

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2019**

PRESENT: Committee members - E. Sowards, L. Moreno, K. Swanson, D. Cremeens, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, K. Maranda.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor; Louisa Ewert, Treasurer.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:32 PM on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, in the Rock Island County Building on the second floor Rock Island, Illinois.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the September Committee meeting and public hearing minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the September Committee meeting and public hearing minutes. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

No request for public comment was submitted.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2020 Forest Preserve General Fund claims in the amount of \$64,950.22, Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$92,146.60, Loud Thunder Spillway & Improvements Fund claims in the amount of \$4,506.10, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$30,847.06.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims and Treasurer's Disbursements. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to approve the transfers of appropriation in the General Fund. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2021 Levy Ordinances for Forest Preserve General Fund, Niabi Zoological Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests and Construction Improvements Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the fiscal year 2021 Levy Ordinances for Forest Preserve General Fund, Niabi Zoological Fund, IMRF Retirement Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund, and Development of Forests and Construction Improvements Fund. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that this was a new intergovernmental agreement. The Rock Island County Soil and Water Conservation District contacted Forest Preserve District staff regarding assistance with their education and outreach programs. They did not have a staff member that could perform that function. Since both District's missions have some crossover, they approached our staff, and we had the Civil Division draft this agreement. It's a very fluid agreement that allows one of our staff that can be spared to go out and do programs on behalf of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

Mr. Craver then briefly gave a few examples of the programs that the Soil and Water Conservation District do.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Petersen for information on the possible disc golf course at Illiniwek Forest Preserve.

Mr. Petersen stated that he and Mr. Craver had started a conversation with Jeff Clark of the Quad City Disc Golf Association about a disc golf course at Illiniwek Forest Preserve. Are thinking that nine holes is a good starting point. Then if there is enough interest, more could be added. It is estimated that each hole would cost approximately \$800.00. In order to fundraise for this expense, staff is proposing that each hole be sponsored for that amount. The sponsorship would include signage, and would last ten years.

President Swanson suggested checking the industry standard to make sure that ten years was not too long given the price. Is Mr. Clark's Association going to help fundraise for this project?

Mr. Petersen stated that he did not believe that the association was planning on helping in that way. There are several businesses that Illiniwek does business with on a regular basis that

would likely be interested in the sponsorships. Staff is planning on contacting those businesses first for the sponsorships.

Mr. Craver stated that a disc golf course was in the master plan quite some time ago. There is space for up to sixteen holes, but starting out with nine holes seems the best way to gauge how popular this activity will be at Illiniwek. It's something that will be great for around the prairie areas.

President Swanson stated that the concrete pad in the middle of the field would likely be an eyesore. Also, in regards to fundraising, as a general rule asking for around 125% of the estimated cost of the project is advisable. If the cost is estimated at \$800.00, then asking for \$1,000.00 would be better. Would be happy to assist in the fundraising efforts.

Mr. Petersen stated that currently disc golf is very popular, and is a destination sport. People are willing to travel around to the different courses, and that could increase camping revenue.

Ms. Normoyle asked how staff intended to track the numbers of people using the course so that staff can determine if the course is popular enough to warrant expansion.

Mr. Petersen stated that he was not one hundred percent sure at this point.

The Committee discussed briefly the possibilities in tracking the usage of the course, and there was consensus in moving forward with the possibility of installing a disc golf course at Illiniwek Forest Preserve.

President Swanson asked Mr. Petersen if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to in his routine report.

Mr. Petersen stated that there were issues with the tires of the new mower. John Deere is involved with the troubleshooting of this issue. Due to the weather the Tipi Gathering was disappointing this year. Two of the days had to be canceled, so hopefully next year the weather will be better for the event. The mayor of Port Byron contacted the District regarding putting in a small dog park in Dorrance Park. The proposed area was past the outfield fence of ball diamond three. There are several issues with trying to put a dog park in that area. The area is only one quarter to one third of an acre. That is exceedingly small for a dog park. The fencing that would be required to encompass the area would cost approximately \$10,500.00, and there would also be an expense of putting in a path to the area, and laying pipes for running water to the area. Another major concern is that it is right next to the ball diamonds where the kids are playing.

President Swanson stated that the proposal did not sound like a good idea with all the issues that stand in the way of the area being truly useful.

Mr. Cremeens stated that the placement did sound like it held too many problems to be a good fit for the task of a dog park, especially with the extra liability from being so close to the ball diamonds.

Ms. Normoyle agreed that the liability risks were just too great.

Dr. Simmer pointed out that there would also be no staff to oversee the area.

Mr. Petersen stated that the staff was recommending against the dog park.

Mr. Craver informed the Committee that he and Mr. Petersen had met and discussed the possibility with the mayor. The costs and size of the area are major obstacles that cannot be gotten around. However, the District would be happy to partner with Port Byron in other ways.

There was consensus from the Committee to not install a dog park at Dorrance Park.

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

Ms. Palmer stated that all funds are spending within budget. The District is already a quarter of the way through the fiscal year. When comparing the zoo to this time last year, there is some improvement.

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

Mr. Collins stated that weekends in September were affected by the bad weather. The season passes have been ordered for next year.

Ms. Normoyle asked if, with the new system, the District could do the passes electronically to save on costs.

Mr. Craver answered that there were not currently plans to get rid of the printed passes.

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

Mr. Mills stated that the camping improvements and playground installation were moving forward. In regard to that, there are an additional one hundred fifty trees that need to be removed, so staff will be quite busy with tree removal. A race was held at the park in September, and the organization donated \$800.00 to Loud Thunder for whatever the preserve needed. The boat rental is done for the season, and the boats have been taken out of the water and stored for the winter. The annual archery hunt begins on November fourth for the successful applicants.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that staff is getting ready to move cold sensitive animals inside, and winding down the season.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything from his report that he wanted to bring attention to.

Mr. Craver stated that all preserves are beginning to wind down the season, but there are still events to come in October. The plans for Illiniwek's docks are currently on hold. The archeological study is nearly complete.

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

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve all routine reports for the District. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant