

**FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson, K. Maranda, D. Cremeens, C. O'Brien, R. Simmer, L. Moreno, E. Langdon.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; Jay Verstraete, Golf Course Superintendent; Todd Collins, Club House Manager; Lee Jackson, Niabi Zoo Director; April Palmer, Chief Deputy Auditor; Carrie Kerr, Treasurer's Office; John Fellman, Missman, Inc.; Morgan Mays, Missman, Inc.; Michael Bartels, Village of Coal Valley President; Annette Ernst, Village of Coal Valley Administrator; Kamille Brashear, Community Advisory Board; Scott Lohman.

President Swanson called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:31 PM on Tuesday, December 12, 2017, in the Club House of at Indian Bluff Golf Course, Milan, Illinois.

President Swanson called for a motion approving November Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve November Committee meeting minutes. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

There was no request for public comment.

President Swanson stated that under old business there is the Exelon Agreement, and called for a motion approving.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Quad Cities Station Real Property Tax Assessment Settlement Agreement between the Exelon-related companies, various County Officials, the Board of Review, and affected Taxing Bodies for Tax Years 2017 to 2023. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Mr. Craver stated that he had that on the agenda because Mr. Maranda, the Interim County Administrator, and himself, as well as the other taxing bodies met with the attorneys working on the agreement. The agreement has morphed and changed from what was previously approved by the Commission, and there were some notes. Essentially, there were two documents, the settlement agreement and the intergovernmental agreement. It morphed into one document, and has morphed back to two documents because of differing opinions from the attorneys working on it. However, none of the terms have changed from what was

discussed in previous meetings. There will be a final draft to approve, likely in January, but wanted to keep everyone up to date on the agreement.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve claims for the Forest Preserve General Fund in the amount of \$67,243.01, Niabi Zoo Fund in the amount of \$80,308.05, Bike Path Fund in the amount of \$8,000.00, Golf Course Improvement Fund in the amount of \$13,781.00, Marvin Martin Trust Fund in the amount of \$3,003.55, and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$497,860.39.

MOTION: Mr. Moreno moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve transfers of appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve transfers of appropriation in the Forest Preserve General Fund and the Niabi Zoo Fund. Ms. O'Brien seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the Grant Appropriation and Amendment resolution, and the Designation of Banks or Other Depositories resolution.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Grant Appropriation and Amendment resolution, and the Designation of Banks or Other Depositories resolution. Mr. Langdon seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve Jeff Craver as the District's FOIA officer for calendar year 2018.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve Jeff Craver as the District's FOIA officer for calendar year 2018. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called on Mr. Bartels, Village of Coal Valley President, for discussion of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Village of Coal Valley for water main construction and connection at Niabi Zoo.

Mr. Bartels stated that a few years ago Coal Valley reached out to the District regarding the possibility to extend the municipal water supply up to and beyond Niabi Zoo. At that time the water quality was a major issue, but has since been improved with the replacement of the

water tanks at Niabi. We've come today to see if there is still interest in getting Niabi onto municipal water. Mr. Morgan Mays from Missman, Inc. has put together a proposal for professional services for the Village of the Coal Valley. [Missman document handed out] The project would need 4,700 feet of water main that need to be laid from where Coal Valley currently has its water main. Some of the existing mains need to be replaced with larger mains in order to get the pressure up the hill to Niabi and the subdivision beyond. The Village of Coal Valley realizes that significant money went into the new tank system, but weren't sure what the life expectancy of that system was and wanted to know if the District was still interested in getting onto a municipal water source.

Mr. Craver briefly recapped the history of the water tank system project and reasoning behind it.

Mr. Jackson stated that while the water quality at Niabi is significantly improved, and is much healthier, it is not without issues. Hard water is an issue, and the quality of water that can be gotten from a municipal source is still superior, especially when talking about potable water.

There was a brief discussion on if Niabi would be able to continue to use its well as a non-potable source of water after getting linked into the municipal water supply. There was a concern about cross contamination, but the possibility will be looked into.

Mr. Bartels stated that the Missman agreement has not gone through the Coal Valley approval system yet.

There was general consensus that the District is still interested in hooking into a municipal water supply for Niabi.

President Swanson called for a motion to grant authorization to Mr. Craver to further investigate and negotiate with Coal Valley concerning the municipal water project.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to grant authorization to Mr. Craver to further investigate and negotiate with Coal Valley concerning the municipal water project. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the Fiscal Year 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion approving the agreement with Missman, Inc. for professional services for the Spillway and Dam modifications and repairs.

MOTION: Dr. Simmer moved to approve the agreement with Missman, Inc. for professional services for the Spillway and Dam modifications and repairs. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion.

Mr. Fellman went through some of the history and previously discussed information regarding the dam repairs, mentioning that the DNR would have to review the plans, and it could take between three months to six months. Looking at beginning repair work in the autumn of 2018.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for a motion to approve the fees for the District as recommended by staff.

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the fees for the District as recommended by staff. Dr. Simmer seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

President Swanson called for the discussion of the Scenic Overlook Trail at Illiniwek.

Mr. Craver stated that the current steps on the trail leading up to the overlook are deteriorating and there is a lot of erosion on that hill also. Staff is wanting some direction as far as how the Committee would like to proceed. There are two ways the issue could be resolved, and staff would like to explore the two different options. One would be to simply redo the existing trail, and the other would be to reroute the trail to address the erosion concerns. It's not an immediate issue, but it is a problem that should be addressed in the near future.

President Swanson informed the Committee that Illiniwek received a one thousand dollar donation from Dr. J. Thomas Tredway, and he will receive a letter of thanks from the District. Then called on Ms. Palmer for anything that she'd like to bring attention to in the Auditor's Reports.

Ms. Palmer stated that the percentage of the General Fund budget looked a little low due to the reduction of the budget by \$75,000.00 earlier in the fiscal year. This reduction was due to the removal of the loan to Niabi. There's nothing of note in the Fund Balances report or the Cash report.

President Swanson asked Mr. Verstraete if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from his Indian Bluff report.

Mr. Verstraete stated that staff was operating as usual, and doing regular winter projects.

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

Mr. Collins stated that the golf season ended in mid-November, as is typical. Now the regular winter cleaning and maintenance of the Club House is getting done.

President Swanson asked Mr. Mills if there was anything he'd like to bring attention to from the Loud Thunder report.

Mr. Mills stated staff is working on regular winter projects, and has been able to get work done on the prairie burns around the preserve.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that the only thing of note was that animals are being moved around a bit. It is planned to move the red wolves into the old elk exhibit and to put in African hunting dogs into the exhibit currently housing the wolves. Other than that, staff is working on typical winter work and projects.

President Swanson asked Mr. Craver if there was anything else he wished to report.

Mr. Craver stated that the improvements at Loud Thunder may take longer to get started than originally anticipated. However, beginning those projects in the fall of 2018 is the goal. Getting the construction documents together for those projects will take time. A new fund has been added for the money that will be received from the bonds. There will be some changes in the District's website to update it, and make it more user friendly.

President Swanson stated that included on the agenda was some time devoted to Mr. Craver's evaluation. Last month the Committee was invited to send in any input they had regarding Mr. Craver's performance of the past year. No feedback was sent, which is a good sign, so we're going to form a little sub-committee consisting of Dr. Simmer and myself to review Mr. Craver. We'll report back at next meeting, if there are no objections.

There were no objections.

Mr. Craver stated that the District had made the cover of the IPARKS calendar this year, as well as having a few other pictures included inside the calendar.

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

MOTION: Mr. Maranda moved to approve the routine reports of the District as presented. Mr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Ms. Behning informed the Committee that Niabi received around \$3,000.00 through a national social media event called Giving Tuesday. It's great to see that support for Niabi.

President Swanson stated that a member of the Community Advisory Board was here at the meeting, and asked her to introduce herself.

Ms. Kamille Brashear introduced herself, stating that she was the volunteer services specialist for the Red Cross, and this was her first introduction to the Forest Preserve and Niabi.

Adjourned the meeting at 4:33 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant