

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 7, 2011

PRESENT: Committee members, T. Rockwell, J. Bohnsack, V. Dueysen, K. Maranda, S. Sallows, F. Schultz and R. Simmer.

ABSENT: Committee member, K. Harmon.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, Director; Mark Ryan, Zoo Director; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Scott White, Illiniwek Ranger; Donna Wilkerson, Purchasing, Blake Burns and Jeff Barsness, Estes Construction .

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Friday, October 7, 2011, in the second floor conference room of the County Board Office, County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the September minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Dueysen moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Maranda. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$48,396.33, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$37,677.88 and the Liability Insurance Fund claims in the amount of \$1,297.68.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve all the Fund claims. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to approve the Transfers. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion on a Resolution transferring \$3,750.59 in the Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for approval of five Ordinances providing for the Levy Assessment and Collection of Taxes for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

MOTION: Mr. Dueysen moved to approve the Levy Ordinances. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Donna Wilkerson for bid items. She presented bids on asphalt cart path work at Indian Bluff. The low bid was from Tri City Blacktop in the amount of \$25,655.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the low bid for the cart paths. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Wilkerson presented bids for the railroad tie project at Niabi Zoo. The low bid was from Brandt Construction in the amount of \$59,927.50.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the low bid for the railroad project. Mr. Schultz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Blake Burns of Estes Construction. Mr. Burns presented a change proposal for the Loud Thunder river campground restroom replacement shower and septic addition. It was the original understanding in discussion with the Health Department that a simple replacement of the restroom would be acceptable without modification to septic so consequently the bids received on scope did not reflect any septic work. It was found out in September that the County Health Department will not allow reuse of the septic for a new building. If the septic must be installed, we would like previously planned showers in the location of the long term campsite improvement plan. The Health Department helped in design with local septic installer and the field to be in location of "host" campsite. There is also an archeological survey required due to the new site. The price was compiled with current subcontractors to add shower stalls to existing design which was based on partial old shower house design and 2009 campsite improvement plan. A change proposal summary included the proposed relocation/addition with the change amount coming to \$131,201. The Committee decided they wanted a steel roof instead of shingled. They did not want to provide allowance for winter conditions to include temporary protection, heat and enclosure of masonry to allow construction through the winter. They did want six showers instead of instead of four. Regarding the demolition of the existing restroom, Mr. Maranda suggested the highway department might tear it down.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go forward with the project. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to go forward with the electrical at the river site campground. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for his report. Mr. Wells reported that his mechanic has been off for six months on workers comp with a thumb injury and he was informed that it would be another month before he returns. He feels this should be looked into. Chairman Rockwell said the Liability Committee will investigate this claim. Indian Bluff was inspected by Mr. Schultz and he reported that the pavilion needs a new roof. Mr. Wells will look into doing this project in house.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for the Illiniwek report. Mr. White reported the boat docks are installed. He and his crew have been clearing small trees and brush from the shore line over the past year. Mr. Dueysen inspected the park and said the docks look really nice as well as the cleared shoreline.

Chairman Rockwell called on Ben Mills for the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Mills submitted his written report. They would like to do a deer survey fly-over this winter and the DNR recommended Marquis Aviation at a cost of \$600 per hour. He will check further.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mark Ryan for his report. Mr. Ryan presented his written report which stated that the sidewalk area in front of the Lion exhibit has become a hazard. They have shored it up but the rains continue to erode underneath the foundation which has caused the fence to pull away and starting to become unstable. He reported that their AZA accreditation has been extended for an additional year instead of a five year renewal for us to spend more time to fully develop the changes and improvements pointed out during the inspection process. Mr. Ryan said GCO flooring owners are challenging area businesses to become part of the new "Business Friends of Niabi Zoo". The goal is to raise four million dollars for a new elephant enclosure. GCO Flooring has pledged five percent of sales on certain items from their stores over the next twelve months to the project. Mr. Dueysen inspected the zoo and his report points out that the sidewalk by the Lion exhibit must be addressed.

Chairman Rockwell reminded the Committee members of First Army Day at Niabi on October 15th and would like everyone to come. A small ceremony would be held at 11:15 am.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mr. Craver for his report. Mr. Craver reported he received a request from the Interstate Resource Conservation & Development (IRC&D) for their support in the development of a Cooperative Weed Management District (CWMD) in Rock Island County. CWMA's are local organizations that integrate all invasive plant management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire communities. They would like a letter of support for their grant submission.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to support their efforts. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Craver had put together some figures on the Loud Thunder Boat Rental & Concession stand. If we were to take over what it would cost for one worker during the week and an additional worker on the weekends and holidays. He put together some figures on what equipment is currently provided and approximate cost for new equipment. Mr. Paulsgrove's contract is up at the end of this month and he has said he would do it for one more year and Mr. Craver said we would have a year to figure out what we plan to do for the following season.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to renew his lease for one more year. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve all reports. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell asked if there was any more business to come before the Committee, being none, he adjourned at 4:11 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis
Administrative Assistant
Forest Preserve District

