

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2020**

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

**ABSENT:** E. Sowards.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Craver, District Director; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek 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 8:06 AM on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, in the Rock Island County Building on the second floor Rock Island, Illinois.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the January Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer 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 \$160,305.75.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Ms. Normoyle 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:** Ms. Normoyle 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 Financial Certification Statement Form RT/DOC-5 & Civil Rights Compliance of Illinois, U.S. Department of Transportation Form RT/DOC-6 for the Recreational Trails Program (Grant) for the Grand Illinois Trail and Support Facility project at Illiniwek Forest Preserve.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Financial Certification Statement Form RT/DOC-5 & Civil Rights Compliance of Illinois, U.S. Department of Transportation Form RT/DOC-6 for the Recreational Trails Program (Grant) for the Grand Illinois Trail and Support Facility project at Illiniwek Forest Preserve. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that this was for a Federal Grant application for the restrooms and bike repair station along the District's stretch of the Great River Trail. This is a reimbursable grant, which means that the District would expend the money out of the current available funds. Then receive reimbursement for the project from the grant.

Mr. Petersen stated that the archeological study had been done in time for the submission of the application.

Mr. Craver stated that the study had come back clean, and the DNR said it looked promising.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Concessions Agreement with Sunshine Sammi, INC.

**MOTION:** Dr. Simmer moved to approve the amendment to the Concessions Agreement with Sunshine Sammi, INC. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the amendment to the Zoo Director's Employment Agreement.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to approve the amendment to the Zoo Director's Employment Agreement. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

President Swanson stated that this amendment is to help inoculate the professional staff from the elected officials. The elected officials should only be hiring or firing the Director, and the Director is then the one to serve as a buffer for the professional staff of the District. The Civil Division has reviewed the document. If there are any specific questions, or discussion points in this matter, we can go into closed session.

It was agreed to go into closed session after reports had been given.

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 budgeted spending looks good. Most of the fund balances look healthy. Nothing has changed from months past regarding the fund balance or cash balance reports.

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 has been to do some tree removal and regular maintenance projects.

Mr. Collins stated that work on the input into the new POS system continues, and getting the club house ready to open up for the season continues as well.

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

Mr. Petersen stated that staff is clearing some sugar maples so that the white oak seedlings have a chance to grow and thrive.

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 removing hazard trees. Those are being used to make firewood bundles for the concessions, and also being chipped to utilize around the park. Construction has ramped up, and progress is being made. The \$72,400.00 in interest that was generated by the Marvin Martin Endowment is slated to go towards bridges on the Sac-Fox trail, and docks for the cabins. Fifty-eight deer were harvested from the park in this season's bow hunt. That is the most deer that have been harvested on the hunt in the District's record.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that staff is working with a company to bring in a virtual reality dinosaur exhibit. It would be a shared venture, so revenue from the exhibit would be split. To bring some context into the fund and cash balances of Niabi's fund, there have been a lot necessary, but unforeseen infrastructure maintenance needed at Niabi. Many of the exhibits are aging, and in need of repair to ensure containment, and safety.

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 covered all the highlights well with their reports.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Cremeens moved to approve all routine reports for the District. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

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.

**MOTION:** Mr. Maranda moved to go into closed session. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens, L. Moreno, K. Swanson.

**TOTAL YES           6**

**TOTAL NO           0**

Motion carried.

Closed session began 8:36 AM

Closed session ended 8:46 AM

Adjourned the meeting at 8:46 AM.

Submitted by:  
Cassie Sullivan  
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant