

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

PRESENT: Committee members - S. Ballard, M. Burns, S. Doye, K. Maranda, R. Simmer, D. Cremeens(via phone).

ABSENT: E. Langdon.

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Burns, District five Commissioner; Lee Jackson, Zoo Director; Mike Petersen, Illiniwek Ranger; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; April Palmer, County Auditor; Louisa Ewert, County Treasurer; Carrie Kerr, Treasurer's Office; Jerry Clyde, Human Resources Director, Amy Behning, Mindfire; Scott Lohman.

President Ballard called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 3:03 PM on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, in the County Board Office on the second floor of the County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

Roll was called:

S. Ballard, R. Simmer, S. Doye, M. Burns, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens(via phone).

Total Present 6

E. Langdon.

Total Absent 1

President Ballard called for a motion approving the August Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the August Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the August Budget Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the August Budget Committee meeting minutes. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the 2016 fiscal year Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$11,193.46, and the 2017 fiscal year claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$42,691.64, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$50,753.63, Liability Fund claims in the amount of \$72,346.50, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$130,941.18.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the 2016 and the 2017 fiscal year claims and treasurer's disbursements. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund for fiscal year 2016.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the 2016 fiscal year Transfers of Appropriation. Mr. Burns seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund, and Niabi Zoo Fund for fiscal year 2017.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the 2017 fiscal year Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund, and Niabi Zoo Fund. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the Liability Fund Resolution.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Liability Fund Resolution. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to remove from display and approve the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund of the District, Niabi Zoological Fund, IMRF Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund and the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund with the updated fund balances.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to remove from display and approve the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the General Fund of the District, Niabi Zoological Fund, IMRF Fund, Liability Fund, FISSA Fund and the Development of Forests & Construction of Improvement Fund with the updated fund balances. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to remove from display and approve the changes to the District's Hiring Practices Policy.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to remove from display and approve the changes to the District's Hiring Practices Policy. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to remove from display and approve the changes to the District's Holidays & Holiday Pay Policy.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to remove from display and approve the changes to the District's Holidays & Holiday Pay Policy. Mr. Burns seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called for a motion to lay on display for thirty days the changes to the District's Purchasing Policy.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to lay on display for thirty days the changes to the District's Purchasing Policy. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

The discussion of the Fair Labor Standards Act Salary Exemption was tabled until the October meeting.

President Ballard called on Ms. Palmer for the Auditor's reports.

Ms. Palmer stated that budgets are looking good. The Fund Balances reports are still estimated. Audited numbers will be available once the external audit is complete. The External Auditors will begin next week. In regards to the cash balances, please note that the Liability Fund does have an outstanding loan from the General Fund. However, also of note is that the cash balances are all higher than they were at this time last year.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve Ms. Palmer's reports.

MOTION: Mr. Burns moved to approve Ms. Palmer's reports. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called on Mr. Verstraete and Mr. Collins for the Indian Bluff reports.

Mr. Verstraete reported that it's been hot and wet as it has been most of the summer. There has been a lot mowing and application of fungicide. The aeration of the greenway is complete, and will be continuing on the aeration of the fairways.

Mr. Collins reported that since it has been so hot and wet, play has been affected, but the outings that were held went well.

Mr. Maranda stated that Mr. Collins does very well in communicating through emails with the golfers.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve Mr. Verstraete's and Mr. Collins's reports.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve Mr. Verstraete's and Mr. Collins's reports. Mr. Burns seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called on Mr. Mills for the Loud Thunder report.

Mr. Mills reported that staff has been busy mowing because of the weather. The pit toilet remodel continues. Was able to get a grant for about \$13,000.00 for trail work. That was used to widen and level out about four and a half miles of the horse trails. Since that has happened it is now necessary to put in some culverts and fords for the streams that cross that trail. Grass seed also needs to be planted to assist in erosion control.

President Ballard stated that he and Mr. Craver had discussed options for the remaining needs of the project. There is approximately \$8,000.00 in the Marvin Martin Trust Fund that could be used for the completion of the trail project.

Mr. Mills stated that he hoped to not spend the full \$8,000.00.

President Ballard called for a motion to allow Mr. Mills to complete work on the horse trails using the money from the Marvin Martin Trust Fund not to exceed \$8,000.00.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to allow Mr. Mills to complete work on the horse trails using the money from the Marvin Martin Trust Fund not to exceed \$8,000.00. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Mills continued with his report stating that the Illinois City Saddle Club had offered to purchase equipment that will help in maintaining that horse trail, and will continue working with Ms. Bizzari on that. In regards to the river boat docks, please be aware that due to the high level of the river this year the boat docks have not been in for much of the year. The horse trails are likely to be closed for the remainder of the year because of the amount of rain and the continued work on the trail project. Been working with the Fish and Wildlife Service to plant more prairie.

President Ballard called for a motion approving Mr. Mills's report.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve Mr. Mills's report. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called on Mr. Petersen for the Illiniwek report.

Mr. Petersen reported that, as with the other parks, there's been a lot of mowing. Staff spent a lot of time on trails, and some time on equipment maintenance. Trail system at Dorrance is coming along. Phase one is nearly complete, and will probably be complete around the end of October or beginning of November. Phase two should begin in spring. The river docks at Illiniwek are having the same issues as Loud Thunder's. Illiniwek's docks have not been in all year. Have also been working on putting in prairies at the zoo.

President Ballard praised staff at Illiniwek for their work keeping the park cleaned up during the Salute to Labor event that was held at Illiniwek. All staff in the District does a wonderful job, and is a credit to the Forest Preserve District.

Mr. Doye stated he and his wife would like to look into donating a memorial bench to be used somewhere in Illiniwek for their parents. Would need an idea of cost, and an idea of where in Illiniwek the bench would serve best.

Mr. Petersen stated that he plans on bringing in some options for the Committee to look at for the next meeting. There are some events coming up in October at Illiniwek, and the flyers on the table detail those events.

President Ballard called on Mr. Maranda for his inspection report.

Mr. Maranda stated that the park looked wonderful, and praised Mr. Petersen for all the relationships he's built with the different groups who utilize the preserve. It's good to see the community coming together to support the preserves.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve Mr. Petersen's and Mr. Maranda's reports.

MOTION: Mr. Burns moved to approve Mr. Petersen's and Mr. Maranda's reports. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called on Mr. Jackson for the Niabi Zoo report.

Mr. Jackson reported that the day before the scheduled removal of dead and dying trees, a tree fell on the train tunnel. Staff was able to get that cleaned up and the train up and running in time for the Labor Day weekend. Mr. Meates has resigned his position effective September 24th. Mr. Meates has been instrumental in getting the zoo to the level that it's at now. He has been a tremendous resource for Niabi, and will be sorely missed. Need to request approval for the remodel of the Jungle Trek exhibit in the Administration Building to an Ocean themed exhibit. The area needs freshened up.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve the remodel of the Jungle Trek exhibit to an Ocean themed exhibit.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the remodel of the Jungle Trek exhibit to an ocean themed exhibit. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Jackson continued his report stating that there is now an Overview of the short term plan for the zoo. It covers up to the next eighteen months.

President Ballard called on Mr. Maranda for his inspection report.

Mr. Maranda stated that he and Mr. Jackson discussed the plans that were set forth in the short term overview, and things out at the zoo look good.

President Ballard called for a motion to approve Mr. Jackson's and Mr. Maranda's reports.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve Mr. Jackson's and Mr. Maranda's reports. Mr. Doye seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Ballard called on Mr. Taylor for an update from the Oversight Committee.

Mr. Taylor stated that the Oversight Committee is up to seven members now. Working on reaching the goal of improving communication between all the parties that are working with the zoo. PPP discussions are ongoing. Working to schedule a joint meeting with the Society in October. We are also trying to identify new members for the Society.

President Ballard asked if Mr. Taylor felt that things were moving forward.

Mr. Taylor stated that he did. The Oversight Committee has been learning and working together with all the parties to make progress towards our goals.

President Ballard called for a motion approving the routine reports for the District.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the routine reports for the District. Mr. Burns seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 3:41 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant