

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2018**

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

ABSENT: L. Moreno.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 10:01 AM on Tuesday, October 9, 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 September Public Hearing meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the September Public Hearing meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the September Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

No request for public comment was submitted.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Forest Preserve General Fund claims in the amount of \$25,344.59, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$138,138.18, Liability fund claims in the amount of \$245.00, Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$103,851.90, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvements Fund claims in the amount of \$28,000.00, Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$400.00, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$56,969.03.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Niabi Zoo Appropriation Amendment Resolution.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Niabi Zoo Appropriation Amendment Resolution. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Niabi Zoo Appropriation Amendment Resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Niabi Zoo Appropriation Amendment Resolution. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Development of Forests & Construction Fund Appropriation Amendment Resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Development of Forests & Construction Fund Appropriation Amendment Resolution. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the General Fund Appropriation Amendment Resolution.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the General Fund Appropriation Amendment Resolution. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the 2018 Levy Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoo Fund, IMRF Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvements Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the 2018 Levy Ordinances for the General Fund, Niabi Zoo Fund, IMRF 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 approve the low bid for the White Oak Campground Electrical Project.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to low bid for the White Oak Campground Electrical Project. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Mills gave a brief explanation of the project to upgrade the electrical service of White Oak campground from 30amp to 50amp.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the purchase of Illinois City parcel number 1433100005 using the Loud Thunder Endowment funds.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of Illinois City parcel number 1433100005 using the Loud Thunder Endowment funds. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve purchase of East Moline parcel number 6614.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve purchase of East Moline parcel number 6614. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the property in question was adjacent to Illiniwek Forest Preserve. A few years ago there was a fire, and some of Illiniwek property caught also. The structure is beyond salvage, and staff would recommend to clear it. Believe there is room to negotiate the asking price, and am seeking for authorization to pursue this further then come back to Committee with an amount.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to amend the motion to allow Mr. Craver to look into the purchase further. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Mills for a professional assessment on the request to keep the Riverview gate open until December 18th.

Mr. Mills briefly went over his previous assessment from 2016 when the Committee authorized him to post signs and closed the gates on December 1st each year.

There was consensus from the Committee that the standing protocol to close the gates from December first to April first was the best course of action as per the professional assessment of Ranger Mills.

President Swanson called for discussion on the Community Advisory Board's report on donations. It is a very well thought out report.

Mr. Jackson stated that the recommendations needed to be put into a formal policy before being brought to Committee for a vote.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Governing Authority Philosophy Statement for Niabi Zoo. This document codifies what the AZA wants to see from a zoo like Niabi. It states the Commission's commitment to supporting Niabi and observing the proper roles that each support group has.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Governing Authority Philosophy Statement for Niabi Zoo. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to relocate November's Committee meeting to Indian Bluff Golf Course as was done last year.

A brief discussion on what time would be best on the regular meeting day of November 13, 2018.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve relocation of the November 13th Committee meeting to Indian Bluff Golf Course at five o'clock pm. Ms. Sowards 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. Interest rates are increasing. 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. The District is a quarter through fiscal year 2019. On the Fund Balance report Niabi is closing the gap to reach the five-month reserve that the District strives for. The cash balances are looking good. The actuarial report for the District Audit has changed to be more detailed due to the new GASB 75 standards.

The Committee was informed that Mr. Verstraete and Mr. Collins were excused from this meeting due to being unable to get away from the business of the golf course.

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

Mr. Petersen stated that the tipi gathering event went very well. There are upgrades to the wi-fi on the park, and the wide area mower needs a complete fuel system replacement. Diamonds one and two are complete, and the third is almost done. The ribbon cutting will be held on October 23rd, time to be determined.

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

Mr. Mills stated that staff had begun working on pruning, and the lake has been drained ten feet so far. Blackhawk trades students will be starting work on the shore line at the docks. There will also be some bridges going in on the trails. The park received a \$350.00 donation for signage for the trails. Have also been working with the fish biologist regarding the lowering of the lake, and things are going well.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that the speaker series continues to go well. A female zebra had to be euthanized. She was thirty-five years old, which is very old for the species, and had chronic joint and bone issues. The American Badgers were placed on exhibit, and then were found to be missing. The search has begun to locate and retrieve those badgers.

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

Mr. Craver stated that the Village of Coal Valley has sent more information on the water main project. The District's portion would be forty percent. That comes out to \$300,000.00, not to exceed \$400,000.00. This is a mutually beneficial project as it has always been a goal of the District to get Niabi onto a municipal water source.

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 11:03 AM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant