

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM APRIL 8, 2011

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

ABSENT: K. Harmon.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, Director; Mike Murrin, Loud Thunder; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Scott White, Illiniwek; Mark Ryan, Zoo Director; Donna Wilkerson, Purchasing and County Board member, Robert Westpfahl.

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Friday, April 8, 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 March minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to approve the minutes. Second by Mr. Dueysen. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$22,518.90, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$78,424.59, the Liability Insurance Fund claim in the amount of \$606.76 and the Niabi Zoo Capital Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$145,295.00.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve and Niabi Zoo Funds.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion on a Resolution loaning \$150,000 to the Niabi Zoo Fund from the Forest Preserve Fund.

MOTION: Ms. Sallows approved the Resolution. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve a Resolution transferring \$70,965 in unappropriated Niabi Zoo Funds.

MOTION: Mr. Dueysen approved the Resolution. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve a Resolution transferring monies in the Martin Trust Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda approved the Resolution. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion on the Resolution of Authorization regarding the OSLAD/LWCF (Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development/Land & Water Conservation Fund) grant application.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take off display and approve the credit card policies.

MOTION: Ms. Sallows moved to take off display and approve the policies. Dr. Simmer seconded. It was brought up that there will be changes in the policies and Ms. Sallows withdrew her motion.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to table the issue of credit card policies. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Donna Wilkerson. She presented bids for a water heater for Illiniwek. The low bid was from Willow Creek Plumbing in the amount of \$9,300. There were questions whether that bid was for the same heater that was specified which was an AO Smith Commercial Power Vent. The next low bidder was Crawford Company at \$10,364.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go with Crawford Company. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for the Indian Bluff report. Mr. Wells reported they held the open house on March 26th and opened the course April 1st. They charged the irrigation system the first week of April.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mike Murrin for the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Murrin said they opened April 1st. They added a fresh layer of rock to the trailer pads in White Oaks campground and have been adding signs and fence posts as needed on the Forest Preserve boundaries. Mr. Murrin said the restroom by the river boat launch is in very bad shape. Mr. Craver presented some photos of the restroom. The floor has been gradually moving over the years and the walls are starting to come down. Mr. Craver will get the ball rolling and get some estimates on either possible remodeling or tearing down and building a new one.

Mr. Murrin reported he will be retiring after thirty-five years with the Forest Preserve. He will be retiring at the end of this month. He said he has enjoyed his years with the Forest Preserve and the people he has worked. Chairman Rockwell said we will have a retirement party out at the Indian Bluff Clubhouse. He stated the Forest Preserve has been privileged to have someone of the quality and character of Mike Murrin. He is sort of the Dean of Rangers and he will be missed and impossible to replace.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for the Illiniwek report. Mr. White reported they are open and Dorrance is also up and running.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mark Ryan for his report. He reported the opening week set a record with over 15,000 people attended the zoo in the first six days. The Zoo and County Health Department staff will attend a seminar in April at USDA Agriculture Center. The train

track replacement is completed. He reported the roof repair on the Birdhouse began March 29th and this is the last building to be repaired from the hail storm damage.

Chairman Rockwell said we are going to break attendance records for the Zoo this year and that Mr. Craver came up with the idea that on Mondays and Wednesdays you can get a free train ride with paid admission.

Chairman Rockwell called on Jeff Craver for his report. He said you have inspection sheets in your packet. Each month some member makes an inspection of the parks in order to be able to report back to the Committee. He would like to have permission to post the vacancy and put an ad in the newspaper for the Forest Ranger position.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to post the vacancy. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Craver said he would like to take it to the full Board to officially name the Martin Conservation Area. He said that Michael Petersen started working as Assistant Ranger at Illiniwek on March 29th.

Chairman Rockwell called for approval of all reports.

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

Chairman gave members some papers with pie charts showing revenue sources and expenses for the Forest Preserve.

Chairman Rockwell asked if there was any more business to come before the Committee, being none, he adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis
Administrative Assistant
Forest Preserve District

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