



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 28, 2026
TO: Forest Preserve District Planning & Utilization Committee
FROM: David Petschke, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Benjamin Haberthur, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Contract Extension for the Historical Structures Operating and Caretaking Agreement with the Preservation Partners of Fox Valley through June 30, 2027

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider an extension of the contract for the Historic Structures Operating and Caretaking Agreement with Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley, for the management of the Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden at Fabyan Forest Preserve, and the Durant-Peterson House Museum and Sholes School Museum at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, through June 30, 2027.

BACKGROUND:

Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley has been managing the Fabyan Villa Museum at Fabyan Forest Preserve and the Durant-Peterson House at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve since the mid 1990's. On October 25, 2017, the Pioneer Sholes Restoration Society was dissolved, and the operations, income and artifacts transferred to Preservation Partners. Preservation Partners provides exclusive exhibits management, staffing, tours, program coordination and marketing for the Fabyan Villa Museum, the Durant-Peterson House Museum, and Sholes School Museum.

Additionally, Preservation Partners coordinates programming and tours of the Fabyan Japanese Garden. The District retains ownership of all land and structures and is responsible for the cost and coordination of maintenance, repairs, and utilities for the buildings as well as grounds and landscape maintenance. The District is seeking approval to extend the existing contract through June 30, 2027, to align with the District's fiscal year. The new contract will extend the current agreement at the same rate, providing Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley with an annual sum of \$115,000 for their services. Of this amount, \$78,000 is allocated to the operation of the Fabyan Villa Museum, \$10,000 for the Japanese Garden, and \$27,000 for the operation of the Durant-Peterson House Museum and the Sholes School Museum. The District's legal counsel and risk management provider (PDRMA) have reviewed the agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds totaling \$115,000 are budgeted for this agreement in the 2026 and 2027 fiscal year. Sufficient funds totaling \$115,000 are available in the General Fund Administration Organizational Support Account #01-11-11-5020 for this expense totaling \$115,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the contract extension through June 30, 2027, at the same rate as the previous agreement, for the Historic Structures Operating and Caretaking agreement with Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley, for the management of the Villa Museum and Japanese Garden at

Fabyan Forest Preserve and the Durant-Peterson House Museum and Sholes School Museum at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A: Renewal of the Historic Structures Operating and Caretaking Agreement