

FOREST PRESERVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM MARCH 4, 2011

PRESENT: Committee members, T. Rockwell, J. Bohnsack, V. Dueysen, K. Harmon, K. Maranda, F. Schultz and R. Simmer.

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, Director; Mike Murrin, Loud Thunder; Doug Wells, Golf Course Manager; Scott White, Illiniwek; Mark Ryan, Zoo Director; Donna Wilkerson, Purchasing; County Board member, Robert Westpfahl; Blake Burns and Jeff Barsness, Estes Construction.

Chairman Rockwell called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Committee to order at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 4, 2011, in the second floor conference room of the County Board Office, County Building, Rock Island, Illinois.

Estes Construction presented a conceptual budget estimate for the Niabi Zoo Elephant Building and Yard. Their power point presentation included a budget summary, building concepts, preliminary schedule and detailed building and yard estimate. The budget summary included information & assumptions, a budget recap, other cost considerations not included in this budget, options and their conclusions and recommendations.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the February minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to approve the minutes. Second by Mr. Dueysen. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the claims for the Forest Preserve Fund in the amount of \$102,248.88, the Niabi Zoo Fund claims in the amount of \$58,333.63, the Liability Insurance Fund claim in the amount of 198.00, Golf Course Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$1,432.50 and the Niabi Zoo Capital Improvement Fund claims in the amount of \$21,216.26.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the claims. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the Forest Preserve, Niabi Zoo, IMRF, Liability Insurance and FISSA funds.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Transfers. Mr. Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve a Resolution transferring \$25,000 in unappropriated Niabi Zoo Funds.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the Resolution. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to take off display and approve revisions regarding the dress code policy and health insurance policies.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to take off display and approve the revisions. Ms. Harmon seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to put on display credit card policies.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to put the policies on display. Mr. Dueysen seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Donna Wilkerson. For the Committee's information, she presented the turf chemical and seed bid summary and the janitorial, can liner and food service bids done through the joint purchasing.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mr. Craver for the Director's report. Mr. Craver reported that he has received five hundred dollars from a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health to purchase an automated external defibrillator (AED). He would like permission to work with the local Red Cross for this purchase and training.

MOTION: Mr. Dueysen moved for permission to go through the Red Cross. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Craver presented a list of seasonal employees and their hourly wage for all facilities.

Chairman Rockwell called on Doug Wells for the Indian Bluff report. Mr. Wells reported they have sold sixty-seven season passes so far and the open house will be March 26th. He said they hope to open April 1st, weather permitting.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mike Murrin for the Loud Thunder report. Mr. Murrin submitted a report of the maintenance work being done. He reported on the success of their first ice fishing derby held February 5th, with ninety participants. Chili and hot dogs were provided. Croegaert's Great Outdoors was a co-sponsor of the event and did a great job and donated several raffle prizes.

MOTION: Mr. Dueysen moved to send Croegaert's their endorsement and thanks. Mr. Maranda seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called on Scott White for the Illiniwek report. Mr. White submitted a report of the grounds and equipment maintenance being performed. And reported the Highway Department will be sweeping our section of the bike path as needed for twenty-five dollars per hour. Mr. White said he does not have the equipment to do the sweeping but will be doing regular bike path maintenance.

Chairman Rockwell called on Mark Ryan for his report but first wanted to talk about the TB issue. Chairman Rockwell stated we obtained both our elephants from Ringling Brothers. He said one of our elephants reacted positively for the screening test that looks for indicators that would show if an animal is at higher risk of TB due to a number of things including past exposure. The Zoo has always tested for positive or negative presence of actual TB in Babe and Sophie. Both elephants have tested negative to these tests over the last seven years while being in our possession at the Zoo. These findings do not indicate there is any risk to the public. When the staff is working directly with the elephants, they will wear masks. He repeated there is zero risk to the public.

Mark Ryan presented his written report (record). He said the Zoo would be opening March 14th. He invited County Board and Society members to preview the new exhibits on Thursday, March 10th anytime in late afternoon.

Chairman Rockwell said we received an estimate from Hirst Construction for the remodeling work on the Zoo Director's basement for a new bedroom (room #3) and work on the existing utility room (room #1) for a total estimated cost of \$33,483. After much discussion, Chairman Rockwell said let's get the egress window put into the new addition (room #3) and talk to the head of Building & Zoning, Ray Nees, and see if we finish off the utility room (room #1), do we have to have an egress window in there too.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda made that a motion. Second by Dr. Simmer. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell called for a motion to approve all reports.

MOTION: Mr. Schultz moved to approve all reports. Ms. Sallows seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell asked for a motion to go into closed session per ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) (personnel).

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to go into closed session. Mr. Dueysen seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried.

Doors closed at 3:20 PM. Doors open at 4:16 PM.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to go into open session. Second by Mr. Schultz. Motion carried.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved that, based on evaluations, the wages of non-bargaining unit employees be set at the step levels as discussed in closed session. Ms. Sallows seconded.

Mr. Maranda wanted to amend that motion so it included Mr. Craver for an increase. Mr. Craver had previously stated that he did not want a salary increase.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to amend the previous motion to include Mr. Craver for an increase. Mr. Dueysen seconded.

Chairman Rockwell repeated the first motion as "based on evaluations, the wages be set at the step levels as discussed in closed session" which was, Mr. Wells and Mr. Murrin at three percent, Mr. White at two percent, Mr. Spray at one percent, the recently hired Zoo Director, Assistant Education & Program Director and Assistant Zoo Director of Marketing Events at zero percent, Mr. Collins and Ms. Gianulis at two percent and Mr. Craver at zero percent. He said that was the original motion and now Mr. Maranda moved and Mr. Dueysen seconded an amendment to include Mr. Craver at two percent. Chairman Rockwell asked for all those in favor of approving the amendment to include Mr. Craver at two percent. Motion carried with Ms. Sallows abstaining and Dr. Simmer voted no.

Now back to the original motion all those in favor say aye. There were no opposed. Motion carried.

Chairman Rockwell asked if there was any more business to come before the Committee, being none, he adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Submitted by:

S. A. Gianulis
Administrative Assistant
Forest Preserve District

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