

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 18, 2020 – 5:48 PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING

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

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

TOTAL PRESENT 22

E. Langdon, P. Moreno, E. Sowards

TOTAL ABSENT 3

2. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the January 21, 2020, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Mielke seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

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

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Just a couple of things... Staff are working very diligently to do the necessary winter maintenance. We have not had the hard winter that we had last year at this time. They are doing a great job. Part of what they are doing, too, in prep is training and data input in the new point of sale system, uh, that's underway. It is going to allow us to track transactions and customers. Because I think, as you know, if you look at our strategic plan, the next step is in cultivating philanthropy. So, the people who are using the parks, the zoo, golf courses and so forth will be the front line of folks that we ask to help improve those facilities. Uh, we do want to note that Loud Thunder had a record number of deer harvested this year. So, that's a good sign and it's a health population. We discussed some of the issues being experienced by the deer population elsewhere and it's not happening at Loud Thunder, so that's good. Before we move on to the routine business, are there any other questions for the President at this time and there is also time to comment later? Yes, please, Mr. Reagan."

Mr. Reagan asked, "Did they put up signs at Loud Thunder; we talked about it last year when hunting season was open?"

President Swanson answered, "I know there is signage during that time, but also hunters take extraordinary care in their...did you want to comment on that at all on taking care of hunter and non-hunter interactions?"

Mr. Craver stated, "We haven't had anything reported in the office. There is some sign-in sheets and there are some archery signs posted. I don't know if that is in addition or above the last experience when we visited the park or not, but I believe we have always had those strategically placed by the archers sign-in sheets."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Reagan. We'll have more time on that in just a bit...we are going to press on."

5. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Forest Preserve Fund claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$160,305.75, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Simmer moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund, as presented. Commissioners Maranda and Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the Financial Certification Statement Form RT/DOC-5 and Civil Rights Compliance of Illinois, U.S. Department of Transportation Form RT/DOC-6 for the Recreational Trails Program (Grant) for the Grand Illinois Trail and Support Facility Project at Illiniwek Forest Preserve, as presented. Commissioner Normoyle seconded.

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

Recreational Trails Program

(Please Type or Print in Ink)

Form RT/DOC-5

Financial Certification Statement

Applicant (Sponsor) Legal Name: Rock Island County Forest Preserve District
Project Title: Grand Illinois Trail and Support Facility

As the individual duly designated to represent the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (Sponsor), I do hereby certify that the information presented in this grant application is true and correct. I do further certify that the project, if approved for funding, will be completed in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Recreational Trails Grant Manual and that the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (Sponsor) has the financial resources to initially fund 100% of the proposed project costs within the time frame imposed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for project execution prior to receiving grant reimbursement. Failure to complete said project within the specified time frame could be cause for project termination. In addition, failure to complete a project or withdrawal of a project due to lack of performance, insufficient funds or change in recreation priorities by the applicant shall result in the ineligibility of the project applicant for IDNR grant assistance consideration in the next two (2) consecutive grant cycles.

Acquisition and Development Projects

It is understood that the project should be completed within the timeframe established in the project agreement and the reimbursement request must be submitted within one year of the expiration date.

Failure to do so will result in the Project Sponsor forfeiting all project reimbursements, and relieves IDNR from further payment obligations on the grant.

The Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (Sponsor) hereby further certifies that 1) it will indemnify, protect and hold harmless the State of Illinois, Department of Natural Resources and its representatives from any and all liabilities, costs, damages or claims arising as a direct or indirect result of the actions and/or omissions of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (Sponsor) or its representatives in the construction, operation or maintenance of the above referenced project, and 2) that adequate public notice was given and local approval solicited on the proposed project and 3) that the facility will be operated and maintained in an attractive and safe manner, and open and available to the public without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability or place of residence in accordance with provisions of IDNR trail grant program regulations.

This Certification Statement was duly acted upon and adopted by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District (Sponsor) on the 18 day of February (month), 2020 (year)

Kai Swanson
Name (printed / typed)

Attested by: [Signature] [Signature]
Signature
Date: 2-18-2020
President of Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission
Title

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, L. Burns, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, D. Johnston, K. Maranda, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, S. Noyd, P. O'Brien, R. Oelke, R. Reagan, L. Sargent, R. Simmer, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl

TOTAL YES 20

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve the Food Services Agreement with Sunshine Sammy, Inc., for Niabi Zoo, as presented. Commissioner Vyncke seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

9. Commissioner Maranda moved to approve the amendment to the Niabi Zoo Director's Employment Agreement, as presented. Commissioner Cremeens seconded.

Commissioner Deppe was recognized.

Mr. Deppe asked, "Could you elaborate why there are changes?"

President Swanson stated, "Yes, so we noticed in the agreement; which was the initial agreement that brought Mr. Jackson to our community, there was a little bit of an un-clarity about lines of supervision and accountability and we wanted to do some housekeeping on that. This has been discussed with Mr. Jackson and in fact appeared before the Executive Committee so we could talk through everything. I think it protects him and it protects us. If any other Members of the Executive Committee want to make a further comment, if that addresses your question?"

Mr. Deppe stated, "No, no that's okay...I was just curious what the..."

President Swanson interrupted, "It was just kind of cleaning up a couple of things."

Ms. Kinney stated, "I think they have a question."

Mr. Mielke stated, "We have a question on the previous, but we will wait until after..."

President Swanson stated, "Oh, I am terribly sorry, so let's resolve this question first."

A roll call vote was taken.

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

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "At this time I would like to recognize Commissioner Mielke and I am terribly sorry went to fast but wait for a second for your mic to be on."

Mr. Mielke stated, "I just had a question about the Civil Rights compliance. Does that have to do with the handicapped? Is that what that refers to?"

President Swanson asked, "The Civil Rights compliance?"

Mr. Mielke stated, "Yeah."

President Swanson answered, "Okay, these are the things that have to be filed as part of our grant application. We are trying to get a grant to build an amenity, I believe it's a lavatory for our participation in the Grand Illinois Trail. And this is a project that Mr. Peterson at Illiniwek has been engaged in for a while. We had to put the brakes on last year because they needed a couple of T's crossed and I's dotted to make sure there was an archeological assay of a sight. And this is just the due diligence for the grant application to make sure that we've got everything...it's just filling out a form attesting to that we are in compliance."

Commissioner Boswell-Loffin asked, "Okay, so again, I guess the question is that to make sure the restrooms are in compliance with ADA?"

(Overlapping)

President Swanson stated, "ADA. It would absolutely have to be."

Ms. Boswell-Loffin stated, "Okay."

Mr. Craver stated, "It's federal money and with federal money, that comes with certain stipulations. In the Civil Rights Statement...it's just saying we will abide by certain regulations that they have."

President Swanson added, "But we do have a commitment to ADA accessibility throughout the District."

Mr. Craver added, "The ADA is one of the main reasons why we are renovating the restrooms."

President Swanson stated, "But thank you...that's an excellent question. Sorry, I went so fast."

Ms. Boswell-Loffin stated, "Oh, that's ok I didn't want to interrupt you."

President Swanson stated, "I am terribly sorry. Now, is an opportunity for Comments from Commissioners."

11. **Comments from Commissioners: (One)**

Commissioner Deppe stated, "Maybe next summer when we go out to Blackhawk, we can invite Ms. Boswell-Loffin to see what we are doing with these bathrooms to convert them to ADA."

President Swanson stated, "Yeah."

Mr. Deppe added, "...to be in compliance."

President Swanson stated, "For newer Commissioners, I am very grateful to Mr. Deppe with regards to the project that he helped spearhead at Loud Thunder using students from Blackhawk College. And what we did was we took a lavatory facility ignetto and if you don't know this one, the best I can describe is...I am about 5' 10" and I had to get a running leap to get on to that particular commode, so it was not conducive for persons with mobility issues. And thanks to Mr. Deppe's colleagues, the Laborer's 309 and the Blackhawk apprenticeship program, we created a facility with a path that's wheelchair accessible. So, the persons using upper meadow, not the meadow but the upper picnic shelter are able to use it with full accessibility and we are very proud of that. So, we would

welcome anyone when the weather is warm and there aren't arrows flying, to come out to Loud Thunder and check it out. Mr. Craver, you had a comment?"

Mr. Craver stated, "Part of our speaker engagement with the Board, I am working to get someone here from Blackhawk College for the (Inaudible) HCCTP program and the partnership...(Inaudible)."

President Swanson stated, "I am actually working on an essay with Mr. Fess over there hoping to get published about the partnership. I would be happy to share that with you when it's ready. Are there any other comments from Commissioners?"

12. Commissioner Simmer moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioner Adams seconded.


A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

Due to the Primary Election, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, March 24, 2020, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting recessed.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw