

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

PRESENT: Committee members - E. Sowards, L. Moreno, K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, K. Maranda.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; 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 3:31 PM on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, in the Rock Island County Building on the second floor Rock Island, Illinois.

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

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the October Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Moreno 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 \$232,926.09, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$107,943.13, Liability Fund claims in the amount of \$424.98, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvements Fund claims in the amount of \$3,184.14, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$26,405.63.

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding Designation of a primary signatory for US Army Corps of Engineers applications and permits.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the resolution regarding Designation of a primary signatory for US Army Corps of Engineers applications and permits. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens 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 submission of a Real Estate Application to the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Loud Thunder Boat Ramp.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the submission of a Real Estate Application to the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Loud Thunder Boat Ramp. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson asked the Committee if there were any questions regarding the Lake George Dam Inspection that was included in the packet.

Mr. Fellman stated that the inspection was delayed slightly in order to finish the projects that needed to be completed for the inspection. All items on the permit were completed prior to the inspection. The dam and spillway repairs went well, and at this point it is a matter of keeping up on maintenance. It's important to get on a maintenance plan, and not let needed maintenance and repairs pile up as they had. The inspection has been submitted and received by the DNR. The DNR has listed no concerns.

President Swanson asked if there was something that the DNR would, or could, send to the District as a concurrence.

Mr. Fellman answered that he would reach out to the person he interacts with at the DNR to see if that is a possibility.

There was a brief discussion on how the staff will handle the maintenance plan going forward.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the proposal for the cabin structure at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, suggesting that one cabin of each style would be the best fit. One is very accessible for people with mobility difficulties. The other is a bit higher end, while still being adequately accessible.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the proposal for the cabin structure at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve, and choosing one cabin of each of the two style listed. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Dr. Simmer asked what the bottom line for that option.

Mr. Craver stated that the total for the materials was \$308,234. That does not include anything other than structure itself. Once we know what structures are to be bid, staff will work with Strand Associates on getting the projects out to bid. The goal is to put the project out to bid after the first of the year. At this time, it is believed that there will be money left over enough for two cabins. Furnishings have not yet been priced.

Mr. Cremeens asked when the anticipated payoff would be.

Mr. Craver stated that it would likely be around thirteen years as the District was hoping to bring in between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per year from the cabin rentals.

President Swanson stated that it is important to also take into account that these will draw people to Loud Thunder. It is pretty far off the beaten path. Many camp grounds in the area offer cabins, but having a really nice cabin available would be something that Loud Thunder could offer that others don't. Is there still going to be paths going down to the lake?

Mr. Mills stated that there would be a path behind the cabins that lead to the lake.

Ms. Normoyle stated that while the revenue was a great boon to the preserve, the District provides a service to the community. It makes a fun weekend away more accessible for families. It provides a fun, safe place for families and friends to spend time outdoors together.

Mr. Craver stated that that was exactly right. Ultimately, the District is here to provide a service. When playgrounds are purchased, or access to the lake and trails, those things don't bring in revenue directly, and are primarily there for people to enjoy.

Dr. Simmer asked if there was any idea on the work listed in the proposal that isn't included in the price.

Mr. Craver stated that those will be ironed out once the engineer had the structure specs.

Motion carried.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that all funds are spending within budget.

President Swanson asked Ms. Ewert if there was anything she would like to bring attention to from the report.

Ms. Ewert stated that November would be the final tax distribution for the year. There will be a small one in January, but that will be it until June.

President Swanson asked Misters Collins and Verstraete if there was anything they'd like to bring attention to in their reports.

Mr. Collins stated that there was a wedding at the Bluff for the first time ever. It worked out fairly well, and went pretty smooth.

Mr. Verstraete stated that the cart path project has had to be put off until next year because of the weather. With the weather turning so quickly, staff was barely able to get the irrigation system blown out for the season. During the fall staff will concentrate on removing ash trees, as long as the weather permits.

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

Mr. Petersen stated that the camping for October was typical, and allowed the park to end the year with relatively average revenue levels.

Ms. Normoyle asked about the Grist Mill stones that were mentioned in the report.

Mr. Petersen stated that they are a part of the history of the area. In the 1800s there was a Grist Mill in operation in Rapid City. In 1915 it moved to the land that is now Illiniwek Forest Preserve, and in the 1970s some kids burned down the mill. The only thing left from the fire was the stones. They are currently on the preserve, but staff is looking to move them over to the campground and get signage made up explaining the history.

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

Mr. Mills stated that staff has been busy wrapping up the season at the park. There has been a lot of tree removal for the new camp ground project. Nearly thirty deer have been harvested at the park so far on the archery hunt.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything from his report that he wanted to bring attention to.

Mr. Craver stated that Niabi wrapped up its season with Boo at the Zoo. Conservation speaker series continues. Staff has applied to the ZAA, which is another accreditation agency. There will be some appointments to the CAB on the Commission agenda. At all the District's facilities staff will be working on the capital improvement projects that have been planned out in the budget. As always, staff is looking for grants to apply for and use for the projects as well. After the first of the year, will be concentrating on the implementation of the District wide software.

Dr. Simmer asked what the benefit of being accredited by the ZAA was.

Mr. Craver explained that the ZAA focused on animal care, and it would allow Niabi access to more animals and participation in more breeding programs than they are currently.

President Swanson asked the Committee if they had a chance to think over the possibility of moving the regular meeting time of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee.

After a brief discussion there was consensus to speak with the County Board's Chairman, Mr. Brunk, regarding moving the meeting to 8:30am on the same day as the District is currently scheduled so as not to interfere with the meetings of the County.

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 4:30 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant