

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 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; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer; Scott Lohman.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 8:31 AM on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, in the Rock Island County Building on the second floor Rock Island, Illinois.

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

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the November 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 claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$834,788.22.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Mr. Cremeens 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. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Designation of Banks and other Depositories Resolution.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the Designation of Banks and other Depositories Resolution. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve Mr. Jeffrey Craver as the District's FOIA officer.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve Mr. Jeffrey Craver as the District's FOIA officer. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the 2020 meeting dates and holiday schedule for the District.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the 2020 meeting dates and holiday schedule for the District. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

President Swanson stated that it had been brought to his attention that the new 8:30 AM start time for the District is causing issues with the County's Finance and Personnel Committee. One of the members has a work conflict with the later time that that meeting takes place. There are some options for the District to consider in trying to work with the County for all involved to be able to avoid conflict with the regular schedule of the meetings. One option is to go back to meeting at 3:30 PM. Another option would be to flip and meet after the County's Finance and Personnel meeting, which would put the District's meeting around 9:30 AM. However, that would put the staff in a bind because it's interrupting their work day when things are getting done around the parks. Don't think going to a different day would be an option because everyone is so used to the second Tuesday being the day. What are the Committee's opinions on this?

Mr. Cremeens suggested doing the meeting earlier in the morning. Perhaps as early as 7:30 AM.

President Swanson stated that he was in favor of an earlier meeting.

Mr. Maranda stated that most of the staff would be able to access the building at that time.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the sign up for public comment would need to be available to the public half an hour before the scheduled start of the meeting.

Mr. Maranda asked Ms. Przybyla to come into the meeting for a moment.

President Swanson asked when the general public was able to get access to the building. What time does security get here?

Ms. Przybyla stated that the doors open to the public at 8:00 AM.

Ms. Normoyle state that it would be problematic to hold the meeting before the general public was able to gain access to the building as the meeting is an open meeting.

President Swanson stated that perhaps going back to meeting in the afternoon would work better.

Dr. Moreno stated that, with all due respect to the one person who is having the work conflict due to the later time of the County's meeting, it is even more inconvenient for those who work to have to leave work twice in one day to make the meeting. Having the District's meeting so far scheduled from the County's Finance and Personnel meeting affects five of the District's Committee members who are also on the County's Finance and Personnel Committee. Going back to the afternoon meeting for the Forest Preserve Executive Committee is a bad option for several people.

Mr. Maranda stated that the 8:00 AM seemed like the best option as far as timing for the Committee.

Ms. Normoyle stated that perhaps there is a more creative option for allowing the public to comment.

President Swanson stated that perhaps the meeting could be held at 8:00 AM, and the public comment moved to the end of the meeting. Provided that the County's Board Chairman and the County's Finance and Personnel Chairman are amenable to that.

Ms. Sullivan pointed out that that option would require a change in the District's policy regarding procedure for public comment.

President Swanson directed Ms. Sullivan to send the language of the policy in time to change that and have it ready to be voted on at the December Commission meeting.

AMMENDED MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to adjust the meetings scheduled at 8:30 AM to 8:00 AM. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the 2020 fee schedule of the District facilities and services.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the 2020 fee schedule of the District's facilities and services. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the purchase of two prefabricated structures for Loud Thunder Forest Preserve.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the purchase of two prefabricated structures for Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

After a brief discussion there was consensus to go ahead with the purchases, but to get the metal roof option instead of the roofing option listed in the packet.

Motion carried.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that all funds are spending within budget. The fund balances are looking better. There is nothing new to report regarding the cash balances.

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

Ms. Ewert stated that there was nothing new to report, but she was happy to answer any questions the Committee had.

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

Mr. Verstraete stated that staff had completed a big drainage project recently. The facility has been winterized. As weather permits, staff will work on leaf and tree removal.

Mr. Collins stated that for the third year in a row the golf season was cut short due to the weather. The annual holiday special is currently running.

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

Mr. Petersen stated that the southern shower building renovation has been completed.

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

Mr. Mills stated that staff is working on tree removal, and winterization has been completed. Mr. Joshua Sun of Sun Trail Running has requested to use Loud Thunder as the location for a fifty mile run event to be held in April. I met with Mr. Sun, and he was very receptive to the District's concerns regarding the event. He is going to be donating the proceeds from the event to Loud Thunder.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that the inspection for the ZAA accreditation had gone very well, and that there was a lot of praise given to the staff for the animal care. The District will be notified in February regarding the accreditation. Staff has begun breaking down the Oceans exhibit to make way for the new Invertebrates exhibit. The octopus and sea horses will remain from the Oceans exhibit to join the Invertebrates exhibit.

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

Mr. Craver stated that Mr. Petersen should give a professional opinion on the Hutchison Engineering preliminary design report and cost estimate for the road improvements being proposed at Illiniwek.

Mr. Petersen stated that the main road needs upgrading. As it is both the entrance to the preserve and a part of the bike path, the entrance needs widening. This is for safety and better flow into the preserve. The road also needs resurfacing. Currently it is a seal coat road, and the plan would be to make it an asphalt road. There are a few hiccups, but those are being taken into consideration in the design.

Mr. Craver stated that staff will look into grants and other programs that could assist in funding this project. Staff is looking to move forward with Option B. After the new year begins, staff will start training on the new POS system. The goal is to go live with the system on March first.

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

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

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 9:16 AM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant