two experienced and well-regarded nonprofits will raise funds in support of this work, which will take place from December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013. This work will be a critical element of our Centennial Engagement effort.

The Project cost is estimated to be \$438,500.00 and the Forest Preserve is being asked to match twenty (20) percent of the money raised up to a maximum of \$87,700.00. The Chicago Community Trust has already agreed to provide \$306,500.00 towards the effort. Fundraising will continue through early 2013, and the Forest Preserve will match only those funds awarded.

Description of the Plan: The Forest Preserve founders, visionary as they were, never could have anticipated today's issues: climate change, sprawling urban growth, public health epidemics of obesity and asthma, water quality and scarcity, new science for restoration ecology, and massive demographic change. Openlands, Metropolis Strategies and the Forest Preserve will address what these new conditions mean for maintaining, restoring and expanding the Forest Preserve System within the Next Century Conservation Plan.

One hundred years ago, the Forest Preserve became a model for keeping land in the public trust. Conservation visionaries developed this first-ever forest preserve in the nation, and today the Forest Preserve, with more than 68,000 acres, is the largest forest preserve district in the United States. It receives an estimated 40 million visits a year, providing a critical connection between this bustling metropolitan region's residents and its rich natural heritage.

A century later, the Chicago region is at a critical juncture for re-examining the Forest Preserve's conservation vision and renewing its commitment to a next generation of land protection. Openlands and Metropolis Strategies propose to produce a draft of a **Next Century Conservation Plan**, prepared with Forest Preserve staff. This plan will reframe the value of open space conservation in the Chicago region for the 21st century, establishing principles and an intellectual framework to guide the management, design, expansion and programming of a major urban conservation district in the next century.

The Plan will be based on new information and best practices from conservation districts and forest preserves across the nation, and will cover numerous areas of concern, including:

- **Land use:** What is the methodology for determining the right balance of uses including habitat restoration and stewardship; recreation; and agriculture?
- **Sustainability and ecosystem services:** What role does the Forest Preserve play in supplying ecosystem services for the region such as carbon sequestration and flood control? What are the best practices for planning and management that adapts to climate change?

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEM #3 cont'd

- **Economic growth:** What is the role of public open space in creating an economically sustainable region that attracts human capital? What are the opportunities for eco-tourism?
- **Public awareness and education:** What is the “brand” of the Forest Preserve, and what messages appeal to key constituencies? How does the Forest Preserve educate and involve the next generation? What partnerships with schools, museums, community organizations and others will enhance public understanding, use and value?
- **Financial sustainability:** How does the region value public land? What are best practices, principles and guidelines for funding acquisition, ongoing restoration, maintenance and improvement?

The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed and approved the proposed expenditure.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: Not to exceed \$87,700.00. Funding Period: December 1, 2012 through November 30, 2013. (019900-620090 Other Professional Services).

District(s): Districtwide

**PROPOSED CONTRACT
FOR AUDITING SERVICES
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2012, 2013 AND 2014**

ITEM #4 APPROVED

Transmitting a Communication, dated November 15, 2012 from

ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

requesting authorization for the District to enter into and execute a professional services contract with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, Chicago, Illinois and Oak Brook, Illinois (“Baker”), Contract Number 12-20-130, to audit and report on the primary government financial statements of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County for fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Reason: Based on a Request for Proposals that was issued by the District to which the District received four (4) responses, Baker was selected. Proposals were evaluated based upon pricing, experience and knowledge, and MBE/WBE goal participation.

Baker is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEM #4 cont'd

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$177,900.00. Contract Period: November 15, 2012 through November 14, 2015. (012000-620020 Annual Reports Audit).

District(s): Districtwide

**PROPOSED CONTRACT
FOR DELIVERY OF ELECTRICITY DISTRICTWIDE**

ITEM #5 APPROVED

Transmitting a Communication, dated November 15, 2012 from

ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

requesting authorization for the District to be added as an additional party to Cook County Contract Number 11-87-004 with Integrys Energy Systems, De Pere, Wisconsin ("Integrys") for the purchase and delivery of electricity to District facilities.

Reason: request for Proposals were issued by Cook County to which the County received six responses. Proposals were evaluated based upon pricing (commodity cost and fixed added costs), financial stability and credit rating, experience and knowledge and MBE/WBE participation. The term of the existing contract is from December 2011 thru December 2013 with two (2) one-year option renewals. Participating in Cook County's contract for electricity will allow the District to aggregate electric usage and obtain an approximate cost savings for Fiscal Year 2013 of \$126,000.00 or 36%.

Integrys Energy Systems, De Pere, Wisconsin is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$200,000.00. Contract Period: December 2012 through December 2014. (015100-640100 Electricity and Natural Gas).

District(s): Districtwide

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

**PROPOSED CONTRACT
FOR TECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES**

ITEM #6 APPROVED

Transmitting a Communication, dated November 15, 2012 from

ARNOLD L. RANDALL, General Superintendent

requesting authorization for the District to enter into and execute a one-year contract with Sentinel Technologies, Inc. Chicago, Illinois for the provision of an on-site engineer and troubleshooting services for the District.

Reason: This will allow the district to maintain on going services Districtwide by purchasing off an existing contract with the County. The terms, conditions and termination date of the agreement will be identical to the Cook County Contract 09-41-276 approved at the September 10, 2012 Cook County Board meeting.

Sentinel Technologies, Inc. is in good standing with the State of Illinois.

The Chief Financial Officer and Chief Attorney have approved this item.

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$135,000.00. Contract extension: September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. {019900-620096 Contractual Services (IT)}.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS
NOVEMBER 2012**

ITEM #7 RECEIVED AND FILED

**November 16
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Teens Outside 2012: The Future of Regional
Conservation
Chicago Brookfield Zoo**
Hosted by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County with support from the Chicago Zoological Society, the Chicago Botanic Garden, Chicago Wilderness and

**Friday, November 16
7:00 p.m.**

**Evening Owl Prowl
River Trail Nature Center**
Take a hike outside to try and call in some local owls. Afterward, warm up inside with snacks and see some of our resident owls up close. Preregistration required. Fee applies.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEM #7 cont'd

Chicago Public Schools; this event has Juan Martinez, head of Natural Leaders Network of the Children & Nature Network, kicking-off a Teen Congress, providing an opportunity for local, environmentally active high school students to get inspired, connect with others and share their outdoor experiences. Youth will also be the first to hear about a new initiative of FPDCC partner groups to develop the Teens Outside Leadership Team. This group of young people will be asked to meet several times throughout the year and work with staff at the partner agencies to develop ideas and programs that will attract more young people to outdoor and environmental activism and activities.

**Saturday, November 17
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Turkeys and Their Fowl Friends
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center**

Turkeys are often overlooked feathered beauty. Learn more about Ben Franklin's preferred bird and other fowl foods the Pilgrims may have enjoyed.

**November 17 & 18
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Tree Trim
Chicago Brookfield Zoo**

Community and Corporate groups are invited to sponsor a tree, make ornaments, and spend the day at the zoo decorating your tree! Tree sponsoring packages include zoo and parking passes and more.

**November 18
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Sand Ridge Nature Center
Settler's Day
15821 Paxton Avenue, South Holland**

Celebrate our heritage with living history demonstrators from the French fur trade, pioneer, and Revolutionary and Civil War periods. Activities include an imaginary wagon train, history hikes, pioneer games and crafts. Donations of non-perishable food to local food pantries will be gratefully accepted.

**November 22
Noon**

**Thanksgiving Day Feast for the Animals
Chicago Brookfield Zoo**

The annual Thanksgiving Day feast for the animals begins at noon and features guests helping dish out tasty nutritious treats to the goats, cows, llamas and horses. After helping out, guests can watch as zookeepers feed some of the not-so-tame animals like the hawks, owls, and raccoons.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT (continued)

ITEM #7 cont'd

**Sundays in November
1:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.**

Canyon Tour

Sagawau Environmental Learning Center

Learn how the only limestone canyon in northeastern Illinois was formed and how life survives in this dynamic habitat. Be prepared to wade through a creek.

**November 23 thru January 6
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Wonderland Express

Chicago Botanic Garden

Returning for its seventh season this popular holiday attraction featuring model trains as they travel through replicas of famous landmarks of Chicago made of natural materials is a delight for guests of all ages. Inside the Regenstein Center, watch miniature trains wind through village of Chicago landmarks created from natural materials. Visit an English country train platform and view a video on the creation of Wonderland Express. Tour decorated trees and take in a gingerbread village display. Walk by 750,000 lights trimming trees from the entrance to the Regenstein Center. Fees Apply