

The logo for The Nature Foundation of Will County features a stylized green leaf icon to the left of the text. The text "the Nature Foundation" is in a green, sans-serif font, while "of Will County" is in a brown, serif font.

# the Nature Foundation of Will County

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL & STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION**

Wednesday, October 27, 2021  
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
Sugar Creek Administration Center  
17540 W. Laraway Road, Joliet, IL

*Light refreshments will be served.*

### **AGENDA**

*\* Indicated item is included in this packet. We do have two items of business to address before moving into the planning session. These are the approval of minutes and approval of a new Board member appointment.*

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Minutes of September 22, 2021\*
  - 2.
- E. Reports of Officers
  - 1. Chairperson's Report
  - 2. Treasurer's Report
- F. Committee Reports
  - 1. Fundraising and Projects Committee
  - 2. Finance Committee
  - 3. Board Development Committee
- G. Old Business
- H. New Business
  - 1. Approve the Appointment of a New Director for a Three-Year Term\*
  - 2. Annual and Strategic Planning Discussion
    - i. Results of the Board Member Evaluation & Annual Planning Survey\*
- I. Reports
- J. Presentations
- K. Comments by Directors
- L. Comments by the Public
- M. Comments by the Executive Director
- N. Next Meeting Dates
  - 1. Wednesday, December 1, 2021 (Annual Meeting)
- O. Adjournment

The Nature Foundation of Will County  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – 5 to 7 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

## Meeting Minutes

- A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Pattison at 5:05 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call – Board members present included Pattison, Theimer, Flax, Dralle, Tuminello, Ventura, Mueller, and Schultz. There was a quorum. Harn was also in attendance.
- D. Approval of Minutes
  - 1. Minutes of July 28, 2021 – Dralle motioned to approve the July 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Theimer seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.
- E. Reports of Officers
  - 1. Chairperson’s Report
  - 2. Treasurer’s Report – Harn presented the financial report and the schedule of bills for approval.
    - i. Financial Report – Flax motioned to approve the financial report. Dralle seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.
      - 1. *Balance Sheet – August 31, 2021*
      - 2. *Budget vs Actuals – September 15, 2021*
      - 3. *Quarterly Statement of Activity – September 15, 2021*
    - ii. Schedule of Bills – July 22 through September 22, 2021 – Flax motioned to approve the schedule of bills. Theimer seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.
- F. Committee Reports
  - 1. Fundraising and Projects Committee
    - i. Status Report (Visual Presentation) on 2021 Native Plant Sale Events – Harn presented an overview of the status of the 2021 Native Plant Sale events so board members could see the progress to date.
  - 2. Finance Committee
  - 3. Board Development Committee
- G. Old Business
- H. New Business
  - i. Approve the Re-Appointment of Three Existing Directors, Each for One-Year Terms – Dralle motioned to approve the re-appointment of DeMauro, Pattison and Tuminello. Flax seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.
  - ii. Approve Request to Extend Founding Member Status for The Nature Foundation Legacy Society from December 31, 2021 to December 31, 2022 – Pattison motioned to extend the deadline for ‘Founding Member’ status in the Legacy Society to December 31, 2022. Flax seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.
- I. Reports

1. 2021 Plan of Work: Mid-Year Progress Report (9/15/2021) – Harn presented a status report on the Foundation’s 2021 Annual Plan of Work in preparation for the upcoming planning workshop on October 27, 2021.
- J. Presentations
- K. Comments by Directors
- L. Comments by the Public
- M. Comments by the Executive Director – Harn outlined the upcoming events.
1. Dates & Upcoming Programs and Events
    - i. Thursday, September 16, 2021 – Healthy Yards Native Plant Seminar on Zoom
    - ii. Saturday, October 16, 2021 – Oaktober! Native Tree & Shrub Pick Up
    - iii. Tuesday, November 30, 2021 – Giving Tuesday
    - iv. TBD – Check Presentation/Ribbon Cutting with J Power USA for All Persons Interpretive Trail at Four Rivers
- N. Next Meeting Dates – Harn reminded board members of upcoming meetings.
1. Wednesday, October 27, 2021 (Strategic Planning Discussion)
  2. Wednesday, December 1, 2021 (Annual Meeting)
- O. Adjournment – Theimer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Flax seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cynthia Harn*

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATURE FOUNDATION OF WILL COUNTY

FROM: Board Development Committee (Marcella DeMauro and Ed Garner)

DATE: October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Approve the Appointment of a New Director for a Three-Year Term

***Background***

As outlined in the By-laws, The Nature Foundation of Will County (TNFWC) Board shall consist of:

- Not less than 3 and no more than 15 Directors in total;
- No more than 3 current Forest Preserve District Commissioners; and
- Forest Preserve District Executive Director (currently the Chief Operating Officer).

The by-laws set the maximum number of voting directors at eleven. Currently the Board has eight voting Directors and three vacancies.

Recently, Penelope Wendel, a former Foundation Board member first appointed in September 2014, expressed interest in serving on the board once again. As such, Marcy DeMauro followed up with Ms. Wendel and provided her with information and a packet of the documents necessary to proceed with the director nomination process.

Ms. Wendel has completed the required forms, which are attached to this memorandum. Upon receipt of all required director nomination forms and a resume from Ms. Wendel, the Board Development Committee reviewed the information provided by the candidate. The Committee evaluates each candidate based on key considerations identified through its policies and strategic planning process. Ideal candidates possess the following experience and qualifications:

- Foundation and/or other philanthropic experience as a staff member, volunteer, or board member with a foundation, association, or other philanthropic institution.
- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector.
- Engaged in and knowledgeable about foundations and/or philanthropy, in general.
- Relevant experience and knowledge in professions pertaining to law, banking and investments, communications and marketing, event planning, fundraising, and small business to name a few.
- Respected leader or policy maker within the Will County community.
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals.
- Demonstrated support and interest in the purposes of the District.
- Lives and/or works in Will County.



the **Nature Foundation** of Will County

Ms. Wendel previously served on the Board for four years and was a two-term Chairperson before resigning for personal reasons in November 2018. She was integral in securing donations for projects, including the water fountain at the Hammel Woods Dog Park. Ms. Wendel is interested in re-joining the Foundation because she believes in the mission of the Foundation, believes it works for the good and betterment of our community, and wants to support the volunteers who work on forest preserve lands.

***Recommendation***

The Committee recommends approval of Ms. Penelope Wendel as a director of TNFWC board for a three-year term to begin upon final approval by the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners. The term expiration date is March 2024 (see attached), which is aligned with the current schedule approved in December 2020 streamlining the appointment process. Upon approval by the Foundation Board, Ms. Wendel's nomination goes before the Forest Preserve Board for approval in October.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Marcy DeMauro or Ed Garner.

<b>Name</b>	PENELOPE WAKELAND
<b>Phone</b>	(815) 666-6689
<b>E-Mail</b>	PENELOPE12008@GMAIL.COM
<b>Address</b>	13027 MEADOWVIEW LANE HOMER GLEN, IL 60491
<b>Employer</b>	
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Type of Business</b>	

**Skills, Experience and Interests (Please check all that apply)**

Banking & Investments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special Event Planning
Accounting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Personnel, Human Resources
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Administration & Management
Education & Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonprofit Experience
Public Relations & Communication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Service & Volunteerism
Program Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategic Planning
Grant Writing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising

	Outreach & Advocacy	X	Business Development
	Other:		Other:
	Other:		Other:
	Other:		Other:

Please list all boards and committees that you serve on, or have served on (business, civic, community, fraternal, political, professional, recreational, religious, and social).

Organization	Role/Title	Dates of Service
FRIENDS OF THE WILL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE	BOARD MEMBER CHAIRMAN	
SHOREWOOD CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	BOARD MEMBER	

Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Forest Preserve District of Will County?

I was a former member and Chairman. I was  
being a part of an organization that does such  
a great amount of good.

**What would you like to accomplish as a member of the Board of Directors?**

I would like to pick up where I left off.  
My favorite "good thing" is providing  
Great Personal Stewards with funding for  
things they really need.

**Based on your experiences and skills, what can you contribute to the Friends?**

I bring fund raising skills and enthusiasm  
to the Friends. I am hard-working and  
dedicated to a cause that is so important.

**What are your other volunteer commitments?**

I volunteer at Silver Cross Hospital.

**What are your other volunteer commitments?**

**Have you received any awards or honors that you'd like to mention?**

**Can you think of any relationship or other reason that might possibly constitute a conflict of interest if you are selected to serve on the Friends?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

If yes, please explain:

**Please tell us anything else you'd like to share.**

**I attest that the facts set forth in my application are true and complete.**

**Signature:** Penelope Wakeland **Date:** 9.10.2021

***The Nature Foundation of Will County / 17540 West Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433***

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

### **SECTION 1. PURPOSE:**

The Nature Foundation of Will of Will County (FOUNDATION) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Maintenance of its tax-exempt status is important both for its continued financial stability and for public support. Therefore, the IRS as well as state regulatory and tax officials view the operations of the FOUNDATION as a public trust, which is subject to scrutiny by and accountable to such governmental authorities as well as to members of the public.

Consequently, there exists between the FOUNDATION and its board, officers, and management employees and the public a fiduciary duty, which carries with it a broad and unbending duty of loyalty and fidelity. The board, officers, and management employees have the responsibility of administering the affairs of the FOUNDATION honestly and prudently, and of exercising their best care, skill, and judgment for the sole benefit of the FOUNDATION.

Those persons shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions involved in their duties, and they shall not use their positions with the FOUNDATION or knowledge gained therefrom for their personal benefit. The interests of the organization must be the first priority in all decisions and actions.

### **SECTION 2. PERSONS CONCERNED:**

This statement is directed not only to directors and officers, but to all employees who can influence the actions of the FOUNDATION. For example, this would include all who make purchasing decisions, all persons who might be described as "management personnel," and anyone who has proprietary information concerning the FOUNDATION.

### **SECTION 3. AREAS IN WHICH CONFLICT MAY ARISE:**

Conflicts of interest may arise in the relations of directors, officers, and management employees with any of the following third parties:

1. Persons and firms supplying goods and services to the FOUNDATION.
2. Persons and firms from whom the FOUNDATION leases property and equipment.
3. Persons and firms with whom the FOUNDATION is dealing or planning to deal in connection with the gift, purchase or sale of real estate, securities, or other property.
4. Competing or affinity organizations.
5. Donors and others supporting the FOUNDATION.
6. Agencies, organizations, and associations which affect the operations of the FOUNDATION.
7. Family members, friends, and other employees.

In turn, the Foundation will be responsible to me in several ways:

1. I will be provided with quarterly financial statements and an update of organizational activities that allow me to speak knowledgeably regarding current initiatives and programs.
2. Opportunities will be offered to me to discuss with the Chair of the Board the organization's programs, goals, activities and status; additionally I can request such opportunities.
3. The Foundation will help me perform my duties by keeping me informed about issues in the industry and field in which we are working, and by offering me opportunities for professional development as a Director.
4. Directors and staff will respond in a straightforward fashion to questions that I feel are necessary to carry out my fiscal, legal and moral responsibilities for professional development as a Director.

If the Foundation does not fulfill its commitments to me, I can call on the Chair of the Board to address these concerns.

Date: 9-10-2021

Signed: *Penelope Wabeland*

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair of the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

***The Nature Foundation of Will County / 17540 West Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433  
815.722.2022 / [www.willcountynature.org](http://www.willcountynature.org) / [willcountynature@fpdwc.org](mailto:willcountynature@fpdwc.org)***

## FOUNDATION DIRECTOR AGREEMENT

I, PENELOPE WAKELAND understand that as a Director of The Nature Foundation of Will County (Foundation), I have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that the Foundation does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals. I believe in the purpose and the mission of the Foundation and I will act responsibly and prudently as its steward.

As part of my responsibilities as a Director:

1. I will interpret the Foundation's work and values to the community, represent the Foundation, and act as a spokesperson.
2. I will attend at least 50% of board and committee meetings annually.
3. Each year I will make a personal financial contribution at a level that is meaningful to me.
4. I will share names of prospective donors with staff responsible for fundraising and will assist in making solicitation visits and calls as part of the Foundation's fundraising efforts.
5. I will serve on one or more standing committees.
6. I will act in the best interests of the Foundation and excuse myself from discussions and votes where I have a conflict of interest.
7. I will stay informed about what is going on in the Foundation. I will ask questions and request information. I will participate in and take responsibility for making decisions on issues, policies and other board matters.
8. I will work in good faith with staff and other directors as partners towards achievement of the goals of the Foundation.
9. I will be active in monitoring the Foundation's income and expenses, and reviewing and approving the annual budget.
10. If I don't fulfill these commitments to the Foundation, I will contact the Chair of the Board to determine whether or not I can continue with my duties as a Director.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Preliminary note: In order to be more comprehensive, this statement of disclosure and questionnaire also requires you to provide information with respect to certain parties that are related to you. These persons are termed "affiliated persons" and include the following:

- a. Your spouse, domestic partner, child, mother, father, brother or sister;
- b. Any corporation or organization of which you are a board member, an officer, a partner, participate in management or are employed by, or are, directly or indirectly, a debt holder or the beneficial owner of any class of equity securities; and
- c. Any trust or other estate in which you have a substantial beneficial interest or as to which you serve as a trustee or in a similar capacity.

1. NAME OF EMPLOYEE OR BOARD MEMBER: (Please print)

PENELOPE WAKELAND

2. CAPACITY:

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee
- Officer
- Committee Member
- Staff (position): \_\_\_\_\_

3. Have you or any of your affiliated persons provided services or property to the FOUNDATION in the past year?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_  NO

If yes, please describe the nature of the services or property and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Have you or any of your affiliated persons purchased services or property from the FOUNDATION in the past year?

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_  NO

If yes, please describe the purchased services or property and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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5. Please indicate whether you or any of your affiliated persons had any direct or indirect interest in any business transaction(s) in the past year to which the FOUNDATION was or is a party?

YES  NO

If yes, describe the transaction(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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6. Were you or any of your affiliated persons indebted to pay money to the FOUNDATION at any time in the past year (other than travel advances or the like)?

YES  NO

If yes, please describe the indebtedness and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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7. In the past year, did you or any of your affiliated persons receive, or become entitled to receive, directly or indirectly, any personal benefits from the FOUNDATION or as a

result of your relationship with the FOUNDATION, that in the aggregate could be valued in excess of \$1,000, that were not or will not be compensation directly related to your duties to \_\_\_\_\_?

\_\_\_\_ YES  NO

If yes, please describe the benefit(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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8. Are you or any of your affiliated persons a party to or have an interest in any pending legal proceedings involving the FOUNDATION?

\_\_\_\_ YES  NO

If yes, please describe the proceeding(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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9. Are you aware of any other events, transactions, arrangements or other situations that have occurred or may occur in the future that you believe should be examined by the FOUNDATION's board in accordance with the terms and intent of the FOUNDATION's conflict of interest policy?

\_\_\_\_ YES  NO

If yes, please describe the situation(s) and if an affiliated person is involved, the identity of the affiliated person and your relationship with that person:

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I HEREBY CONFIRM that I have read and understand the FOUNDATION's conflict of

interest policy and that my responses to the above questions are complete and correct to the best of my information and belief. I agree that if I become aware of any information that might indicate that this disclosure is inaccurate or that I have not complied with this policy, I will notify the Chair or Vice Chair immediately.

*Penelope Wakeford*  
9-10-2021  
Signature

Date

***The Nature Foundation of Will County / 17540 West Laraway Road, Joliet, IL 60433***  
***815.722.2022 / [www.willcountynature.org](http://www.willcountynature.org) / [willcountynature@fpdwc.org](mailto:willcountynature@fpdwc.org)***

Approved 6-25-2016, Rev. 6-23-19



#### **SECTION 4. NATURE OF CONFLICTING INTEREST:**

A conflicting interest may be defined as an interest, direct or indirect, with any persons or firms mentioned in Section 3. Such an interest might arise through:

1. Owning stock or holding debt or other proprietary interests in any third party dealing with the FOUNDATION.
2. Holding office, serving on the board, participating in management, or being otherwise employed (or formerly employed) with any third party dealing with the FOUNDATION.
3. Receiving remuneration for services with respect to individual transactions involving the FOUNDATION.
4. Using the FOUNDATION's time, personnel, equipment, supplies, or good will for other than FOUNDATION-approved activities, programs, and purposes.
5. Receiving personal gifts or loans from third parties dealing or competing with the FOUNDATION. Receipt of any gift is disapproved except gifts of a value less than \$50, which could not be refused without discourtesy. No personal gift of money should ever be accepted.

#### **SECTION 5. INTERPRETATION OF THIS STATEMENT OF POLICY:**

The areas of conflicting interest listed in Section 3, and the relations in those areas which may give rise to conflict, as listed in Section 4, are not exhaustive. Conflicts might arise in other areas or through other relations. It is assumed that the directors, officers, and management employees will recognize such areas and relation by analogy.

The fact that one of the interests described in Section 4 exists does not necessarily mean that a conflict exists, or that the conflict, if it exists, is material enough to be of practical importance, or if material, that upon full disclosure of all relevant facts and circumstances it is necessarily adverse to the interests of the FOUNDATION.

However, it is the policy of the board that the existence of any of the interests described in Section 4 shall be disclosed before any transaction is consummated. It shall be the continuing responsibility of the board, officers, and management employees to scrutinize their transactions and outside business interests and relationships for potential conflicts and to immediately make such disclosures.

#### **SECTION 6. DISCLOSURE POLICY AND PROCEDURE:**

Transactions with parties with whom a conflicting interest exists may be undertaken only if all of the following are observed:

1. The conflicting interest is fully disclosed;
2. The person with the conflict of interest is excluded from the discussion and approval of such transaction;
3. A competitive bid or comparable valuation exists; and

4. The board has determined that the transaction is in the best interest of the organization.

The disclosure of any conflict described herein by anyone described in Section 2 shall be made to the Chair or Vice Chair. The board shall determine whether a conflict exists and if a conflict does exist, whether the transaction in question is in the best interest of the organization. The decision of the board on these matters will rest in their sole discretion, and their concern must be the welfare of the FOUNDATION and the advancement of its purpose.

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815.722.2022 / [www.willcountynature.org](http://www.willcountynature.org) / [willcountynature@fpdwc.org](mailto:willcountynature@fpdwc.org)***

**Current Term and Re-Appointment Schedule for Board of Directors\***

<u>Voting Directors</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>No. of Terms</u>	<u>Current Term Expiration</u>	<u>Appointment Status**</u>	<u>Geographic Region/Other Notes</u>
Marcy DeMauro	1 year	5	September 2022	Re-appt. in September 2021	Joliet
Ragan Pattison	1 year	3	September 2022	Re-appt. in September 2021	Wilmington
Jeff Tuminello	1 year	2	September 2022	Re-appt. in September 2021	Mokena
Vacant	1 year		March	TBD	Term aligned to March date
Jamie Donovan	2 year	2	December 2022	Re-appointed 1/27/21	Braidwood
Ann Dralle	2 year	5	December 2022	Re-appointed 1/27/21	Lemont
Ed Garner	2 year	3	December 2022	Re-appointed 1/27/21	Homer
Donna Theimer	3 year	2	August 2022	Re-appt. in March 2022	Shorewood
Vacant	3 year	1	September 2022	TBD	Resignation - Term aligned to Sept.
Jim Flax	3 year	2	November 2023	Re-appt. March 2023	Crete
Penny Wendel	3 year	N/A		Proposed March 2024	New Lenox

<u>Non-Voting Directors</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>No. of Terms</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>	<u>Appointment Status**</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Don Gould	2 years	4	December 2022	Re-appointed 12/14/2020	Shorewood, District 6 Commissioner
Meta Mueller	2 years	2	December 2022	Re-appointed 12/14/2020	Aurora, District 5 Commissioner
Ralph Schultz	2 years	4	December 2022	Re-appointed 12/14/2020	Chief Operating Officer
Rachel Ventura	2 years	2	December 2022	Re-appointed 12/14/2020	Joliet, District 9 Commissioner

\*New Re-Appointment Schedule for voting Directors adopted December 2, 2020 with three dates/year in March, September, and December. The terms of all voting Director positions are now aligned to one of the three dates in the year of their term expiration.

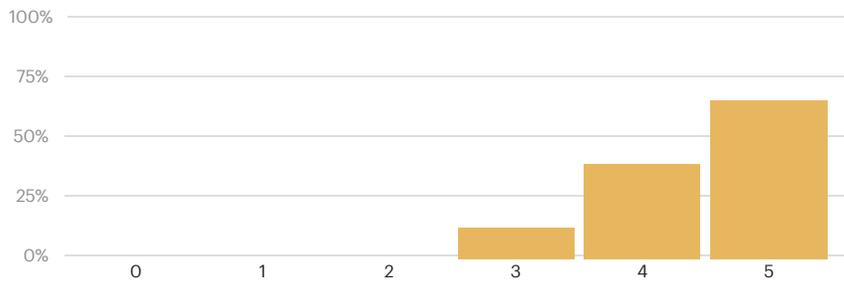
\*\*New voting directors must be approved by both TNFWC and the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners. The re-appointment of voting directors is approved solely by TNFWC. Non-voting ex-officio directors are approved every even year at the Forest Preserve Board's re-organization meeting the second Monday of December or as otherwise needed.

# Board Member Evaluation & Annual Planning Survey

All Responses

Question 1 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.4

“Our mission states: “The Nature Foundation of Will County works to create a legacy of giving that supports and celebrates the preservation, conservation, education and recreation priorities of the Forest Preserve District of Will County in perpetuity.” How effective is the Foundation in accomplishing its mission? ”



Question 2 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“What does the Foundation need to do, or what steps does it need to take, to become more effective in accomplishing its mission? ”

Unknown contact said:

"None"

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Unknown contact said:

"Need additional supporters/donors through more aggressive outreach"

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Unknown contact said:

"Large corporate and individual gifts/sponsorship that can create/sustain legacy."

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Unknown contact said:

"I believe we need to publicize the foundation and our events more. "

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Unknown contact said:

"I have no comments. Doing so much already. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Foundation is effective ."

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Unknown contact said:

"Once we can get past the pandemic, and analyze our fundraising strategy in 2022, I'd like to re-focus on recruiting and training to enlarge and stabilize our board. This will hopefully give us more breath and depth to tackle multiple priorities."

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Unknown contact said:

"COVID has limited our ability to be with people"

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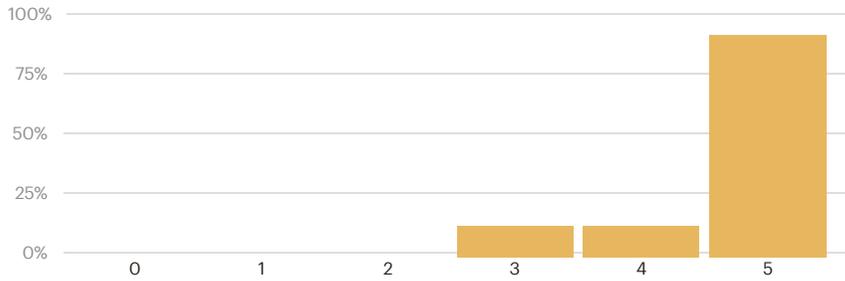
Unknown contact said:

"Consider retaining a professional fundraising consultant for a bigger dollar event that we could host annually. "

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Question 3 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.7

“Our vision states: “We envision a vital, dynamic and self-sustaining foundation that is committed to cultivating relationships and partnerships within our community that directly benefit the Forest Preserve District's ability to protect our environment and deliver programs and services to its constituents.” How effective is the Foundation at achieving its vision? ”



Question 4 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“What does the Foundation need to do, or what steps does it need to take, to become more effective in accomplishing its vision?”

Unknown contact said:

"None"

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Unknown contact said:

"Either the Board or the ED must start cultivating additional relationships. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Who are our partners? What types of partners are we lacking? How deep does our relationship go within our communities?"

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Unknown contact said:

"Continue to find innovative programs and fundraising events."

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Unknown contact said:

"Nothing"

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Unknown contact said:

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Unknown contact said:

"Through primarily the efforts of Cindy and her incredible leadership skills, we have built a solid foundation of donor support that at its core is effective relationship building. Cindy is one person....we need to look at recruiting some additional help - probably hiring a part time person."

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Unknown contact said:

"Increase Donor member development "

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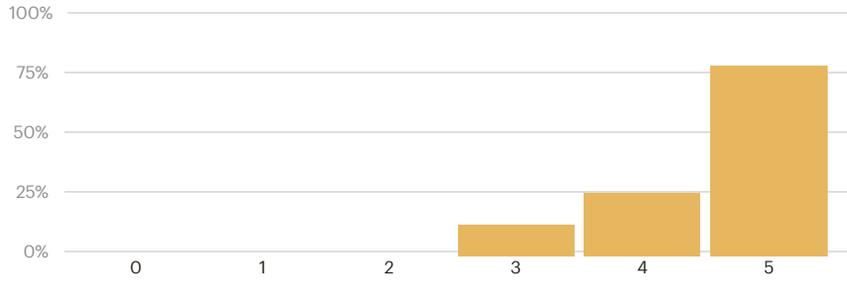
Unknown contact said:

"We need to recruit board members that may have an industry background that could help the Foundation. Owner of a nursery, landscape architect, a representative from our local colleges or education sector. "

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Question 5 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.6

“How effective has the Foundation been in supporting and investing in high quality, mission-focused projects and programs?”



Question 6 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“What does the Foundation need to do, or what steps does it need to take, to become more effective in supporting and investing in high quality, mission-focused projects and programs?”

Unknown contact said:

"Could we raise money to take some education shows to the schools that promote the forest preserve. Or can we work with schools to do more field trips. Also the hands on exhibits are my favorite. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Already successful in the above endeavor."

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Unknown contact said:

"A larger fiscal foundation and internal support for E.D."

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Unknown contact said:

"More social media advertising "

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Unknown contact said:

"Nothing"

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Unknown contact said:

""

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Unknown contact said:

"Our board members really care about choosing the right projects as demonstrated by the discussion at committee and board meetings. We need to continue having these discussions. We also need to make it easier for new board members to understand this core value by developing a set of criteria to help assess and facilitate discussion on whether projects we help fund are indeed mission focused. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Greater personal engagement with donors. "

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Unknown contact said:

"The board members need to attend District meetings and events or be more knowledgeable to what District is doing. "

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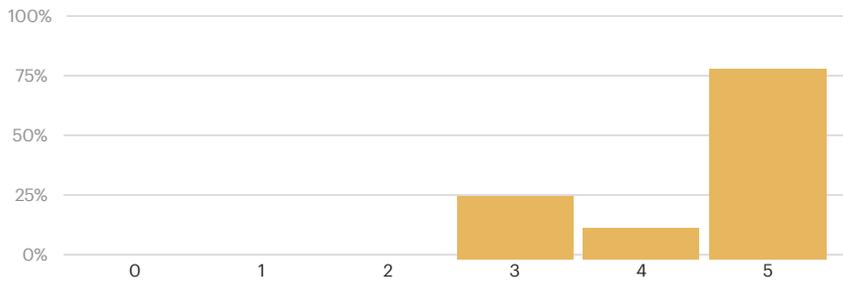
Question 7 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.8

“How effective has the Foundation been in achieving fiscal responsibility, transparency and accountability in all endeavors?”



Question 8 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.4

“How effective has the Foundation been in cultivating and maintaining positive, sustainable relationships with its donors and supporters?”



Question 9 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“What does the Foundation need to do, or what steps does it need to take, to become more effective in cultivating and maintaining positive, sustainable relationships with its donors and supporters?”

Unknown contact said:

"Can we do a fundraiser where an artist walks the donors through painting a scene from real life at the forest preserve?"

---

Unknown contact said:

"Once our donors/supporters are active with the Foundation, they tend to remain supporters and donors. However, our cultivation of new supporters/donors is low. Need to we more aggressive with new fundraising programs."

---

Unknown contact said:

"Have we been around long enough to know what we have with donors/supporters is sustainable? Have we asked them if the reciprocally feel the relationship is positive and sustainable?"

---

Unknown contact said:

"Continue to communicate with them and express our gratitude and for their continued support "

---

Unknown contact said:

"Nothing"

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Unknown contact said:

\*\*\*

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Unknown contact said:

"Continue what we're doing, it's working! There has also been conversations about hosting other meet and greet events separate from a plant sale. If we have the time and energy to pull this off, it's worth trying 1 or 2 events in 2022 to see if supporters positively respond."

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Unknown contact said:

"The last years were difficult to cultivate on site. I think our preserves speak stron for us when we get donors there "

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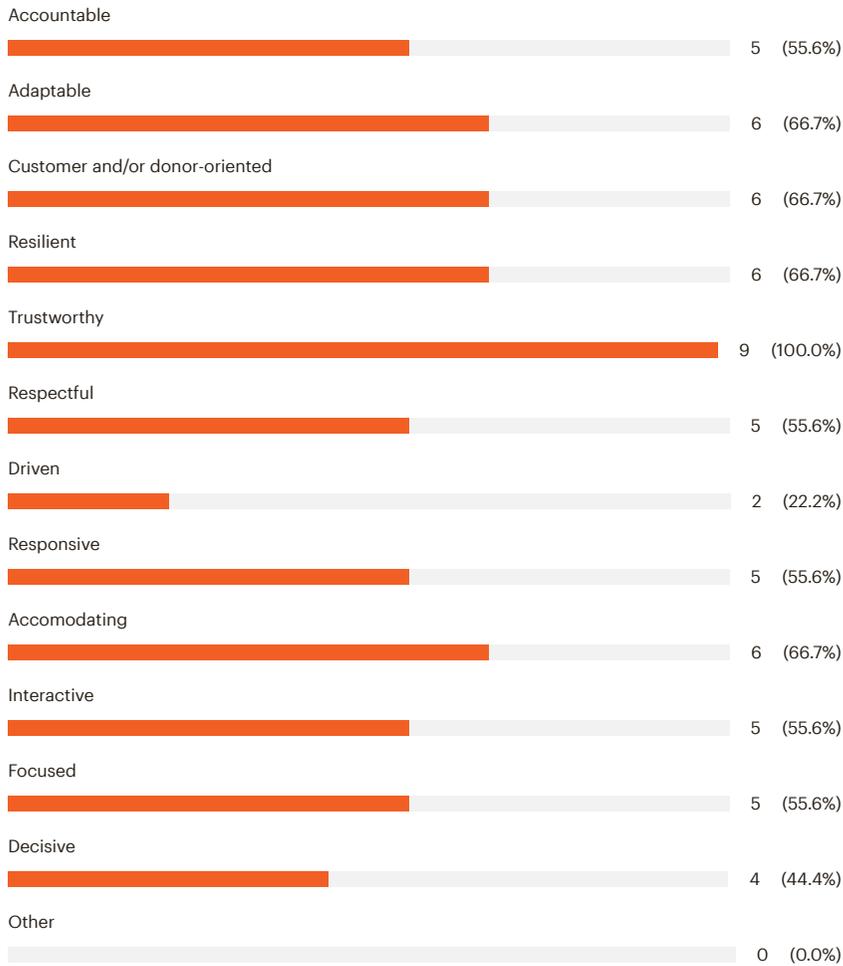
Unknown contact said:

"Host private events with our donors & sponsors as a thank you & to flourish those relationships. "

---

Question 10 has 9 answers (Checkboxes)

“Which of the following attributes is an accurate reflection of the Foundation? Please check all that apply.”



#1 - Trustworthy

Open text responses to "other":

No responses yet

Question 11 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“What do you think has been the Foundation’s greatest achievement in the last 18 months? ”

Unknown contact said:

"The plant sales"

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Unknown contact said:

"On line plant sales"

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Unknown contact said:

"Maintaining our existence and still meeting objectives while other young foundations faltered."

---

Unknown contact said:

"Certainly adapting to the pandemic and maintaining a level of success. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Adapting our fundraising activities to on-line format. Crazy about of work that lead to a very successful fundraising event! This is 100 percent due to the amazing Cindy Harn!!"

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Unknown contact said:

""

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Unknown contact said:

"Adaptability and resiliency, but the continued success reflects a base of support we already has and have continued to grow."

---

Unknown contact said:

"The plant sale event was wonderful considering the impact from COVID. The sales were also amazing"

---

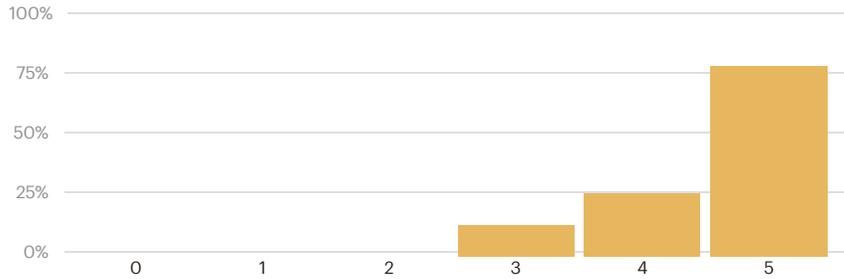
Unknown contact said:

"Our resiliency. We continued to adapt to the changing world but remain positive and take advantage of the new found love for nature. "

---

Question 12 has 9 answers (Range) Avg rating: 4.6

“The Foundation seems to be at an important juncture. Increasing the plant sales and offering the native plant seminars in addition to increased marketing and promotion of Foundation-funded projects, has engaged more people and garnered more support. Do you agree with this observation?”



Question 13 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“Please tell us a bit more about your response. Why do you agree or not agree that the Foundation is at an important juncture? What have you noticed or experienced?”

Unknown contact said:

"The selections was better and more available "

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Unknown contact said:

"Our native plant sale has been an amazing success. However, there are other potential donors/supports who are not plant enthusiasts and these are the individuals the Foundation needs to capture."

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Unknown contact said:

"Coming out of COVID, we need to get back to our growth plans. "

---

Unknown contact said:

"I've noticed we've made progress with the plant sale, despite the challenges. That's a good sign for the future"

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Unknown contact said:

"Maybe start a volunteer program to help assist with the physical fundraising events and donor thank you events."

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Unknown contact said:

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Unknown contact said:

"Yes - decisions have to be made about expanding programs/events but this should be discussed in the context of more staff support. "

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Unknown contact said:

"We need to build on the recent success to engage people "

---

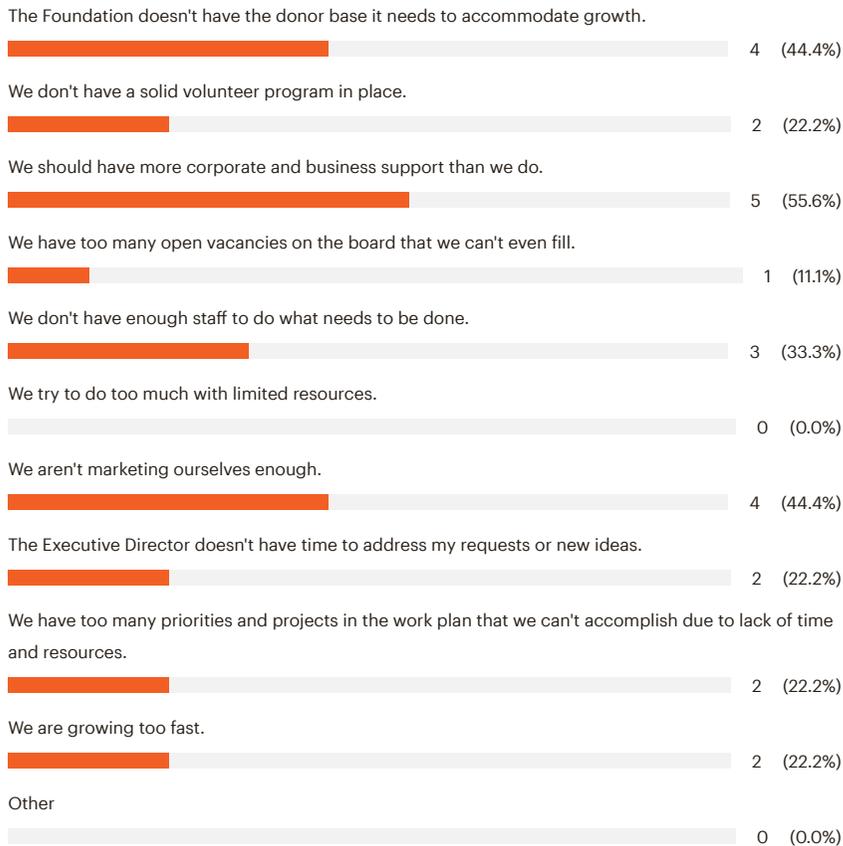
Unknown contact said:

"Cindy does everything and way too much for one individual!"

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Question 14 has 9 answers (Checkboxes)

“Which of the following attributes is an accurate reflection of your concerns about the Foundation? Please check all that apply.”



#1 - Garnering more corporate and business support.

Open text responses to "other":

No responses yet

Question 15 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“Given the last 18 months, what is your greatest concern regarding the Foundation?”

Unknown contact said:

"Sustaining and growing"

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Unknown contact said:

"The ED has done an outstanding job during the last 18 months considering the covid pandemic. The ED may need more time to accomplish all the goals the Foundation has set forth. The ED needs a raise and more hours."

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Unknown contact said:

"Are we sustainable beyond the plant sale."

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Unknown contact said:

"I really think we should advertise more. "

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Unknown contact said:

"With prices on the rise and cost if living going up, I worry about donations. "

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Unknown contact said:

"\*\*"

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Unknown contact said:

"Board stability, filling board vacancies, board engagement (which hopefully improves with the re-instatement of in person meetings) and the need to address staffing if we want to expand and maintain the quality of our programming."

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Unknown contact said:

"We need to develop a growth plan for donors, marketing, and programing"

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Unknown contact said:

"I'd like to see greater growth in revenue. "

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Question 16 has 9 answers (Open Text)

“In your opinion, what do you think the top three (3) priorities of the Foundation should be? Please write your answer below. ”

Unknown contact said:

"Raise money, fund exhibits, engage the public especially children"

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Unknown contact said:

"Additional donors More corporate awareness and support Overall, the Foundation because of our ED has accomplished a lot."

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Unknown contact said:

"Obtaining corporate support or larger donor gifts that can support help for the Executive Director."

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Unknown contact said:

"Publicize on social media. Continue to create innovative events. Continue to adapt to the challenges of the pandemic "

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Unknown contact said:

"Securing new donors. Adding more experiences to the raffle offerings. Host, naturalist-lead, walks and talks just for the donors. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Our budget must prepare for any downturn due to Covid or economy. For total transparency, the board should hire an accounting firm to perform an audit, as is done with many 501(c)(3). Be certain that future projects are In all areas of the county so the success Of the foundation can be seen throughout Will County."

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Unknown contact said:

"Growing corporate support, recruiting and filling board vacancies, and balancing fundraising needs (number and type of programs/events) with staff resources."

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Unknown contact said:

"Donor/ member development Events/programs. Marketing/outreach"

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Unknown contact said:

"1. How to increase revenue 2. Professional fundraising 3. Focused board recruitment "

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Question 17 has 4 answers (Open Text)

“Is there anything else you would like to say? Tell us! ”

Unknown contact said:

"I am very proud of what the group has been able to accomplish under these difficult circumstances. "

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Unknown contact said:

"Thank you Cindy!"

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Unknown contact said:

"Nope"

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Unknown contact said:

"Can't wait to see you all in person!"

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