



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 2024

TO: Forest Preserve District Planning & Utilization Committee

FROM: Jennifer Rooks-Lopez, Director of Planning and Land Protection

SUBJECT: Presentation and Approval of a Maintenance Agreement with the Geneva Grotto Organization to Maintain the Grotto at Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Committee with information to consider the approval of a maintenance agreement with the Geneva Grotto Organization, previously the Knights of Columbus, to maintain, manage, and restore the grotto at Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve in Geneva.

BACKGROUND:

The local Knights of Columbus approached the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (District) in 2019, and offered to maintain and restore the Grotto structure at Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve. The grotto is a historic structure remaining from the Sacred Heart seminary, which was purchased by the District and County in 1972. The Grotto is located within Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve. While the District maintains the Preserve, it does not maintain the grotto structure. On October 13, 2020, an agreement was approved between the Knights of Columbus and the Forest Preserve District, permitting the Knights of Columbus to maintain, manage and restore the Grotto and the 30-foot area surrounding the structure. Since that time, the Knights of Columbus have created a 501c3 organization, 'The Geneva Grotto Organization', specifically for the management and restoration of the Grotto.

The general terms of the agreement are as follows:

- Term is for three (3) years from the date of approval.
- Area of maintenance will be the grotto structure and 30 feet around the structure.
- Geneva Grotto Association will maintain the structure to include trash removal, graffiti removal and general repair/restoration of the structure.
- Geneva Grotto Association will be responsible, at its sole expense, for the planning, designing, permitting, constructing and maintaining of any improvements to the grotto structure or site.
- Geneva Grotto Association will coordinate any volunteer workdays through the District's volunteer coordinator.
- Geneva Grotto Association will coordinate any natural areas work plans through the District's Natural Resource Management department.
- Geneva Grotto Association will provide general liability insurance and hold the District harmless. Additionally, any contractors working on the site must provide a certificate of insurance naming the District as additional insured.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Click or tap here to enter text. There is no financial impact to the District. The Geneva Grotto Organization is responsible for any expenses relative to maintenance, management or repair of the grotto structure, and maintenance of the 30-foot area around the structure.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Committee approve the modified agreement with the Geneva Grotto Organization to maintain, manage and restore the grotto at the Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve in Geneva.

ATTACHMENTS:

County Locator Map

Gunnar Anderson Map

Maintenance Agreement