

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
NOVEMBER 14, 2017**

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens, C. O'Brien, R. Simmer, L. Moreno.

ABSENT: E. Langdon.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; Amanda Van Daele, Chief Deputy Auditor; Carrie Kerr, Treasurer's Office; Scott Lohman.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:31 PM on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, in the County Board Office on the second floor of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

President Swanson called for a motion approving October Committee meeting minutes.

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

Motion carried.

There was no request for public comment.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve claims for the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$58,719.56, Niabi Zoo Fund in the amount of \$107,117.19, Marvin Martin Trust Fund in the amount of \$4,324.57, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$17,300.80.

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

Motion carried.

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

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve transfers of appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Appropriation Amendment for Niabi Zoo Fund-Charitable Gift resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Appropriation Amendment for Niabi Zoo Fund-Charitable Gift resolution. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver explained that Blackhawk Bank & Trust contacted Mr. Jackson and I, and informed us that Mrs. Elinor A. Budilier bequeathed some funds to Niabi Zoo. Assets are still being liquidated, and this is the first distribution. It is not certain at this time how much will end up being bequeathed.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Appropriation Amendment for General Fund-Illiniwek Grant resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the Appropriation Amendment for General Fund-Illiniwek Grant resolution. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver gave a brief update on the progress on the project.

Mr. Moreno asked if the light poles were going to be repurposed.

Mr. Craver answered that the Rock Island County Fair Grounds are taking the light poles.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Support of Legislation pertaining to the Zoological Preserve Act resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Support of Legislation pertaining to the Zoological Preserve Act resolution. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$4,500,000 general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source) of the District for the purpose of improving and maintaining forest preserve lands and facilities, providing for the pledge of a revenue source and the levy of taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and authorizing the sale of the bonds to Bernardi Securities, Inc.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Ordinance providing for the issue of not to exceed \$4,500,000 general obligation bonds (alternate revenue source) of the District for the purpose of improving and maintaining forest preserve lands and facilities, providing for the pledge of a revenue source and the levy of taxes to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and authorizing the sale of the bonds to Bernardi Securities, Inc. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver gave a brief update on the bond process, and stated that Mr. Vail of Bernardi Securities would be present at the November commission meeting to answer any further questions.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the Abatement Certificates for Ordinances #2008-1101 and #2016-0401.

MOTION: Ms. O'Brien moved to approve the Abatement Certificates for Ordinances #2008-1101 and #2016-0401. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the Schultz & Williams proposal for Strategic Business Plan in the amount of \$17,650.00 plus travel-related expenses.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Schultz & Williams proposal for Strategic Business Plan in the amount of \$17,650.00 plus travel-related expenses. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Mr. Jackson explained that the CLR Designs proposal that was approved last month will deal with the infrastructure and physical exhibits and amenities part of the master plan for Niabi. This Schultz & Williams proposal will deal with the business aspect of that master plan. Each part goes hand in hand.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Strand Associates proposal for Loud Thunder Forest Preserve Camping Improvements.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Strand Associates proposal for Loud Thunder Forest Preserve Camping Improvements. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver briefly went through previously discussed information related to the project. Then stated that this proposal was for the next step in the process of moving forward with those projects.

Mr. Maranda asked if the spillway project would be able to begin this fall.

Mr. Craver answered that the spillway project would also need construction plans drawn up before ground could be broken on that project. That project should begin in the fall of 2018.

Mr. Moreno asked if the Schultz & Williams and Strand Associates expenses were already in the budget.

Mr. Craver answered that they were not. The Schultz & Williams expenses would need a budget amendment, and the Strand Associates costs would come from the funds that the bonds bring in.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Rock Island County Sheriff's Office and Rock Island County Forest Preserve District regarding Deputy Patrol at Loud Thunder.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Rock Island County Sheriff's Office and Rock Island County Forest Preserve District regarding Deputy Patrol at Loud Thunder. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the District Fund Balance Reporting, Use & Reserves Policy.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the District Fund Balance Reporting, Use & Reserves Policy. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver explained that the changes were due to suggestions that came up during the bond process.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the District Investment Policy.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the District Investment Policy. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Ms. Van Daele for the Auditor's Reports.

Ms. Van Daele stated that on the Trial Balance report the Liability Fund looks like it is overspending, but that is because the annual IPARKS payment, which makes up the bulk of the Liability Fund's expense budget, is due at the beginning of the fiscal year. As the fiscal year goes on that will balance out. The Fund Balances report shows that the Marvin Martin Fund looks low. That is money that comes in specifically for projects at Loud Thunder, and that is what the money has gone toward. The Bike Path Fund shows a lesser amount than last year because it has been used to perform maintenance on the bike path, which is exactly what that money is for. The Zoo Fund is also down from last year, that is due to big projects being done at Niabi.

President Swanson asked Mr. Verstraete if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from his Indian Bluff report.

Mr. Verstraete stated that the season was good, and staff would now be working on projects and maintenance that could be done during the fall and winter.

President Swanson asked Mr. Collins if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from his Club House report.

Mr. Collins stated that all but one of the outings were completed in October. The Members outing could not be rescheduled due to the weather.

President Swanson asked Mr. Petersen if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from the Illiniwek report.

Mr. Petersen stated that it was a great season at Illiniwek. There have been many positive comments on the park and the events during the season. Staff is looking into the lighting issues at Dorrance Park.

President Swanson asked Mr. Mills if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from the Loud Thunder report.

Mr. Mills stated that staff is working on getting more prairie planted. The trade students who worked on the Parchert Pavilion Restroom project did a good job. This fall GIS will help to map and mark the trail that was redone, and the new maps will be put out for the park users. The campground breakdown is included in the Loud Thunder report, and shows that the one campsite that has sewer hookups did about \$1,000.00 better than any other RV spot in White Oak. That bodes well for the new full-hookup sites that are part of the improvement plan. It should generate a significant amount of revenue.

There was a brief discussion regarding winter use of the trail systems at Illiniwek and Loud Thunder.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that Boo at the Zoo had less visitors this year due to the weather. Last year that weekend had days that were sunny with seventy degree weather, and the weather was cold and windy this year. However, it was still a very successful event. The Center for Youth and Family Solutions had their Family Pride Run, which was very successful, and looks like it may become an annual event. The bat exhibit has been very well received. There will also be several additions to the collection next year. Just yesterday Niabi received a very generous donation from Brenda and Bob Ontiveros. Staff is very grateful for the donation, and that money will go toward the shade structures for the giraffes.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything else he wished to report.

Mr. Craver stated that the results of the perception survey have been received, and will be presented to the Commission on Tuesday.

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

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the routine reports of the District as presented. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated that at December's meeting the Committee will go into closed session to discuss Mr. Craver's annual evaluation. If there are any comments or concerns, those can be submitted to me. Also, please be aware that the Exelon Agreement is taking longer than anticipated, but is still on track to be executed.

Mr. Craver stated that the District's Fiscal Year 2017 Audit should be ready for presentation in December.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant