

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
JUNE 18, 2019 – 7:25 PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, K. Swanson

TOTAL PRESENT 22

D. Beck, E. Langdon

TOTAL ABSENT 2

2. President Swanson stated that our speaker this evening, Tammy Schmidt, Assistant Zoo Director, was not able to attend due to a family opportunity and will reschedule Ms. Schmidt for another day.
3. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the May 21, 2019, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Deppe and Sowards seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)**

5. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "We hosted what appears to be a very successful visit of the Zoo's and Aquariums teams. They wanted to see zoo in full swing. I think they had an opportunity to do that. And at the earliest opportunity we will hear reports from Mr. Jackson and see how that went. Also, I hope...it's very hard to see, but if you read my lapel pin, it says I Fed a Giraffe. You, too, can claim to have fed a giraffe...but it's a reminder to me to thank Bob and Blenda Ontiveros. Many of you may have seen the local coverage of which the Ontiveros', well-known leaders of our community have put forward their own resources to improve the habitat for our giraffes Kenya and Twigga. We had International Giraffe Day celebrated and I wanted to thank the Commissioners who took the time to be there for the celebration. Thank you very much."

Commissioner Reagan was recognized.

Mr. Reagan asked, "I just wanted to know how the membership is doing?"

President Swanson asked, "Let's wait until we get to reports, if we could...is that alright?"

Mr. Reagan nodded yes.

6. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the claims in the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$62,325.34, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$97,156.38, Golf Course Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$1,189.72, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$37,818.75, Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$19,719.21, and Development of Forests and Construction Fund claims in the amount of \$8,368.99. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 20

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$132,601.64. Commissioner Sowards seconded. (Record)

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 20

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriations in the General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Cremeens moved approve the Gifts and Donations Policy, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the low bid for the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve Campground Improvement project at \$2,266,766.65, as presented. Commissioners Deppe and Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL NO 1

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the low bid for the Loud Thunder Forest Preserve Playground at \$126,432.53, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 20

J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL NO 1

Motion carried.

12. **Comments from Commissioners**

President Swanson stated, "I would note to Mr. Craver that Mr. Reagan is wondering if we have any information available on memberships at the zoo? It's a rolling thing, so when you prepare for your report, and any questions on your report, I would ask that you be ready for that. And, that's duly noted, Mr. Reagan: Are there any other comments from Commissioners? Is that okay that we wait for the reports? I just wanted to be sure you knew that we heard you."

Commissioner Deppe was recognized.

Mr. Deppe stated, "I would like to say, hats off to the Board and Mr. Craver. It was because of what they do for the Blackhawk Achievement Youth Program. These kids are getting jobs with the local contractors in the county that will help with someone being able to buy a house in Rock Island County, buy a car in Rock Island County and help with improvements at Illiniwek and it's through our internet program, where they are actually taking kids and they are getting paid to go to college so that they can get good paying jobs. So, I just want to say thank you guys for that."

President Swanson added, "I can only accept those thanks if Mr. Deppe will accept some thanks for being a leader and using his expertise in connections and making those connections happen. Those have happened because of Mr. Deppe's leadership. So, give him a big hand."

(Group applause)

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "I just like for all to know that the Quad City Riverfront Council that me and Larry sit on...Larry was elected from Treasurer to Vice President now...that's right, he is moving up the ladder fast. He's on the fast track. So, we've been doing a lot of good things out there and gave out some awards for Illiniwek for their grasslands and next year, we are going to nominate Loud Thunder. And, hopefully, we'll get that finished up and can do that one next time. Keep your ear open for any good projects we are doing, we can import those next time."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Dr. Simmer. I would like to note that Mr. Cremeens and Dr. Simmer took an entire half day out of their schedules to go to the Illinois Association of Park Districts boot camp. That commitment to further their education and development of this Commission is deeply appreciated."

Mr. Simmer added, "And, Mr. Swanson was there."

President Swanson stated, "Well, I just went along for the ride."

13. Commissioner Noyd moved to approve the Routine Reports of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded. (Record)

President Swanson asked, "Mr. Craver, do you have the information on how the memberships are going out at Niabi? Mr. Jackson wasn't able to join us tonight. If we don't have that information tonight, I will make sure that we get that and share it with this Commission because we have..."

Mr. Craver stated, "I am sorry, I don't have the exact numbers. Looking at the budgeting reports, you can see there is a slight decrease in attendance in membership members and membership sales. However, sometime some of those can be deceiving because do sell memberships online and don't take into account those we have not received a check...and so, it takes a while to get caught up. Also, the Museum Partnership is very popular. That is also an online ticket sales item for us and we wait on those checks. But, I will ask Mr. Jackson and his staff to put that in the membership report he will give next month. I hope that is satisfactory."

President Swanson gave a Summary of the Executive Committee, "I'd like everybody to please breathe a word of thanks that the weather has gotten a bit better...our revenues are going up. If you have gone out... I would say, I had some company in town and went to a State facility and the trails were awful. We went to Illiniwek and thanks to its partnerships with private organizations like FORK, the trails were immaculate. And so, they saw two very different Forest Preserves and our was better."

President Swanson added, "Also, from the Executive Committee, it is no secret, if you look at the revenues year to date summary, the awful weather that we've been having has hurt us. But, I think the staff should be commended because they have been working very hard to keep expenses down. We know that revenues will be down and have been ratcheting down very prudently. We still have a month left in this fiscal year, and as mentioned, we had AZA here and with continued good weather, we will see the revenues go up and am just grateful for the care and leadership of this incredible resource we have."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, July 16, 2019, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw