

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2015 – 6:55 PM**

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

J. Brandmeyer, R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin,  
D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda,  
M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen,  
S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, S. Ballard

**TOTAL PRESENT 23**

P. Moreno, E. Langdon

**TOTAL ABSENT 2**

2. Commissioner Vyncke moved to approve the January 20, 2015, Commission Minutes. Commissioner Jacobs seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Fund Claims at \$32,344.70, Niabi Zoo Fund claims @ \$46,697.96, Liability Fund Claims @ \$2,846.14, and the Niabi Zoo Capital Improvement Fund claims @ \$147,523.78. Commissioner M. Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

S. Ballard, J. Brandmeyer, R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson,  
N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Johnston, M. Mayberry,  
S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry,  
B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

4. Commissioner Filbert moved to approve the Forest Preserve Treasurer's Disbursements at \$4,639.33. Commissioner Steffen seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 20**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

5. Commissioner Cremeens moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Shelton seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Camlin moved to approve the ball diamond license with Upper Rock Island County Recreation Association. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the ball diamond license with Hampton Township Youth Commission. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve a \$.25 hourly increase to all returning seasonal workers. Commissioner L. Burns seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the proposal and enter into an agreement with Lancer Hospitality for food services/concessions at Niabi Zoo. Commissioner M. Burns seconded. (Inc. by Ref.)

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES 21**

**TOTAL NO 0**

Motion carried.

Commissioner Simmer asked, "Just one minute, Mr. Ballard, can you take a minute to explain what this is about for those that weren't in on this? This is a heck of a good deal and if we can give some more detail on this..."

President Ballard answered, "We went out for an RFP and we were pretty much in a crunch time because the Society called us about 2 to 3 months ago and told us that they weren't really interested in doing the concessions part anymore. They still want the gift shop and the memberships and so... We had a delay in progress because we went out to get our 5 year proposal and decided it wasn't enough time and so we went for an RFP. We got two financial proposals back. One was from Lancer and the other was from the people that had the concessions out there previously. The people previously wanted to give us a \$15,000 flat one-sum payment and they take their own profit off of concessions...it's all theirs and whatever. Lancer Hospitality came back with a pretty good deal. I think it's an excellent deal for us because they want a 5 year contract and I don't blame them because they are talking about putting \$150,000 in capital improvements into the building and equipment out there. So, if you are going to put those kinds of improvements into our facility, I would think that you would want to protect your investment. They are also going to give us 16% on the gross sales that happen through the year. So, for every \$100,000 in sales, that's 16% that comes into our pocket on top of the \$150,000 of improvements. They will allow us to have our own catering...but we can use them also. If we use them, they will give us 10% of sales...but we can still have special events out there like Safari and Boo at the Zoo or any after-hours events or benefits. We can bring in a catering company and once again get revenue off of that. So that's three of the highlights. Mr. Craver, do you have anything that I may have missed on that?"

Mr. Craver stated, "It seems like a good deal. They have an extensive food menu, a five-year agreement and they provide a good service."

President Ballard added, "And one of the things in the strategic plan that Williams and Schultz told us when they were out there was that our concession was terrible. That was basically the wording they used...we had terrible food service out there. The prices don't need to be like going to an expensive restaurant but more like going to a ball park or whatever. So, that's going to help. And our equipment was so out of date. I think with them coming in and investing that much as they are talking about doing, that's going to generate more in sales. That's a win-win for us."

Mr. Simmer added, "Also, for every \$10,000 in sales they do, they are going to give back too...so we will get \$5,000 from the original \$10,000 up front and we will still get 16% on that, so it sounds like a total overall win."

President Ballard added, "And you have to think of the long-term as well. When this is all said and done, the zoo is going to be more profitable and it's going to be a better venue to go to if we can someday create the concession/gift shop together and create a whole new venue and expand it. That's where we are going to see lots of more revenue coming in."

Mr. Oelke asked, "Steve, does the agreement say that they will make up to \$150,000 in improvements or they may..."

President Ballard answered, "No. They will do it right here. The contract is for 5 years and they will put in \$150,000 of capital improvements. Now, I don't know if they are going to do that all in prep or within that 5 year agreement, but we will finalize it when we sit down to sign the contract...we haven't signed the agreement yet because I made it very clear to the committee the other day that I want to see the contract to be sure our legal staff reviews it to make sure it's worded to protect us and them. There has to be an out clause. So, if they are not doing what they said they will do, we need to be able to go back and handle it."

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Filbert, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, S. Meersman, D. Mielke, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

**TOTAL YES            21**

**TOTAL NO            0**

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Terry moved to approve the Routine Reports from Department Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioner Mayberry seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

President Ballard stated, "If you all didn't see the article in the newspaper about the baby Giraffe...you need to see that. We are going to have a naming contest. I was going to name it and they thought that was a bad idea."

(Group laughter)

Mr. Simmer stated, "I think Steve is a great giraffe name."

(Group laughter)

The next Forest Preserve Commission meeting will be Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the County Office Building, Rock Island, IL, following the regular Rock Island County Board meeting.

President Ballard declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

KAREN KINNEY  
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY  
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rh