KENDALL COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
ELLIS AD-HOC COMMITTEE

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 2, 2014

9:30 A.M.
ELLIS HOUSE & EQUESTRIAN CENTER

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD
III. EHEC DISCUSSION
IV. STAFF UPDATES
V. OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS
VI. ADJOURNMENT
Landscape Design Suggestions for Ellis Equestrian Center

- Remove Landscape timbers and replace with a natural stone border that blends well with the exterior of the house.
- Remove all spirea
- Remove three mugo pines by the bride’s area
- Remove Flowering Crab by bride’s area
- Remove daylilies and relocate to drive entrance
- Keep exiting Large specimen Mugo pine
- Keep all rose shrubs
- Keep Viburnum
- Keep Rose of Sharon

Plant Suggestions:

- Replace flowering crab with Amelanchier laevis- Serviceberry
- Replace mugo pines by brides’ area with Viburnum Dentatum-Arrowood Viburnum

Shrub suggestions:
- Physocarpus opulifolius - ninebark
- Halesia tetraphylla – Carolina Silverbell
- Hamamelis vernalis - witchhazel
- Hydrangea arborescens – white flowers
- Quercus prinoides – dwarf chinkapin oak
- Rosa Carolina – Carolina/pasture rose
- Rosa setigera – prairie rose
All full sun, various heights, spring and summer flowering, good fall color.

**Perennial suggestions:**

**Spring flowering**
- Geum triflorum – prairie smoke
- Baptisia australis – wild blue indigo
- Geranium maculatum – wild geranium

**Summer flowering**
- Ruella humillis – wild petunia
- Penstemon grandiflorus – fox glove beard tongue
- Liatris aspera – rough blazing star

**Fall flowering**
- Aster laevis
- Aster ptarmicoides
- Physostegia virginiana – obedient plant

All perennials are native, full sun, various heights, various colors, various times of bloom.

All from Possibility Place website.

Prepared by Debbie Salois a Master Gardener proprietor of In Harmony with Nature, Sustainable Landscape Design’
630-862-9144
Board Updates – March, 2014

House Bookings:

- April 6, 2014 – Bridal Shower
- May 17, 2014 – Wedding – Wilmington - Marji Merrigan (Bundy) So I guess you would say word of mouth :)
- June 8, 2014 – Wedding – Aurora - I was searching for rural wedding venues online. I don't believe Ellis house came up right away. I found you while doing some "digging" online. I think I may have even found a photo on my photographer’s blog of Ellis house then searched the blog for the venue where the photos were taken.
- June 14, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - My soon-to-be mother-in-law heard about The Ellis House from the owners of Dollinger Farm as she was asking around for outdoor wedding venues.
- June 21, 2014 – Wedding – Lansing, IA - We found out about Ellis House by doing a Google search for farms and outdoor wedding spaces outside of Chicago. That gave us a direct link to Ellis House.
- June 28, 2014 – Wedding – Minooka - Jason and I found out about the Ellis house from search the web. We then decided to come see the property in person and feel in love!
- July 12, 2014 – Wedding – Lemont - I heard about Ellis through unorthodox means. I discovered it through my position at the as a Kendall County Assistant State’s Attorney in the Civil Division.
- July 19, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - I found you online. I just googled “outdoor wedding venues in the Plainfield area”!
- July 26, 2014 – Wedding – Minneapolis, MN - I definitely found out about Ellis House through online research. I was definitely looking for a more unique venue, and I knew I wanted something like a barn or something outside.
- August 2, 2014 – Wedding – Minooka - I found Ellis House simply by doing a google search for reception venues within the area.
- August 9, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet – I googled ranch style venues in Minooka and it popped up
- August 30, 2014 – Wedding – Plainfield - I heard of Ellis house after stopping by to investigate the stables. My mother was in from out of town and she is an avid horse rider, we saw the stables when driving by.
- August 31, 2014 – Wedding – Joliet - Google search: rustic bride website followed links and put in zip code and Ellis House came up
- September 6, 2014 - Wedding
- September 13, 2014 – Wedding
- September 20, 2014 – Wedding – Montgomery - We found Ellis house through a Google search for outdoor venues. :-)


September 27, 2014 – Wedding – Braidwood - I found out about Ellis House from a couple friends. I wrote on my social media site looking for a location that had a barn, and someone told me this place and told me to check it out.

October 4, 2014 – Wedding – Aurora - I heard about Ellis House just by googling forest preserves in Kendall county and such, and came across the main website for Ellis House.

June 20, 2015 – Wedding – New Lenox - I heard about Ellis from a wedding guide magazine last year. The picture caught my attention.

September 12, 2015 – Wedding – Shorewood - I heard of the Ellis House through a friend, and also a bride who will be getting married there this year, Kari Kezele.

January 16, 2016 – Birthday Party – Channahon - I did the Reindeer Run at Ellis House. After doing the run, and my daughter’s brownie troop had an afternoon with the horses I wanted to rent Ellis House for my husband’s party.

Ongoing Programs:

✓ Family Fun Night first Friday of every month – Friday, March 7th, attendance = 60

Meetings/Training/Expos/Annual Events:

✦ Thursday, March 13th – Bonnie McBeth Learning Center Expo
✦ Sunday, March 16th – 1st Annual Bridal Expo at Meadowhawk Lodge
✦ Wednesday, March 19th – EHEC Staff Meeting
✦ Saturday, March 29th – Volunteer Open House at Meadowhawk Lodge

House/Property Tours:

✦ 6 – EHEC
✦ 0 – Meadowhawk

Group Tours/Birthday/Girl/Boy Scout Parties:

✦ 8 parties/groups with 109 guests

Riding Lessons:

✦ 72

Community Service hours:
Volunteer Hours:

☐ 140

Total Deposits:

$3849.00