

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

PRESENT: Committee members, T. Rockwell, K. Harmon, K. Maranda, F. Schultz and R. Simmer.

ABSENT: Committee members, J. Bohnsack, V. Dueysen and S. Sallows.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, Director; Mark Ryan, Zoo Director; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Scott White, Illiniwek Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor; Donna Wilkerson, Purchasing and Cathy Bizarri.

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Friday, September 9, 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 August minutes.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$246,757.74, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$343,725.47, the Liability Insurance Fund claims in the amount of \$8,448.17 and a Marvin Martin Trust Fund claim in the amount of \$350.00.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to approve all the Fund claims. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund for FY2010-11 (as corrected from August) and the Transfers in the Forest Preserve Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund for FY2011-12.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Transfers. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion on a Resolution transferring \$49,477.37 in the Niabi Zoo Fund for FY 2010-11 (as corrected from August), a Resolution transferring \$2,489.23 in the Niabi Zoo Fund for FY2010-11, a Resolution transferring \$2,126.26 in the Niabi Zoo Fund for FY2011-12 and a Resolution loaning \$1,000 to the FISSA Fund for FY2011-12.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Resolutions. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for his report. Mr. Wells requested that they go back to the old system of selling season passes from April to November in 2012.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go back to the old system of selling tickets but those who do buy ahead of season receive a five percent discount. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for the Illiniwek report. Mr. White said there were many problems with the "Salute to Labor" held at the park on Labor Day. He listed some of the problems as not enough parking, some people were parking on campsites, the sound system was tested at 6:00 AM, a flatbed semi was driven in at 6:00 AM and extremely close to taking out some campers, picnic tables were taken from campers' sites, trash removal was not done properly, it took his workers two hours to clean up, there were only two portable toilets brought in for a crowd of 3,000 and he had to refund campers' money who were upset with the event wanted to cut their stay short. Mr. White stated he didn't think it was legal to sell beer at the park.

Chairman Rockwell said we will work with these people in the future and get more picnic tables and supervise the parking better but this event has been going on for some forty years and it will only be bigger next year, being it is an election year. You can sell beer at an event at our parks but you must get a special one day liquor license and have dram shop insurance. Dr. Simmer inspected Illiniwek and said all looked good, he did report the docks are still not in the water.

Chairman Rockwell called on Ben Mills for the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Mills reported routine maintenance and repairs to buildings, equipment and grounds having been performed in August. They have been working with volunteers to maintain trails and putting together signage. There were several events in August. Loud Thunder is now on Facebook. Mr. Craver said he and Mr. Mills talked with Lyle Paulsgrove about running the boat rental concession in the future. Mr. Paulsgrove has some health issues and may not be able continue next season, we must decide in which direction we will go with this service. Ms. Harmon inspected Loud Thunder and reported everything looked beautiful and the new Ranger and his staff are doing an awesome job.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mark Ryan for his report. Mr. Ryan reported a baby giraffe was born to Mimi this morning and both mother and offspring are doing fine. They have been checked over by the vet and will be kept out of public view for about a week so they can bond and be introduced to the other giraffes. They also had a baby turtle hatched. He reported that Stern Beverage had an employee party with about 1,100 people in attendance and Alcoa held their employee party August 20th with 2,300 in attendance. Channel 6 is running Zookeeper clips at the end of Friday's Noon news. He will be attending the AZA National Conference next week with an accreditation Hearing September 12th. They will have a "Wine for Wildlife" evening fundraiser October 1st featuring wine tasting and some art displays and auctions. They will be welcoming First Army with an event October 15th. Chairman Rockwell said we will buy the gate for the welcoming and urged everyone to attend. Dr. Simmer inspected the Zoo and reported everything looked good.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mr. Craver for his report. Mr. Craver said everything had been touched upon earlier and had nothing to report. Chairman Rockwell asked for approval of all reports.

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

Chairman Rockwell said the five Appropriation Ordinances for FY2012-2013 are on display and will be acted upon at the meeting of the full Commission on September 20th. There will be a Public Hearing at 5:30 on that date for anyone interested in addressing the Forest Preserve Commission regarding these Ordinances. The September 20th meeting will be held at the Andalusia Lions Club.

Chairman Rockwell said the provisions of the Open Meetings Act calls for periodic review of minutes of meetings lawfully closed to determine if they may become available for public inspection. We could go into closed session at this time if the Committee wished to discuss minutes of meetings closed but he would like to act upon them and recommend their status.

On 9/30/10 a closed session was held with the Zoo Director Search Committee where the three candidates for new Director were discussed and salary. On 10/8/10 a closed session was held informing the Committee of whom they had selected for Zoo Director and possible acquisition of land. On 12/3/10 a closed session was held to discuss a personnel issue at Illiniwek and on 3/4/11 a closed session was held to discuss step level wage increases for non-bargaining unit employees.

Chairman Rockwell would recommend the September 30th session be kept closed because we had some rather frank discussions regarding the candidates for Zoo Director. The October 8th session should remain closed due to candid discussion regarding the candidates for Zoo Director. The December 3rd session should remain closed due to a personnel issue. The March 4th session could be opened due to the fact that the step increases were discussed in open meeting at the Commission meeting in March.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go along with the Chairman's recommendation. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell asked if there was any more business to come before the Committee, being none, he adjourned at 4:12 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis
Administrative Assistant
Forest Preserve District

