

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION
JUNE 16, 2020 – 7:06 PM
PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING**

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

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

TOTAL PRESENT 24

D. Johnston 1

TOTAL ABSENT

2. Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the May 19, 2020, Forest Preserve Commission minutes, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

A voice vote was taken.

Motion carried.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: (None) Three calls were made to the public for comments.**

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "Nothing to mention in the President's Comments other than to salute the team out there. I know we say that but we have seen a dramatic pent-up interest in getting out to the Golf Course and to Loud Thunder, Illiniwek and Dorrance and the team has risen to the challenge with great grace. Uh, Todd is renting the Golf Course as best he can and Mike and Ben. Everyone is doing a fantastic job. I know Lee and his team are chomping at the bit to be ready to go on June 26th. I hope your families and friends are as anxious as my family just to get out and enjoy what John Hauberg referred to as 'the wonders of the world' near at hand...and anything we can do now in terms of using these facilities will alleviate future problems. That's all I have at this time. We will have time for Comments from Commissioners in a bit later in the meeting. Uh, if there is a question you have for me at this time, you are welcome to give it."

5. Commissioner Beck moved to approve the Forest Preserve Fund claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$609,291.92, as presented. Commissioner Brunk seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

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TOTAL YES 23

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Adams moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation in the General Fund and Liability Fund, as presented. Commissioner Maranda seconded.

Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner Boswell-Loftin seconded.

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TOTAL YES 23

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. **Comments from Commissioners: (1)**

Commissioner O'Brien was recognized.

Mr. O'Brien asked, "Mr. President I have a question. Did you say for the Zoo, is there a date for re-opening that yet?"

President Swanson answered, "Yes Mr. O'Brien, according to Governor Pritzker's plan, June 26th. June 26th will be our opening time. Uh, I can tell you that at our executive committee meeting last week, a report was made by a member of the public that there are some zoo's in Illinois that appeared to have jumped the gun a little bit. Uh, but we are grateful to Mr. Craver for explicitly directing these questions to the State authorities and found that will be the earliest that we can open. And, as I mentioned earlier, with tremendous gratitude that I salute the team that Mr. Jackson has. We don't know the exact form, we don't know the particulars, but plans are coming together to be ready as soon as that zoo can open. So, thank you, Mr. O'Brien for that question. Does that answer your question?"

Mr. O'Brien stated, "Yes, it does...so, thank you."

President Swanson responded, "Thank you, sir. I know you are a grandpa like me and we both are dying to get our grandkids out to the zoo."

Mr. O'Brien stated, "You betcha!"

President Swanson asked, "Are there any other comments from Commissioners?"

(Overlapping speakers)

President Swanson stated, "First I heard from Mr. Morthland and so we'll go with that first, please...go ahead."

Mr. Morthland stated, "I just said...I wanted to personally thank you for quoting a favored son of Coe Township."

President Swanson (Laughter) asked, "Would you please amplify that, you've lost me there, my friend."

Mr. Morthland reiterated, "I just was saying thanks for quoting, Mr. Hauberg."

President Swanson stated, "Oh..."

Mr. Morthland added, "...a favored son of Coe Township."

President Swanson added, "Well, Coe Township has every reason to be proud of the work of John Hauberg. I am sorry, I heard another comment, please."

Mr. Deppe stated, "This is Jeff Deppe. I was just wondering how the improvements of Loud Thunder are going? ...and the golf course improvements?"

President Swanson stated, "Yeah, thank you very much...an excellent question. So, the improvements at Loud Thunder on its last report is on target and we are just wrapping up some of the final things there. But...that is with the reminder that given the cash crunch precipitated by the drop-off in user revenues, this Commission made the decision or supported the decision to uh, suspend work on the two cabins. So, that work is under suspension right at the moment while we reserve our resources as much as we can. We'll come back to that decision at a later date. Uh, the golf course project continues. I believe you'll find an update on that in Mr. Collins and Mr. Verstraete's reports. Um, and the good news is...there is serious pent up demand. If we had weather this beautiful last year, uh, I can only imagine what our revenues picture would have looked like at the end. But, we really benefited from some fine weather...now, if we can get Covid to

cooperate just a wee tiny little bit, uh the picture is looking brighter than it looked a month ago. Does that answer your question, Mr. Deppe?"

Mr. Deppe answered, "Yes, it did. Thank you."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you very much. Are there any other questions or comments? And, I just referred to those reports, and at this time, I would direct the commissioners' attention..."

Ms. Normoyle stated, "Are we done?"

President Swanson asked, "I'm sorry, was that a question?"

Ms. Normoyle answered, "Sorry, no."

President Swanson stated, "Oh...(laughter) sorry."

8. Commissioner L. Moreno moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission. Commissioners Beck and Maranda seconded.

President Swanson stated, "Do we have any questions now...I know we've talked a little bit about these reports, but I hope you've had a chance to take a look at them. Are there any questions on the reports? Hearing none."

A voice vote was taken.

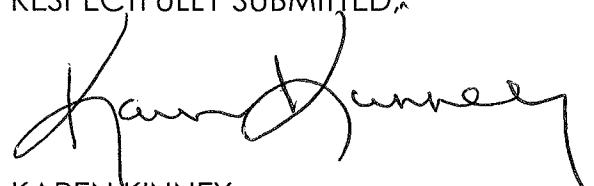
Motion carried.

President Swanson stated, "Well, as I said so before, folks...we are benefiting from some lovely weather. I hope all of you and your family and friends are able to get out and enjoy these incredible resources we have. Hearing no further business, note the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is July 21st and we hope, at that time to be able to meet in person. I miss seeing all your faces. Until then, I want to thank you for your diligent and conscientious work."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, July 21, 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

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