

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**APRIL 18, 2017 – 6:10 PM**  
**PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

1. Karen Kinney, County Clerk, called the roll: (Record)

R. Brunk, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, S. Noyd, C. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, K. Swanson

**TOTAL PRESENT 24**

D. Cremeens

**TOTAL ABSENT 1**

2. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the March 21<sup>st</sup> minutes, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (One – Scott Lohman)**

Mr. Lohman addressed the Commissioner regarding Niabi Zoo.

Mr. Lohman stated, "Thanks, everybody...yes! Scott Lohman. I live in Moline, am a resident. I know there are some new faces. Some of you have heard me in the past and I am past and present at the Niabi Zoological Society. One of the things, and again as I spoke before, I am here to speak about Niabi Zoo and where it's headed. I hope it doesn't show up in the newspaper because the loser in the zoo is the zoo, the community and the children of Rock Island County. And, that's unfortunate. And, playing it out in the paper, it's just the wrong place to do it in my opinion. Ya know, we have got a great zoo and an asset and it needs to do that. What I am really here to talk about is, again, everything I have asked for since the last time I talked is, can we actually take a full review of public/private partnership? Again, public/private partnership is everything from A-Z and somewhere in between, but who knows what it would look like. So far, there has not been a full review. I know it's been told to you and I have heard several people talk about it saying, 'oh yeah we've done a full review of it' and it hasn't. There hasn't been any strategic plans in the past and current. It's been talked about but...I wish I could know the financials at Niabi Zoo through the Oversight Committee which has been formed to review this and sees the monthly report on financials, but no budgeting and no review of what's been in the past or where the projections are or anything like that. I mean, I would think that would be one of the first things I would look at. We

have the State's Attorney's opinion that isn't openly shared so the summation of his opinion...a makeshift opinion of his opinion and that is it can't be done or it can't be done currently. Again, from a transparency standpoint, why? Let's talk about it and let's look at it. One of the comments is that we are separate from the Forest Preserve...Brookfield Zoo. Well with that, you know...it's a different act. But we've changed the past one, that Rock Island County one...they fall under for the freedom. You know we can make changes to it. Just recently, one of them we tried was to separate the Forest Preserve from the county. So, there are ways to do it but we have only started to look to change legislation because there is not really a plan out there because the information hasn't been shared with people. All I am asking is, can we sit down and have all the information provided and not have these comments go back and forth about what's there. The other thing we heard is, 'we can't sell the zoo'. Nobody has ever brought that up. Selling the Zoo is not even one of the topics. It's still going to be owned by the Forest Preserve and you are still going to be the final say just like your other committees that are in there. Even in the Forest Preserve now, there are groups that are helping building bridges out at Dorrance Park. There are other groups that are all working fine but are not working fine with the Society. Talk about public/private partnership and there is a form of it now. There are three legs right now, but not one of them is attached. If you want to put it in animal talk, you chewed off the one leg. It's worked in the past...we were an accredited institution."

President Swanson interrupted, "We are at three minutes. I'll suspend the rules without objection to give Mr. Lohman another two minutes?" (President Swanson hit gavel in approval)

Mr. Lohman continued, "If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask me afterwards. I know many of you have reached out to me in the past. A good example of current information...Schultz & Williams gave a report and was only given a part of the information so they said there was no need to look at it. Once they had the full information, they came back and said, 'yeah, we should be a public/private partnership' so, they took a look at it. So, the same thing...labor was and excuse. We talked to labor and explained it to them. Do you think Brookfield and Lincoln Park are not part of a labor agreement in Chicago? You know...so, again, things that keep coming up of road blocks really make no sense. But, that's what we keep talking about like insurance. I think I probably know somebody that can help out with insurance. The Society has always had insurance. Again, another road block or something just to tell all of you that doesn't really apply. Public/private partnerships...everybody is doing them today. State and cities, feds, department of transportation...you know, the different groups...everybody is working on some kind of public/private partnership. Why can't we at least take a look at why that is? You know when you have all the information and make a decision; yeah...it may be to stay where you are at. But, right now, that's not happening. The same thing...and I

am not sure why we keep hammering the Society, you know...every month. We just printed a report. The report talks about some minor things. Last year, the gift shop was turned over to the Society. There was \$70,000 worth of inventory there. Nobody has ever acknowledged that. But the Society hasn't done anything for the Zoo. Even the printed brochure has three items in it. Earlier, it talks about a new playground for \$20,000+ was given to the Zoo by the Society. But no one at the Society is doing their job? You know, every month I want to highlight a comment made last week that the Society flip-flopped."

President Swanson interrupted, "We are at time, Mr. Lohman."

Mr. Lohman continued, "Ok, thank you. That flip-flop...if you look in the last two months minutes, it was what was changed...what was presented three days before their Board meeting for them to figure out what was changed. I mean, there is just no full, open transparency of what's going on."

President Swanson interrupted, "Thank you very much."

Mr. Lohman stated, "Thank you."

4. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the Forest Preserve General Fund Claims at \$151,695.25, and the Niabi Zoo Fund Claims at \$195,143.03. Commissioner Langdon seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, S. Noyd, C. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            22**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

5. Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the Treasurer's Disbursements at \$76,000.95. Commissioner Steffen seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, J. Deppe, D. Johnston,  
E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland,  
S. Noyd, C. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen,  
S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            22**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Brunk moved to approve Resolution regarding allocation of \$2,989.24 of revenue and expense in Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

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

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 for the necessary expenses incurred for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available from additional fees raised within 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:

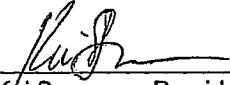
SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$2,989.24 be transferred from grants raised in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$2,989.24	131-32-35 331.70	Federal Grants-culture & recreation
\$2,989.24	131-32-35 522.00	Operating Supplies

SECTION 3. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
Kai Swanson, President  
Forest Preserve Commission

  
Karen Kinney, Secretary  
Forest Preserve Commission

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, S. Noyd, C. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, K. Swanson, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 23**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner O'Brien moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, S. Noyd, C. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, V. Shelton, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

8. President Swanson stated, "Since Mr. Petersen is not here, he is from the Illiniwek Forest Preserve. If he were here, he would put out a special invitation to everyone here to come join him on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am for a Garlic/Mustard Pull. And if that sounds like fun, I am going to be there. Here is the great part...if you stick around, you will be entertained by that world-wide famous music ensemble, 'Frankie, Jo and the Kinfolk' our very own Rock Island County musicians will be performing at Illiniwek Park. So come out, pull some weeds and have fun."

President Swanson continued, "But other than that, I would certainly direct your attention to the outstanding reports by the staff. Yes, Mr. Craver, please."

Mr. Craver stated, "Tentatively on April 30<sup>th</sup>, which I believe is a Sunday...we will be having a Grand Opening with FORC for the Phase I of the Bike Path at Dorrance. Also, in my report...if you check your mailbox at the Zoo if you didn't see it in the paper last week, that the Zoo opened up on Saturday, There is membership forms and packets in everyone's mailbox. The parks are all open and Mr. President is there anything else you would like to add?"

President Swanson asked, "I would ask my fellow Members to take advantage of this opportunity. The reports are great and I hope you will read them and see all of the good work that's being done by the Forest Preserve District. But if you have any questions of Mr. Craver, any Members of the Commission?"

Commissioner Terry was recognized.

Mr. Terry stated, "Just generally, how was the turnout?"

Mr. Craver stated, "The attendance was good. I don't have an exact number for you. But I took my family out there and at the time of Thursday, last week, people see what the weather forecast will be and they had roughly around 500 people reserved and I wasn't one of those reservations. So, there seemed to be a good attendance and I can get you a specific number on the attendance. Last year, I think we had around 800 people. So, I think we are pretty close to that."

President Swanson added, "I would like to actually add to that note that we have another question coming but I received a report on Saturday afternoon as of the end of the day, there had been \$1000 of new revenues on parking at the Zoo and not a single complaint. That was one of the things we were very concerned about. Ms. Mayberry, please."

Commissioner Mayberry was recognized.

Ms. Mayberry stated, "What time on Sunday for the event...the Dorrance Park?"

Mr. Craver stated, "We got the message out to everybody at the Committee meeting and at that time it was tentative."

President Swanson stated, "Outstanding."

9. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve all the Routine Reports from the Director and Department Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission.  
Commissioner Callaway-Thompson seconded. (Record)

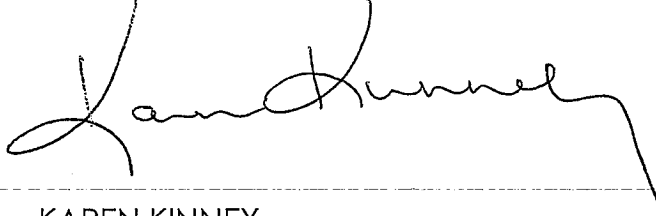
A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is May 16, 2017, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written over a horizontal dashed line.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw