

## FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 6, 2012

**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; Mark Ryan, Zoo Director; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Scott White, Illiniwek Ranger; Joe Taylor & Charlotte Morrison, Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, Robert Westpfahl, County Forest Preserve Commissioner and Cathy Bizarri, Taylor Ridge.

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Friday, January 6, 2012, in the second floor conference room of the County Board Office, County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

Chairman Rockwell called on Joe Taylor and Charlotte Morrison of the Quad Cities Convention and Visitors Bureau. They passed out the Quad Cities Visitors Guide for 2012 as well as the 2011 Website visits for Rock Island County attractions. In September of 2011 they conducted a survey which was e-mailed to 5,000 opt-in e-mail addresses. A total of 450 people responded to the survey. On the question of "what is your favorite place to visit while in the Quad Cities", Niabi Zoo ranked number three only behind the casinos and John Deere Pavilion.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion approving the December Committee meeting minutes.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$34,767.48 and the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$39,968.73.

**MOTION:** Mr. Schultz moved to approve the claims. Mr. Maranda 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. Bohnsack moved to approve the Transfers. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion on a Resolution transferring \$10,000 in the Liability Insurance Fund.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take off display and approve the updates and revisions of the Forest Preserve District's Policies and Procedures and the revised purchasing procedures.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to take the procedures off display and approve. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take the Outside Audit off display and approve.

**MOTION:** Mr. Schultz moved to take the Outside Audit off display and for its approval. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for approval of naming Director Craver as the District's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved for approval of Mr. Craver as Officer. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for approval of John Malvik as Ethics Advisor for the Forest Preserve District and as Ethics Commissioners, Mary Jo Curless, Stan Engstrom and Jim Hass.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dueysen moved to approve the appointments. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for his report. Mr. Wells' written report was presented. He reported routine maintenance for the month of December.

**MOTION:** Mr. Schultz moved to approve the Indian Bluff report. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for the Illiniwek report. Mr. White's written report was presented. He reported they are continuing to cut down invasive species and have taken out some hazard trees.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Illiniwek report. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Ben Mills for his Loud Thunder report. Mr. Mills' written report was presented. He reported they started planning for the February Ice Fishing tournament and are working on getting an outdoor ice rink for the public to use. He reported a hiker did get lost on the trails and fortunately was able to call the Ranger for assistance. Trail signage continues to be an issue that is being addressed.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mark Ryan for his report. Mr. Ryan's written report was presented. He asked the Committee if the returning seasonal employees would get a twenty-five cent increase in their hourly wage.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to give all returning seasonal employees twenty-five cent per hour increase. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Ryan said the mouse problem has gotten out of hand and his present pest control company cannot handle the infestation. The Committee instructed him to get three quotes.

Mr. Bohnsack inquired of Mr. Ryan why in his Zoo Director report he states the black bears were transferred to the Akron Zoo to allow in-house work to begin on removal/take down of existing structure and in the December animal inventory it states the bears were donated to the Akron Zoo. Are they coming back to the Zoo? Mr. Ryan said black bears are considered nuisance bears and Akron wanted them so they were donated. Mr. Bohnsack stated what concerned him is that he would think he has the authority to get rid of something of that value without the consideration of the County officials.

Chairman Rockwell stated that at the last Committee meeting we approved spending all that money for a "needs assessment survey". He stated specifically that he wanted to wait until we got the survey results before we made any changes to the exhibits. The Committee members agreed that it was clear they did not want to get rid of the bear exhibit until after the survey was completed.

In his report Mr. Ryan stated they still need to determine the best course of repair for the Giraffe deck and feeder poles and shade structures. Chairman Rockwell stated that since the Society put up the giraffe exhibit, he was curious that they are not more upset about its deterioration in only five years.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Zoo report. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mr. Craver for his report. Mr. Craver reported the County Building office lease needs to be renewed and the rent remains the same at \$242 per month.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to renew the office lease. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Craver said the members had a copy of the 2012 Niabi Zoo schedule of events.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to have the opening day for the Zoo be March 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bohnsack moved to approve the free day schedule for the Zoo. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Craver reported that last month the Committee decided to try to sell the old hoof stock truck by taking it to the Highway Department and putting a "for sale" sign on it. He has since been informed that the truck will not start. The Committee agreed to put an ad in the paper and see what the best offer would be by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Craver stated they received a \$6,000 matching grant for Illiniwek for signage and a \$3,000 grant for Loud Thunder.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Director's report. Mr. Dueysen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell stated we need to have a motion to go into closed session as per 5 ILCS 120/2 ( c ) (1) Personnel.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dueysen moved to go into closed session. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Doors closed at 4:15 PM. Doors opened at 4:45 PM.

**MOTION:** Ms. Sallows moved to go into open session. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell adjourned the meeting at 4:45 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis  
Administrative Assistant  
Forest Preserve District