

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson, C. O'Brien (via phone), D. Cremeens, E. Sowards, L. Moreno, R. Simmer, K. Maranda.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer; Chloe Gale, WIU Graduate Assistant; Dr. Don McLean, Professor at WIU; Jim Snider, County Administrator; Scott Lohman.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:34 PM on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, in the County Board Office on the second floor of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the August Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the August Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

No request for public comment was submitted.

President Swanson called on Dr. Don McLean and Chloe Gale of WIU for the presentation of Indian Bluff Player Satisfaction Survey.

Ms. Gale stated that satisfaction surveys were given out at Indian Bluff Golf Course, and 155 were returned. There was an estimated sample error of +/- 7.7%, and the questions included were both quantitative and qualitative.

Dr. McLean quickly went through the scatter plot pointing out that many of Indian Bluff's priorities are set in line with the desires of the customers. The one area to consider would be in the category of club house amenities, and the quality of the drinks offered.

Ms. Gale stated that some of the questions asked were in regards to marketing, average level of play, frequency of play, years of play, what other courses they golf at. With most of the current demographic, Social Media and Local Advertising doesn't have much of an influence on them. They consider themselves to be average/recreational golfers, and are both frequent and repeat customers of Indian Bluff. The majority of the those surveyed have been golfing for 25 or more years. Most of the golfers using the course are older males who have been playing for many years.

President Swanson stated that he had heard that golf was decreasing in popularity throughout the country, and not just locally. Then asked if Dr. McLean and Ms. Gale felt that the 25 plus years playing golf finding would be true across the other local golf courses as well.

Dr. McLean stated that he would not be surprised if that were the case. A potential place to concentrate on attracting other golfers would be adult woman and the younger crowd.

Dr. Moreno asked if there were specific drinks that were noted on the survey.

Ms. Gale answered that there was not a specific drink that was suggested.

President Swanson thanked Dr. McLean and Ms. Gale for their presentation, and called on Mr. Petersen for his Illiniwek report as he had an appointment to get to.

Mr. Petersen stated that the lighting project at Dorrance is coming along well. There was a little snag with a misunderstanding on what was MidAmerican property and what was District property. There is now a line that needs to get fixed. It will take one to two weeks to repair. The rain has set the project back a bit also. The eagle scout project is going well, and the first stage is complete. Staff is moving forward on the fencing project on the second ball diamond at Dorrance.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2018 Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$24,806.13.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the old year Treasurer's Disbursements. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2019 Forest Preserve General Fund claims in the amount of \$58,505.45, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$128,239.54, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvements Fund claims in the amount of \$51,928.50, Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$893.62, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$81,324.21.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the new year claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2018 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the fiscal year 2018 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2019 transfers of appropriation in the Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the fiscal year 2019 transfers of appropriation in the Niabi Zoo Fund. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2018 Appropriation Amendment Resolution for the Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the fiscal year 2018 Appropriation Amendment Resolution for the Niabi Zoo Fund. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Open Space Land Acquisition Resolution of Authorization.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Open Space Land Acquisition Resolution of Authorization. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that this is in regards to applying for the OSLAD Grant. The District is applying in order to supplement the funds available for the Loud Thunder camping improvements. This grant will be very difficult to get because one of the requirements of the grant is that 40% of the project cannot go towards infrastructure. Much of the campground improvements are defined as infrastructure. Another issue in applying for the grant is that the facilities are scored by their amenities. Bi-State is helping with the application process, and they have said that this grant cycle will be extremely competitive.

President Swanson stated that he appreciated the effort to find money outside of Rock Island County to bring in for the project.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to remove from display and approve Schedule A of the fiscal year 2020 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund of the District, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to remove from display and approve Schedule A of the fiscal year 2020 Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund of the District, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to remove from display and approve the District's Comprehensive Park Plan.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to remove from display approve the District's Comprehensive Park Plan. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked Ms. Ewert if there was anything she'd like to bring to the Committee's attention.

Ms. Ewert stated that there was nothing of note in the cross fund report. If the Committee had any questions, she was happy to answer.

There were no questions.

President Swanson called on Ms. Palmer for the Auditor's reports.

Ms. Palmer stated that all funds are spending within budget. On the Fund Balance report the beginning balance column is still an estimate, and the audited numbers will be ready to put in once the audit has been completed. Would like to point out that, even excluding the bonds recently received, the District's balance as a whole has increased about half a million dollars from this time last year.

President Swanson asked Mr. Verstraete if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to in his Indian Bluff report.

Mr. Verstraete stated that staff will be doing aerofication of the greens, and will need to close half the course for a day each to complete that project. The Powers estate money will be put towards building a weather shelter in the southwest corner of the golf course.

President Swanson asked Mr. Jackson if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to in his report.

Mr. Jackson stated that staff is continuing to prepare for the AZA inspection, which is scheduled for December 3rd through December 6th. The Pints for Preservation was a success even with the threat of severe weather. Attendance was down, but there were

still many who came out and had a good time. There is a request from a local realtor to use Niabi as a location for shooting a commercial.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to allow the realtor to shoot footage for the commercial on Niabi Zoo grounds. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

President Swanson stated that a shot script was submitted, and everything seems in order.

Mr. Craver stated his concern that this was setting a precedent.

President Swanson stated that these requests would be taken on a case by case basis, and didn't feel that a precedence was being set.

Motion carried.

Mr. Jackson stated that there was input from CAB regarding accepting donations, and revising that protocol. The giraffe shade structure should be up by the end of the day.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to in his report.

Mr. Craver stated that he had been sending out emails with updates regarding the camping improvement plans for Loud Thunder. MidAmerican Energy has been out in the surrounding area doing some updating. The plans for the improvements should be completed and ready for authorization by the beginning of November. Hopefully, construction will begin in spring for those improvements. There was one thing overlooked in the spillway and dam repairs project. Normally there is a contingency pay item put in, which is either for \$100,000.00 or 10% of the project. Would like that added onto the project in case there is a change order that needs to happen.

There was consensus from the Committee to add that motion to the Commission agenda.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve all routine reports for the District.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve all routine reports for the District. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant