

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2018**

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson, K. Maranda, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, C. O'Brien.

ABSENT: D. Cremeens.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; April Palmer, County Auditor; Louisa Ewert, County Treasurer; Carrie Kerr, Treasurer's Office.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:30 PM on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, in the County Board Office on the second floor of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

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

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the December Committee meeting minutes. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Ranger Petersen for the options and recommendations for the Scenic Overlook steps.

Mr. Petersen stated that the steps had been installed in the 1970s. Over the years steps have been replaced as needed, but now all the steps need replaced. They are in disrepair, and most people who take that path walk to the side of the steps which creates additional erosion problems. There is another route to the overlook, and that tends to be used much more than the route of the steps. There are three options available to correct the deterioration of steps and the erosion next to the steps. One is replacing the steps. There are 90 in total, and that project would cost approximately \$4,500.00. The second option is to redesign the steps. It's hard to say how much that would cost. The last option, and the one recommended, is to remove the steps and let the more used route to the overlook become the only trail to that area.

Ms. O'Brien asked if the alternate route was more used because it is easier than the steps.

Mr. Petersen answered that it was a much easier trail to follow. There is less of an incline because there are switchbacks going up the hill.

Mr. Moreno and Dr. Simmer stated that they supported staff's professional assessment and recommendation.

President Swanson stated that some signage may be necessary if there was confusion expressed by the public, but differing to the recommendations of the professional management staff of the District for projects like this is the best option.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to differ to the discretion of the ranger. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

No request for public comment was submitted.

There were brief introductions of the District staff to new Committee member Ms. Edna Sowards.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$36,756.52, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$95,949.29, Forest Preserve Liability Fund claims in the amount of \$85.99, Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$858.13, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$6,660.20.

MOTION: Ms. O'Brien moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

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

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

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the resolution regarding the semi-annual review of closed session minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the appropriation amendment for the Niabi Zoo Fund regarding the Elinor A. Budilier Trust.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the appropriation amendment for the Niabi Zoo Fund regarding the Elinor A. Budilier Trust. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the appropriation amendment for the Forest Preserve General Fund regarding the donation from J. Thomas Tredway for Illiniwek.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the appropriation amendment for the Forest Preserve General Fund regarding the donation from J. Thomas Tredway for Illiniwek. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding A Sexual Harassment Policy per (5 ILCS 100/45)(Public Act 100-0554).

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the resolution regarding A Sexual Harassment Policy per (5 ILCS 100/45)(Public Act 100-0554). Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Craver for an update on the Exelon settlement agreement.

Mr. Craver stated that there was a meeting with the Board of Review on Monday. A message was left for the attorney to see if there was a final draft for approval, but the attorney has not replied yet.

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

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the meeting dates and holiday schedule for the District. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver gave a brief overview of the meeting schedule.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve withdrawing the maximum amount allowed from the Loud Thunder Endowment for use buying playgrounds and, if possible, other infrastructure projects at Loud Thunder.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve withdrawing the maximum amount allowed from the Loud Thunder Endowment for use buying playgrounds and, if possible, other infrastructure projects at Loud Thunder. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the quarterly statement would be available in February. Five percent of the average of the last twenty quarters. Playgrounds were something that was identified as lacking at Loud Thunder on the surveys that MindFire sent out. It is also something that staff has pointed out as lacking in years past. If there were any funds left after that, they would be put toward various infrastructure projects needed at Loud Thunder.

There was a brief discussion on how to get the best deals on playground equipment.

Motion carried.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that the District is half way through the fiscal year. There is nothing new on the trial balance report. On the Fund Balances report, as per the Committee's request, the three month reserve has been changed to a five month reserve. There is nothing of particular note on the cash balances report.

President Swanson asked Ms. Ewert if there was anything she would like to note on the Treasurer's report.

Ms. Ewert stated that interest rates have been very good in recent months.

President Swanson called on Mr. Verstraete and Mr. Collins for the Indian Bluff reports.

Mr. Verstraete reported that staff had been working on winter projects both inside and outside as weather has permitted.

Mr. Collins reported that sales have been typical for the month of December. Not many people are thinking about golf. Club House maintenance continues.

President Swanson called on Mr. Mills for the Loud Thunder report.

Mr. Mills reported that staff was able to get a lot of burning done in December. Thirty-nine acres of timber, and over twenty acres of prairie. Staff has also been working on preventative maintenance projects as is typical in the winter months.

President Swanson called on Mr. Petersen for the Illiniwek report.

Mr. Petersen reported that staff worked on conservation and maintenance projects in the month of December. The donation received is to go toward the savannah

restoration, and will be used to purchase seed for that project. Phase two of the Dorrance Park Trail project was completed.

Mr. Craver suggested that perhaps since the winter months are typically spent working on the forest management plans, that the rangers could present their forest management plans to the Committee in future months.

President Swanson called on Mr. Jackson for the Niabi Zoo report.

Mr. Jackson reported that staff was busy planning for the AZA accreditation application for the spring, and planning for next season. Approximately one hundred twenty-five new animals were added to the collection in 2017. In 2018 staff hopes to add another hundred.

President Swanson stated that he would like to explore wellness events with District staff. Then called on Mr. Craver for the director's report.

Mr. Craver stated that staff would be working on strategic objectives for the next season. Mr. Verstraete, Mr. Collins, and I met with the City of Moline this morning to explore getting Indian Bluff linked into municipal water. In February many of the District staff will attend the IACD conference.

President Swanson then called for a motion approving the routine reports of the District.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the routine reports of the District. Ms. O'Brien 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. And (11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go into closed session. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

C. O'Brien, R. Simmer, K. Maranda, E. Sowards, L. Moreno, K. Swanson.

TOTAL YES 6

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

Closed session began 4:33 PM

Closed session ended 4:52 PM

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the evaluation of the director and for Mr. Craver to receive the budgeted general wage increase provided to all other full-time non-union personnel retroactive to December 1, 2017.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the evaluation of the director and for Mr. Craver to receive the budgeted general wage increase provided to all other full-time non-union personnel retroactive to December 1, 2017. Ms. Sowards seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called the meeting adjourn.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:53 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant