

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
AUGUST 20, 2019 – 7:53 PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING

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

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, K. Swanson

TOTAL PRESENT 22

D. Adams, J. Deppe, E. Sowards

TOTAL ABSENT 3

2. President Swanson introduced our speaker this evening, Kraig McPeek, Project Leader for the Iowa and Illinois field office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service addressed the Commission regarding what they offer the community of the Quad Cities and the local Forest Preserve Districts.

Mr. McPeek stated, "Thank you very much, Kai. Thanks for remembering...it seems like yesterday, but Augustana was a long time ago. Good time, but a long time ago. I'm gonna make it quick folks. I know you've got places to go too. Thanks for having me. Thanks, Jeff, for asking me...I do think I owe it to you to make sure you don't think I am the DNR. So the US Fish and Wildlife Service has an office, here in Moline, actually. That office is responsible for several responsibilities across Illinois and Iowa. And so...one of the things that we do is we do restoration and conservation work but our office has really taken a hard look at being relevant. When I got this job about five years ago, I asked ourselves how can we be more relevant. We can be relevant to this Quad Cities community in a number of ways. And one of those ways that really stuck out to us is being a partner for the Forest Preserves here as well as Niabi Zoo. I haven't counted up the acres, but I have a list of the projects...and over the past four or five years, here is four acres and \$4,000 to Loud Thunder for Native Prairie restoration, Illiniwek Native Prairie restoration...here is 10 acres at Niabi Zoo at \$5,200 of cost share, and the list goes on...here is \$1,300 for a small butterfly garden/monarch weigh station out at Niabi. The list goes on and on...I think it's about 15 and then some acres we have provided funding for out at Loud Thunder and something very similar up at Illiniwek. We have over 10 acres out at Niabi. We are trying to be relevant to the community. We are trying to be relevant to conservation. In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Fish and Wildlife Service partnered with your folks, Ben and Mike...Jeff and others with the Mayhem Marsh and hosted the Quad Cities Pollinator Conference. Those were hugely successful. That literally attracted paying members that bought hotel rooms from eight states here in the Quad Cities, just to learn about pollinators and conservation. The Quad City Pollinator Conference became

almost what they call 'trending' on social media. It was an actual big deal. We had folks coming in...the Mayor of Bettendorf were at them. And so...I don't want to harp too much on this though, but I am willing to bet none of you knew the Fish and Wildlife Service had an office here. That's our fault. That's not your fault...that's our fault. We are trying to be more relevant. Working with you all I think is making us more relevant. So, Jeff and I have talked...Jeff and I talked and we had a nice talk with the gentleman from Niabi Zoo out in the hall. Thanks for the hour and a half break. (Group laughter) It gave us a chance to connect. But there are more ways we can be relevant. And so, the bottom line is thanks for letting those folks be creative and all I ask is that you continue to give them that flexibility. If we can be creative, we can be relevant and do good things for the folks that visit the parks and visit the zoo. So, thank you for that! I would love to take some questions, but I know it's late. I will leave that to your discretion and how far you want to go."

President Swanson asked, "Does anyone have any questions for Mr. McPeek? Hey now, wait a minute...we are not letting you get away that easily. Are there any other questions?"

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Mr. Brunk stated, "I just want to thank you for hanging out here with us at this time frame."

Mr. McPeek answered, "No problem...no problem."

Commissioner L. Moreno was recognized.

Mr. L. Moreno stated, "Where is your office at?"

Mr. McPeek answered, "It's right across from SouthPark Mall on 47th Avenue by some of the storage units back there...it's kind of behind the old Toys-R-Us in Moline. We used to be in Rock Island behind the old K-Mart."

Commissioner Simmer was recognized.

Mr. Simmer stated, "I've been there a few times..."

Mr. McPeek answered, "Good!"

Mr. Simmer added, "...it's been a few years."

Mr. McPeek stated, "I will point out...I'd be happy to...as you guys hear about Rusty Patch Bumble Bee, um...don't believe all the horror stories. I'm a farm kid, I grew up in Illinois. Like I mentioned, I came to Augustana and played football

there. I believe strongly that conservation is not mutually exclusive with agriculture. Here in the Midwest, agriculture is a big deal. Rusty Patch Bumble Bee is a newly enlisted endangered species of bee. It's known to occur in Rock Island County and Scott County, Iowa. It's here. People are not going to take your land. The US Fish and Wildlife Services is not gonna tell you that you can't spray your lawn or manage your gardens. These are all falsehoods. So, don't believe them. If something comes up and someone needs to contact us about it, just ask them to call Jeff and he can get in contact with us. I am happy to walk them through any potential concerns they may have."

Mr. Morthland asked, "Is this a ground-nesting bumble bee?"

Mr. McPeek answered, "It's a ground-nesting bumble bee that..."

Mr. Morthland interrupted, "...those things are nasty."

Mr. McPeek corrected, "It's not one of those bumble bees. Most of the ones that you would see cannot sting you. So, it's not one of those yellow-jackets or those that when nesting, you drive over it with your lawn mower and they send you to the hospital. No...not this one. But they also can bring money. Because it's here...your parks, city parks, golf courses, Niabi Zoo, Forest Preserve Districts...we can get money to do Pollinator Conservation where we want conservation to attract the bees. So it's a good thing."

Mr. Simmer asked, "So can I request they get little Yellow-Jackets for them so I know whether to smash them (chuckles)?"

(Group laughter)

Mr. McPeek answered, "Well, you gotta look really, really close...but if they look like a Yellow-Jacket, hit 'em."

(Group laughter)

President Swanson stated, "On a more serious note, you mentioned the great partnership you have with the Forest Preserve District. What other kinds of partnerships are you looking for? There are a lot of other organizations represented in this room tonight. Are there other kinds of groups you would like to partner with?"

Mr. McPeek answered, "Yeah. I personally think there is a better dialogue to be had with Farm Bureau and some of the Farm Bureau membership...also some of the local conservations, soil and water conservation districts. We are pretty tied in in Rock Island County, but there is a fear...there is this fear that if there is an endangered species on my land or in my yard, that will somehow stop us. I

guarantee you that is not the case. The law, when implemented correctly, is an advocate for conservation in allowing the land owners do what the land owners want to do. So, I am open to all partnerships and I thank you for pointing that out."

President Swanson stated, "Any other questions? Mr. McPeek, I thank you for sticking it out with us and for all the information."

(Group applause)

Mr. McPeek added, "Thank you. I came to the Quad Cities in 1996 and for most of my adult life, I stayed here. I think it's a pretty cool place. So, I maybe don't agree with all of the decisions people make, but I think the Quad Cities is a pretty cool place. I attract people to come work here, we attract people to come here and visit. I think it's a very cool place, so thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you."

Commissioner Brunk was recognized.

Mr. Brunk stated, "I am going to pin him down here a little bit. More specifically, what do you think of Rock Island County?"

(Group laughter)

Mr. McPeek answered, "I really like the Forest Preserves and the Zoo. Actually, we have taken all of our kids to Niabi Zoo. We take them there all of the time, they think it is great. I think your two Forest Preserves are awesome. They are great camping...they are right on the river, which is awesome. The beauty about Rock Island County is it's like the interface between urban and agriculture. So, you can live on five or ten acres, have a couple cattle but also come down to Rock Island and enjoy the nightlife. So, I think it's right on that interface between urban and rural, which makes it real attractive."

Mr. Brunk stated, "I like how you think."

President Swanson added, "I love it!"

Mr. McPeek stated, "Thank you, all."

President Swanson stated, "And, thank you. And, just because he tee' d it up so well, my employer said that about 7% of our students come from the Quad Cities and about 15% of our Alumni live here. So the fact that people come here to go to college and they fall in love with our community. So, we should be very proud

of that fact. We have more alumni than we actually started out...so thank you for that."

3. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the July 16, 2019, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None)**

5. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "I'm just going to point out, that once again our outstanding County Auditor, April Palmer has been awarded the GFOA award for excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year 2018 audit. Thank you, April Palmer, for your outstanding work. Thank you."

(Group applause)

Ms. Palmer stated, "And please thank my staff anytime you see them as well because it takes a village."

President Swanson stated, "It's a team effort."

Ms. Palmer added, "It's not just one person...but thank you."

6. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the fiscal year 2019 claims in the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$37,966.21, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$68,233.26, Liability Fund Claims in the amount of \$4,339.68, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$13,120.48 and Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$3,010.16, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Langdon moved to approve the old fiscal year 2019 Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$45,596.40. Commissioner Brunk seconded. (Record)

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner O'Brien moved to approve the fiscal year 2020 claims in the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$47,945.66, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$83,911.52, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$2,531.57 and Marvin Martin Fund claims in the amount of \$53.20, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the fiscal year 2020 Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$153,232.02. Commissioners Normoyle and Cremeens seconded. (Record)

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loftin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. Commissioner Cremeens moved to waive the reading and approve the fiscal year 2019 Transfers of Appropriations in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioners Normoyle and Brunk seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Maranda moved to waive the reading and approve the fiscal year 2020 Transfers of Appropriations in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

12. Commissioner O'Brien moved to waive the reading and approve the old fiscal year 2019 Resolutions for Appropriations of additional funds in the Niabi Zoo Fund. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

(The Resolution is in a .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

RESOLUTION
Zoo Appropriations for FY 19

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 for the necessary expenses incurred for the Fiscal Year 2019, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from unappropriated funds 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:

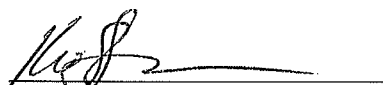
SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

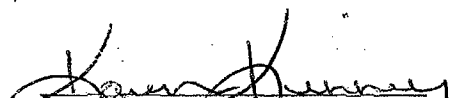
SECTION 2. An amount of \$10,885.91 be transferred from unappropriated funds in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$55.61	131-32-07 632	Communications
\$3,300.43	131-32-10 522.GS	Operating Supplies-Gift Shop
\$199.08	131-32-10 524	Small Tools & Equipment
\$835.04	131-32-10 631	Professional Services
\$82.62	131-32-10 632	Communications
\$571.10	131-32-10 644	Outside Contractual
\$3,719.00	131-32-10 991.12	Transfer to Other Agencies
\$47.38	131-32-18 632	Communications
\$2,075.65	131-32-18 637	Utilities

SECTION 3. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of August, 2019.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

13. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution for Niabi Zoo Appropriation Amendments in fiscal year 2020, as presented. Commissioners Normoyle and Maranda seconded.

(The Resolution is in a .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

RESOLUTION

FY 20 Appropriation Amendment

WHEREAS, amendments are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 due to a decrease in appropriated revenues for Zoo Concession, and

WHEREAS, additional funds are not necessary for the expenses to be incurred for the 2020 Fiscal Year, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

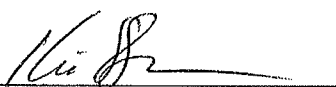
SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

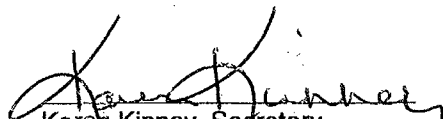
SECTION 2. An amount of \$153,200.00 be decreased for the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 in the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$153,200.00	131-32 362.59	Zoo Concessions
\$59,900.00	131-32-10 411.10	Seasonal Salaries & Wages
\$15,000.00	131-32-10 522	Operating Supplies
\$6,000.00	131-32-10 524	Small Tools & Equipment
\$70,000.00	131-32-10 526	Food
\$2,300.00	131-32-10 991.12	Transfer to Other Agencies

SECTION 4. This Resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 20th day of August, 2019.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, E. Langdon, K. Maranda, M. Mayberry, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, P. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke

TOTAL YES 19

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

14. Commissioner Maranda moved to lay on display for 30 days the Schedule A of the fiscal year 2021 and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund of the District, Niabi Zoological Preserve Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

15. Comments from Commissioners (None)
16. President's Comments: "Even though I know we did really great work, we took the time we needed to and I don't want to give it the short riff...the District's staff are doing an incredible job. I hope you read their reports...they've been fighting some obstacles with weather and other things, things are starting to turn around now. And, thank you, Mr. Brunk...please get your tickets for PINTS and get out there and have some fun. It was just announced that two more brewers are coming...and that's it from me."
17. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

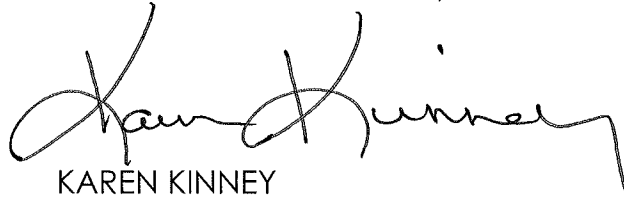
A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, September 17, 2019, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw