

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
APRIL 21, 2015 – 6:50 PM

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

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

PRESENT 23

TOTAL ABSENT 0

2. Commissioner L. Burns moved to approve the March 17, 2015, Commission Minutes. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. Commissioner Deppe moved to approve the Forest Preserve Fund Claims at \$44,409.52, Niabi Zoo Fund claims @ \$56,924.50, Liability Fund Claims@ \$5,159.97, and the Niabi Zoo Capital Improvement Fund claims @ \$43,074.90. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Board Member Johnston was recognized.

Mr. Johnston asked, "What's the Liability Fund Claims for?"

President Ballard stated, "The Liability Fund Claims are for...Mr. Craver, what are the Liability Fund Claims...the \$5,000. What are they for?"

Mr. Craver answered, "They are for some worker's comp. claims and Occupational Health Services."

Mr. Johnston asked, "There is no litigation in there?"

Mr. Craver answered, "No. There are no settlements."

President Ballard asked, "Don, are you okay?"

Mr. Johnston answered, "Yes...go ahead."

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, E. Langdon, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, 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 Burke moved to approve the Forest Preserve Treasurer's Disbursements at \$13,759.34. 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, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

5. Commissioner Langdon 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 Cremeens 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, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner L. Burns moved approve the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District Crop Management Plan. Commissioner M. 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, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 22

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Terry moved to lay on display for 30 days the changes to the Forest Preserve Procedure Manual regarding addressing the Commission. Commissioner Moreno seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Terry moved to approve the demolition of the Indian Bluff Golf Course residence. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Board Member Westpfahl was recognized.

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "Why are you going to tear it down?"

President Ballard stated, "Well, you know we have had that house out there for several years. And when Doug Well retired just recently, we looked at the house and what it was going to cost to renovate the house to get it back into good shape. We brought out a contractor and he gave us an estimate somewhere between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to renovate the house. There are two furnaces in the house. The furnaces are 35-40 years old, the roof needs to be redone, the inside of the house, the kitchen needs to be redone, the basement is leaking water, and the foundation has leaks in it. So, we looked at it and took it to committee and asked if we want to spend \$75,000 to \$100,000 to put into a house that no one is going to live in anyway. And, if we do that, what is the value of the house going to be at the end of the day? After doing all of that, the value of the house will probably be around \$100,000. So, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to put \$100,000 into a house that is only worth \$100,000 and there isn't going to be anyone living in it anyway. So, the most common sense thing to do would be to just get rid of it...destroy it and get it out of there before we start having problems after hours...because we don't have a gate out there. We have had vandalism in the past. And that's all we need now is to have a house sitting there and having young kids or whoever coming in there and vandalizing the house and turn the water off and keep the heat on so the pipes don't freeze. So, it would be a waste of resources and taxpayer dollars to put

money into a house and keep it going when there is nobody living there. So, the committee looked at that and said it makes sense to get it tore down."

Ms. Callaway-Thompson was recognized.

Ms. Callaway-Thompson asked, "I don't know what we are talking about. So...there is a house that's being set for demolition but what is it being used for?"

President Ballard answered, "Well...when Doug Wells, who just retired, he was the Golf Course Superintendent. Years ago, the Forest Preserve had residence at our parks. We had one at Illiniwek, Loud Thunder and one at the Golf Course. We have one at the Zoo. In the past, whoever the Director or the Superintendent was...it was a part of their package where they would live there at no cost. They paid no rent and all of the utilities and everything was taken care of. It was a thing where we had somebody on site to help with security, if there were problems and whatever. Now, this was an opportunity...with Doug retiring and we didn't put that stipulation in the new person that took over the Golf Course part of it and just decided, again, why put money into a house that we aren't going to use anyway?"

Commissioner Oelke was recognized.

Mr. Oelke asked, "So, he was living there just until?"

President Ballard answered, "He just retired in March. He's been superintendent what...30 years, Mr. Craver?"

Mr. Craver answered, "...roughly 30 years."

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Mr. Brunk asked, "Steve is there any plans to work with Habitat for Humanity to salvage fixtures or anything?"

President Ballard answered, "We talked about the salvage part of it but with everything being so old...there is not much to salvage. Obviously, we don't want to get into a situation where we have people in there and have a liability problem while tearing stuff apart and somebody gets hurt...you know? And, then...we have had contact with the possibility of the fire department coming out too. We are waiting on some approval to get that done because there has to be some precautionary measures taken in order to burn it down. You can't just go in there and burn it down. You have to get permits because of EPA and that kind of stuff. So, we are in the process of doing that."

Mr. Brunk asked, "It was my understanding in previous conversations that it was too close to another structure."

President Ballard replied, "Right now, it is real close to the maintenance shed out there. So, for them to burn it down out there...they would have to construct a temporary water/wall out there to stop the heat. That requires extra work before they can burn it."

Ms. Callaway-Thompson asked, "So, is this for... Is this approval for a demolition to seek... for bids to seek?"

President Ballard answered, "It's for a demo and how we are going to demo it, by burning it."

Ms. Callaway-Thompson stated, "Oh, I see."

President Ballard added, "We are out seeking the permits to try to get it burned. It's the cheapest way to do it and the fire departments...they get an exercise on it and experience of doing it and that's the route we are going to go."

Ms. Callaway-Thompson asked, "So, there won't be a cost then?"

President Ballard answered, "No, there will be a cost at the very end because what we burn will have to be hauled away or buried. A hole will be dug there."

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, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, R. Oelke, V. Shelton, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, S. Terry, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 21

J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL NO 1

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Burns moved to approve the salary increase of \$4,200 per year for the Club House Manager. Commissioner Deppe seconded.

Commissioner Johnston was recognized.

Mr. Johnston asked, "What's this going to?"

President Ballard stated, "So, to get back to Mr. Wells retiring... That was an opportunity for us to go a different direction, which a lot of golf courses have. You have a Club House Manager, who operates the Club House. You have a Superintendent or Director of the golf course, who manages the golf course and all of the operations of the golf course. So, we split up those two duties and now we are going to have two separate people doing those duties. It's a cost savings for us from what we were paying Mr. Wells and what we are paying the new Superintendent. The Club House Manager we are giving him a raise because of the additional duties that he is picking up."

Mr. Johnston asked, "What are their salaries now?"

President Ballard replied, "Mr. Wells was making around \$85,000 per year. We hired the new guy on, Jay...I think he is at \$55,000. The current guy, the Club House Manger is making almost \$42,000 a year. This will bring him up to about \$46,200 per year. "

President Ballard asked, "Are there any other questions or comments?"

A roll call vote was taken.

R. Brunk, M. Burns, L. Burns, K. Callaway-Thompson, N. Camlin, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Jacobs, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, P. Moreno, R. Oelke, R. Simmer, M. Steffen, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 18

C. Filbert, S. Terry, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL NO 3

Motion carried.

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

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Westpfahl was recognized.

Mr. Westpfahl asked, "Yeah, I was out in my District out there and they had a fundraiser the other night to help fix up the horse arena out there but they said the county wouldn't pay for any improvements. Do you know what kind of

improvements they want to make or what kind of money they are talking about in doing it?"

President Ballard stated, "I think the horse stadium or whatever you want to call it out there, on occasion, have fundraisers and projects out there because they use the arena out there and do fundraisers to help. What they are raising the money for...for whatever improvements...I haven't been shared that information. Mr. Craver is here and maybe he can help answer that. They haven't said what improvements they want to make out there."

Mr. Craver stated, "I was asked that they were having a fundraiser and I wasn't asked specifically what improvements they wanted to do but they said they would like to do a fundraiser out a Loud Thunder to enhance the horse coral area. There are campers that have trailers...and we do not have tax-proposed water and electric for these campsites. So, they want to come in and eventually be able to pull into a site there and hook up their trailers. They are looking for small amenities...fence repairs and minimum upgrades. They didn't give me specifics but they asked what to do with the dollars. I said well, whatever dollars you accumulate...talk to the ranger and we'll see what kinds of things we can work out and try to find things you want to do with the dollars you generate. So, I don't have any specifics for you."

President Ballard added, "You know...we did that at budget out there. We maintain everything out there, Bob. So, if anything is falling down out there...the last time I was out there everything looked like it was in pretty good shape at the arena."

Mr. Westpfahl added, "No, I am not saying it's in disrepair."

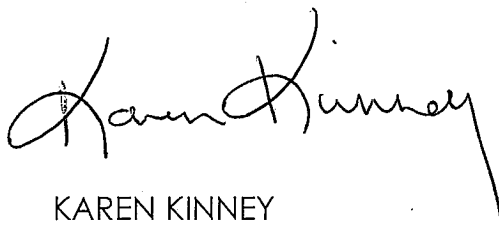
President Ballard added, "No...it's like anybody else, if an outfit like FORK, if you saw the newspaper about two weeks ago and you looked at all of the things that FORK...they are the bicycle group that has raced bikes into the woods and stuff...they have put out thousands of dollars in man hours of their own time at Illiniwek up there at the trail we have. So, I guess this would be like the same thing. People want to enhance their capability to go out into the Rock Island County Forest Preserve property and have a better experience, and we don't have the money in our budget to enhance a lot of the stuff that they would like to see... If they are willing to go forth and raise the money and put their own time and effort into it, we are all for that. That's what we should be doing. Dollars are hard to get now a days. So, if people want to have fundraisers to help out in an area they are using...I am all for it. That helps the Forest Preserve."

President Ballard asked, "Any other questions or comments?"

The next Forest Preserve Commission meeting will be Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 3rd 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 vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the name.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

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