

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Committee members - K. Swanson, C. O'Brien, D. Cremeens, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, K. Maranda, L. Moreno (arrived at 5:26pm).

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer; William Nelson, CAB Chairman; C. Bolt, Loud Thunder Assistant Ranger; Scott Lohman.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 5:04 PM on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, in the Club House at Indian Bluff Golf Course in Milan, Illinois.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the October Committee meeting minutes. Ms. O'Brien 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 \$36,166.11, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$126,259.60, Golf Course Improvement fund claims in the amount of \$6,580.00, Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$2,200.00, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvements Fund claims in the amount of \$615,854.94, Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$2,827.60, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$342,655.52.

**MOTION:** Ms. O'Brien moved to approve the claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve Abatement Certificate for Ordinance #2016-0401.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Abatement Certificate for Ordinance #2016-0401. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver went through a brief explanation of why the Abatement Certificates are done for the bonds each year, and gave a general update on the spillway project.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Abatement Certificate for Ordinance #11-01-17.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Abatement Certificate for Ordinance #11-01-17. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the additional appropriation for the Lake George Spillway and Dam Improvements.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the additional appropriation for the Lake George Spillway and Dam Improvements. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the weight wall k-rail barrier might send the project over the previously approved change order. The Highway Department didn't like the k-rail. They want a guard rail put up instead, and there will have to be brackets installed. The District needs to get approval from the DNR to do that. Also will need to repair where the road got torn up near the beginning of the project before they closed the road. There was also some extra rip rap that was needed. Staff is confident that with a few significant rain events in the spring the lake will be up quickly. Highway Engineer is working on sourcing used guard rail or new guard rail.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Coal Valley and the Forest Preserve District regarding the water main project.

**MOTION:** Ms. O'Brien moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Coal Valley and the Forest Preserve District regarding the water main project. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver explained that this agreement is essentially a memorandum of understanding stating that the District is agreeing to be a partner in the project. A municipal water source has been a long time goal for Niabi. Negotiations for this took about a year, and there will be another agreement as more specifics come in on cost and duration of the project. The District will be paying for the stretch along Niabi property. It has been a long term goal for Niabi to upgrade its infrastructure, and get onto a municipal water supply.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to go into closed session as per ILCS 120/2 (c) Exceptions: (1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. And (5) Discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to go into closed session. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

C. O'Brien, R. Simmer, K. Maranda, E. Sowards, D. Cremeens, K. Swanson.

<b>TOTAL YES</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>TOTAL NO</b>	<b>0</b>

Motion carried.

Closed session began 5:18 PM

Closed session ended 5:43 PM

President Swanson called for a motion to approve Mr. Craver's pursuit of potential land purchase adjacent to Illiniwek Forest Preserve.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve Mr. Craver's pursuit of potential land purchase adjacent to Illiniwek Forest Preserve. Ms. O'Brien 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, but she was happy to answer any questions.

There were no questions.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that there is nothing different or alarming in the reports. Looking at the cash balance report, without counting the bond money, the total cash balance for the District is only \$46,159.00 lower than it was last year at this time. There have been some larger expenses, and revenues were down a bit this year as is in Mr. Craver's reports.

President Swanson called on Mr. Collins and Mr. Verstraete for their Indian Bluff reports.

Mr. Verstraete stated that Blackhawk College trade students poured cement for the weather shelter going up. Most of the building supplies have arrived, but there are still a couple key items that have not yet arrived. With the early freeze, staff is working to winterize the course quickly.

Mr. Collins stated that revenue was down this year due to the weather. With the season winding down, work on winterizing the club house and carts has begun. The water heater also had to get replaced this year.

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 weather didn't cooperate with the events at the preserve this year. FORC is still working on the trails. The weather has not been cooperating with them either. There was a bridge on the trails built with monetary help from RiverAction and FORC. Staff is working on winterizing.

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 there were over 130 volunteers for the lake clean-up day. The boat rental accessibility project, which Blackhawk College trade students were assisting with, will continue in the spring. Camping revenue breakdown by camp ground is included in the report this month as in past years. The electric sites are what bring in over half of the total camping revenue.

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. Staff is winterizing, and animals that can't handle the Midwest winter are being moved to their winter homes. AZA inspection is coming up in a few weeks. Boo at the Zoo did well.

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

Mr. Craver stated that the hand-out shows where the bonds funds are set to go. Some estimates have increased, some have decreased. The total estimate for the projects that have previously been discussed has gone up significantly. The District has applied for the OSLAD grant, but have not heard back regarding this yet. Please keep in mind that some things may need to be cut, and projects prioritized. The camping and RV improvements are a high priority, and hopefully those bids will come in close to the low estimates.

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. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 6:07 PM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant