

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
JANUARY 14, 2020**

**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; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 8:01 AM on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, in the Rock Island County Building on the second floor Rock Island, Illinois.

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

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the December 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 \$322,001.40.

**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 Niabi Zoo Fund.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in the Niabi Zoo Fund. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes Resolution.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes Resolution. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the amendment to the Regular Part-Time and Temporary Employee Pay Policy.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the amendment to the Regular Part-Time and Temporary Employee Pay Policy. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the amendment to the Sexual Harassment Policy.

**MOTION:** Dr. Moreno moved to approve the amendment to the Sexual Harassment Policy. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that the District was half way through the current fiscal year. Everyone is spending within budget. The five-month reserve that is seen on the Fund Balances Report is calculated from the previous fiscal year's total expenses. There is nothing new to report with the cash balances.

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

Mr. Verstraete stated that staff has been able to work on projects that are typically done in the fall. Leaf pick up has been completed, and more ash trees were removed.

Mr. Collins stated that the club house has done the annual sale on two rounds. There was an increase in purchases of that deal this year.

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 removed ash trees and hazard trees. There were a couple prescribed burns on the park. Fish and Wildlife came out to inspect potential prairie plantings. Unfortunately, the ground isn't quite ready for the seed yet. Included in this month's report is a

revenue breakdown for each campground. There has been a request for a rowing event at Lake George. Just began to discuss the details of that with the group.

President Swanson stated that it sounded like a good opportunity for partnership with another group in the area.

Ms. Normoyle stated that she had some experience with the group, and they were very professional in their dealings.

Mr. Mills continued stating that RV campers were really excited about the White Oak upgraded electric that was available to them this past summer. There were campers in that had never camped at Loud Thunder before because there was no 50-amp service.

President Swanson asked if Mr. Mills felt that the upgrades to water and electric in the equestrian sites would draw in more revenue from that particular demographic.

Mr. Mills stated that he thought it would bring in more out of town equestrians, but is not likely to draw in many more locals. Regarding the construction of the new full service sites, the work started very slow, and completely stopped at one point. A meeting was called with Valley, and the work has begun again. There is some concern that because of the delay the seeding window will be missed, and those sites will not be available in the coming camping season.

Mr. Craver stated that there is a penalty associated with missing the completion date, so that does provide an incentive to complete the construction in a timely manner. Weather will be a factor.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that the new Binturong and Eagle Owl exhibits were complete, and the new invertebrate exhibit is about eighty percent complete. There was a colobus monkey born, and three finch foxes. The press releases are forth coming.

President Swanson asked what the name of the new colobus monkey was.

Mr. Jackson stated that the baby colobus was named Kindu.

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

Mr. Craver stated that staff had started training on the new point of sale software. It's going to take some time to get the system up and running, but it should be ready by March first as planned. On April first the rates for the next year for IMRF will be out. The goal is to pay off the ERI as soon as possible. Once the rates are here the numbers can be crunched, and a plan can be put together to hopefully get that paid off in three or four years. That will afford the District some good saving. Trying to look ahead at tax dollars decreasing with the Exelon

agreement. Would have to utilize some of the reserves for that, but will work with the Auditor's Office to come up with the plan. The District has received notice that an employee has contacted a lawyer regarding a workers' compensation case. More details on that as they become available.

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. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:44 AM.

Please note that due to technical issues with the recording device, there is no audio recording for this meeting.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant