

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM APRIL 5, 2012

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; Marc Heinzman, Interim Zoo Director; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Scott White, Illiniwek Ranger; Cathy Bizarri and Robert Westpfahl.

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:00 PM on Thursday, April 5, 2012, in the second floor conference room of the County Board Office, County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

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

MOTION: Mr. Schultz 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 \$32,877.87, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$68,858.71, the Liability Insurance Fund claims in the amount of \$3,194.20, the Bike Path Fund claim in the amount of \$403.79 and the Niabi Zoo Capital Improvement Fund claim in the amount of \$50.

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 Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve a Resolution transferring \$36,790 in the Niabi Zoo Fund.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion approving a Resolution transferring \$5,000 in the Liability Insurance Fund.

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

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take off display and approve the Purchasing Card Policies.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to take off display and approve the Policies. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take off display and approve the Forest Management Plan.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to take off display and approve the Plan. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for approval of a request from the Blackhawk Chapter of ABATE to waive the fee for the Illiniwek shelter on May 20th for their annual Bears for Buddies Ride.

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

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for the Indian Bluff report. Mr. Wells reported they opened on March 16th, their earliest opening, and they sold 149 season passes. Tomorrow is their first tournament of the year with 136 golfers. He reported that he will do the shelter roof repair, in house. Mr. Dueysen inspected Indian Bluff and reported everything looked good with the exception of the shelter and was glad to see it would be repaired. Mr. Dueysen reported that #7 looked really good. Mr. Wells reported they have the new logo for the Bluff and will be placing it on new tee signs.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for his Illiniwek report. He reported they opened on March 30th. In regards to the property encroachment issue at Dorrance, he talked to the Cordova assessor, who transferred the issue over to Larry Wilson, Supervisor of Assessments. Dr. Simmer inspected Illiniwek and reported everything looked good.

Chairman Rockwell called on Ben Mills for the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Mills reported they opened March 30th. He has a large truck and a trailer on the premises that is twenty-two years old and not in use at the park. He had the Highway Department look at it and they recommended it would not be worth the cost to fix up and he would recommend getting rid of it.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to put the truck for sale at the Highway Department and try to sell it and advertise the trailer with it. Dr. Simmer seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Mills reported that we have been enrolled in a CRP program for some fifty-two acres at the Martin Conservation area. New legislation was passed that no government entity will receive any monies for this program. Presently the land is prairie grasses. He asked the Committee if we should keep it in the program for ten years which would mean we could not develop it or take it out of the program. Mr. Mills would recommend we keep it in the program.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to put the land in CRP. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Dueysen inspected Loud Thunder and gave his report.

Chairman Rockwell called on Marc Heinzman for the Niabi Zoo report. Mr. Heinzman reported the Zoo is doing well. Estes Construction has finished the giraffe viewing platform. Uncommon Ground is putting down new mulch, cutting down old ornamental grasses and

general cleaning of the landscape and their work is courtesy of the Society. Mr. Heinzman attended the AZA midyear conference in March. The two main concerns mentioned by the AZA commission were the need for a formalized risk management plan and secondly that the Animal Handlers are understaffed. The Committee said they will pursue the hiring of additional Animal Handlers

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to forward a request to the Finance Committee for Hotel/Motel Funds. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer inspected Niabi Zoo and gave his report. He reported the John Deere Gators are looking a little shabby and the sidewalk needs to be repaired by the Lion exhibit. He reported the giraffe deck looks good, the new grass looks awesome and the bear exhibit is coming down.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to mud jack the section of the sidewalk by the Lion exhibit. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mr. Craver for his report. Mr. Craver asked the Committee what direction to take on the IDNR's concern about the need to complete some items to bring the Lake George dam into compliance with Illinois' dam safety standards.

Mr. Craver reported that he met with the Upstream group regarding our websites and he should have a report next week regarding the needs assessment survey. He reported that Illiniwek and Loud Thunder staff attended chain saw training.

Mr. Mills wanted to acknowledge the Illinois City Saddle Club for their help in cleaning up the trails and they are coordinating a park/trail cleanup day for April 22nd.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to go into closed session per ILCS 120/2 © (1) Personnel – Evaluations of non-bargaining unit employees.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to go into closed session. Dr. Simmer seconded. A roll call vote was taken and motion carried.

Session closed at 3:57 PM. Session opened at 4:19 PM.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved for the non-bargaining unit employees to receive the same terms as agreed to with the bargaining unit for the duration of the contract subject to satisfactory evaluations. Second by Mr. Dueysen. Motion carried.

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

Chairman Rockwell adjourned the meeting at 4:24 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis
Administrative Assistant
Forest Preserve District

