

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**MAY 19, 2020 – 8:23 PM**  
**PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

1. Nick Camlin, Chief Deputy County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl, K. Swanson

**TOTAL PRESENT      24**

D. Johnston                      1

**TOTAL ABSENT**

2. Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the April 21, 2020, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None) Three calls were made to the public for comments.**

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just some brief comments... The staff is doing an outstanding job, given our current situation. They continue to look for alternative revenue sources. I think Niabi is doing all that it can to reach out to get private donations and they are continuing to get more and more strategic as they do. Uh, so I want to thank the staff publicly. They are doing an outstanding job. I am looking at who is on and I am looking at if Mr. Craver is on...I am sure he's going to get back to us shortly."

5. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Forest Preserve Fund claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$716,921.75, as presented. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

Commissioner D. Mielke moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner P. O'Brien seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the Resolution regarding a Loan pertaining to the Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Beck seconded.

(Note\* The Resolution is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

**RESOLUTION**

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 for the necessary expenses incurred in the 2020 Fiscal Year, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from unappropriated funds within the Development of Forest and Construction of Improvement Fund #335 to loan to the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$250,000 be loaned from the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund #335 to the Niabi Zoo Fund #131.

SECTION 3. The above amount to be repaid to the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund #335 as funds become available.

SECTION 4. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Westpfahl was recognized.

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "What is the loan?"

President Swanson asked if Mr. Craver was on the line, "Mr. Craver if you would be so inclined to answer that...if ya do, pop yourself off mute and take it away, Jeff."

Mr. Craver stated, "Can you folks hear me? The loan is to get the zoo through property tax distribution time. Currently, if you scroll down into the auditor's reports, the zoo has roughly around \$58,000 of cash on hand. We are starting to become severely impacted by the closure of the zoo without being able to generate and revenues."

President Swanson asked, "Mr. Westpfahl, does that answer your question?"

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "How big is the loan?"

Mr. Craver answered, "I believe its \$250,000."

President Swanson added, "As a follow up question from any member, if we can get through the distribution season, when we start getting those distributions. Uh, Jeff and his team, thank you what you are about to approve or entertain, do you think we can get the zoo through this period of not getting admissions; we'll have to do some other things. And that will be subject for a subsequent meeting. Uh, but this is to get us through in the absence of revenue. Remember in recent years, the zoo has become so efficiently run, more so than most privately managed zoos...it relies less and less on public subsidies; which relies more and more on admissions. Uh, it's now about 75% reliant on admissions...without those, we have to use some things to carry over. Would there be any other questions on this matter?"

Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the previous roll call vote.

Commissioner Langdon seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve to add an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing the Compensation of Members and officers of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

(Note\*\* The Resolution is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION  
OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ROCK ISLAND  
COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, members of the County Board of Supervisors for Rock Island County, Illinois, are ex-officio members of the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District as the boundaries of the District are co-extensive with the boundaries of the county as stated in the Downstate Forest Preserve Act 805 ILCS 805/3a, and

WHEREAS, in service as a Forest Preserve Commissioner, Commissioners will be compensated by means of a salary established by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission in the manner provided by the Downstate Forest Preserve Act 70 ILCS 805/et. seq., and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of 50 ILCS 145/2, the compensation of elected officers of units of government, which compensation is to be fixed by units of local government, shall be fixed at least one hundred eighty days before the beginning of the terms of the officers whose compensation is to be fixed, and

WHEREAS, the provisions of 70 ILCS 805/3a authorize the Forest Preserve Commission to establish an annual salary for such positions that shall be payable from the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Treasury, and

WHEREAS, the provisions of 70 ILCS 805/8 provides that the person exercising the powers of the president of the board shall have power to appoint officers and such employees as may be necessary, and

WHEREAS, the provisions of 70 ILCS 805/3a state that no Forest Preserve Commissioner shall file for a per diem payment for services rendered on the same day for which he filed for a per diem payment as a county supervisor, and

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, in open meeting this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020, as follows:

1. That members of the Rock Island County Board of Supervisors, who are ex-officio members of the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District, shall receive no other compensation than that provided for them as members of the County Board of Supervisors, unless otherwise herein set forth.
2. That the person elected by the Board of Commissioners to serve as President thereof shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Commission President shall be paid as follows effective December 1, 2020, the salary for the first year of the term shall be ~~six thousand~~ four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,000 \$4,800). Effective December 1, 2021, the salary for the second year of the term shall be ~~six thousand~~

four thousand eight hundred dollars (\$6,000 \$4,800).

Payments shall be equally disbursed monthly from the Forest Preserve District Treasury. This salary is in addition to whatever compensation is provided for members of the County Board.

3. That Forest Preserve Commissioners assigned by the President to serve on the Forest Preserve Executive Committee shall be paid as follows effective December 1, 2020, the salary for the first year of the term shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500.00). Effective December 1, 2021, the salary for the second year of the term shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1500.00). Payments shall be equally disbursed monthly from the Forest Preserve District Treasury. This salary is in addition to whatever compensation is provided for members of the County Board.
4. That the President of the Commission upon the first meeting of the Commission after his/her election as President of the Commission on the first Monday of December in even numbered years shall appoint the District's Officers. That the person(s) appointed by the President of the Commission and approved by a majority vote by the Board of Commissioners shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

The Treasurer of the District shall be paid as follows effective December 1, 2020, the salary for the first year of the term shall be three thousand ~~two thousand five hundred~~ two thousand five hundred dollars (~~\$3,000.00~~ \$2,500). Effective December 1, 2021, the salary for the second year of the term shall be three thousand ~~two thousand five hundred~~ two thousand five hundred dollars (~~\$3,000.00~~ \$2,500).

The Secretary of the District shall be paid as follows effective December 1, 2020, the salary for the first year of the term shall be two thousand ~~five hundred~~ two thousand dollars (~~\$2,500.00~~ 2,000). Effective December 1, 2021, the salary for the second year of the term shall be two thousand ~~five hundred~~ two thousand dollars (~~\$2,500.00~~ 2,000).

The Auditor of the District shall be paid as follows effective December 1, 2020, the salary for the first year of the term shall be five thousand ~~three thousand eight hundred sixty~~ three thousand eight hundred sixty dollars (~~\$5,000.00~~ 3,860). Effective December 1, 2021, the salary for the second year of the term shall be five thousand ~~three thousand eight hundred sixty~~ three thousand eight hundred sixty dollars (~~\$5,000.00~~ 3,860).

Payments shall be disbursed monthly from the Forest Preserve District Treasury.

5. That the President of the Commission may at any time appoint any additional officer(s) deemed necessary for the operation of the District. These officers shall serve under the term of the President and shall serve at the pleasure of the President.
6. That members of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission



will receive a per diem of thirty-six dollars (\$36.00) for meetings involving Forest Preserve business, not including regularly scheduled committee meetings, commission meetings or inspections. Payment shall be disbursed from the Forest Preserve District Treasury.

7. That members of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission will receive mileage for meetings and inspections involving District business.
8. That members of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission are subject to the District's Reimbursement Policy pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Travel and Expense Control Act.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

---

Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve  
Commission

---

Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

President Swanson stated, "There are several who are aware, I think you've seen a packet that was sent out by Kathy that includes some amendments. Is there a member who would wish to move the amended copy?" Commissioner L. Moreno moved and Normoyle seconded.

President Swanson asked, "Let the record show that the amendments are as brief as you can possibly make them. Under paragraph 2 of the compensation, the President's salary would be reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,800. Under paragraph 4, the Treasurer of the District has agreed to move from \$3,000 to \$2,500. The Secretary of the District has agreed to move from \$2,500 to \$2,000 and the Auditor would move from \$5,000 to \$3,860. In noting that, I wish to note that all of those persons were talked with and all agreed graciously to respond to these challenging times with those reductions. Uh, is there any discussion on any of the amendment...the amendment to the main resolution?"

Commissioner Morthland was recognized.

Mr. Morthland stated, "Thank you, Mr. President. This is not so much a question but more as a comment, I just want to thank everybody for their fiscally responsible sacrifice in this very difficult time. So, thank you, sir."

President Swanson stated, "And this is to the amendment that is in your original packet. I would entertain a motion to adopt by the previous roll."

Commissioner Loffin moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Sowards seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

- 8a. Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the Ordinance Establishing the Compensation of Members and Officers of the Forest Preserve Commission, as amended. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioner Maranda seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe,  
E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland,  
A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer,  
E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the amendment to the Zoo Director Employment Agreement, Temporary Salary decrease, as presented.  
Commissioner Sowards seconded.

(Note\* The Amendment is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

AMENDMENT 2 TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This Parties, Lee Jackson, "Zoo Director" and the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District entered into an Employment Agreement, "Agreement" on the 29th of April, 2016. That Agreement is still in effect. The District and Zoo Director, in order to address revenue loss due to the zoo closure during the COVID19 Pandemic agree to the following temporary modifications to the compensation provisions of the Zoo Director's Employment Agreement;

1. Zoo Director's annual salary is presently \$118,739.09 annually, which is calculated as an hourly rate of \$57.0861 per hour for a 40 hour work week for payroll purposes.
2. Zoo Director agrees for the period of June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 to a 20% salary reduction.
3. Effective June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, Zoo Director's salary shall be 94,991.27 annually, which shall be calculated as an hourly rate of \$45.6688 per hour for a 40 hour work week for payroll purposes during the period of this Amendment.
4. During the period of this Amendment, Zoo Director's IMRF contributions shall be based on the amended rate of pay.
5. During the period of this Amendment, Zoo Director's insurance contributions shall remain the same, according to his selections during the enrollment period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Forest Preserve District of Rock Island County has caused this Amendment to the Agreement to be signed and executed in its behalf by its President and duly attested by its Secretary, and the Zoo Director has signed and executed this Agreement, effective upon mutual execution by the Parties.

President Swanson stated, "The zoo director is agreeing to a 20% decline in salary and I think it was said earlier by Mr. Morthland that is the kind of leadership that we need during these challenging times. Are there any more questions on the amendment?"

Commissioner Adams moved to approve the previous roll call vote.  
Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J. R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            23**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

**10. Comments from Commissioners: (1)**

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "Thanks, Kai. I want to thank all of the people who agreed to this...this helps a great deal and it shows how good the county is. Our people do care and it's nice to see. So, I really appreciate you guys. So, thank you."

**11. Commissioner Adams moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioner Maranda seconded.**

President Swanson stated, "I hope you had a chance to read it. These guys are doing great work and I mean 'guys' as gender-neutral."

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "One last thing I would encourage you all to do is go back through your packet again and you'll see a fly debt. Mr. Craver has put together some options for...we are not considering it at this time, but we will have to do something to tide our admissions driven facilities, namely Niabi, through this time of no admissions. So please look at that and we'll have a more strategic conversation at a future time. Uh, before we close, Mr. Craver, is there any communication you wish to make? Hearing none...we are adjourned."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, June 16, 2020, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written in a cursive style.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw