

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

MAY 18, 2021 – 6:35 PM

PRESIDENT KAI SWANSON PRESIDING

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

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, K. Swanson, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL PRESENT 22

TOTAL ABSENT 0

2. Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the April 20, 2021, Forest Preserve Commission meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner Langdon seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

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

4. **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

President Swanson stated, "The recent rains notwithstanding at the parks has been picking up and we are glad to see that. Lots of people are coming out and enjoying these incredible resources. And, I would like to point out at the zoo...is, or came close to capacity a couple of days. And, now that we are through the bridge, that capacity will be going up. So, if you haven't been out to the zoo lately, I hope you'll get out there very soon. You'll probably be hearing from Mr. Jackson a little bit later on. That's it at this time. We do have comments from commissioners a little bit later in the agenda."

5. Commissioner Adams moved to approve the Claims and Treasurer's Disbursements in the amount of \$157,012.46, as presented. Commissioner Simmer seconded.

Commissioner Brunk moved to approve the previous roll call vote. Commissioner L. Moreno seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

6. Commissioner Normoyle moved to waive the reading and approve the Transfers of Appropriation, as presented. Commissioner Woods seconded.

Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the previous roll call vote.
Commissioner Adams seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

7. Commissioner Deppe moved to waive the reading and approve the Resolution regarding the Moline Community Foundation Grant Funds, as presented.
Commissioner Sowards seconded.

(Note** The Resolution is in .pdf format and begins on the next page.)

RESOLUTION

RE: Niabi Zoo Fund Receipt of Grant Funds-Moline Community Foundation

WHEREAS, additional funds are required in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to increase the budget for the Niabi Zoo Education Program (MF21) Moline Community Foundation Grant Fund for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from grant funds already received in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Forest Preserve Commission of Rock Island County, Rock Island, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. An emergency exists as outlined above.

SECTION 2. An amount of \$1,005.99 to be transferred from grant funds already received and unencumbered in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

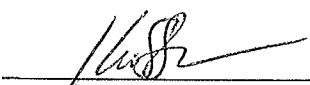
AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$1,005.99	131-32-35 337.70 MF21-00-33770	State & Local Grants-Culture & Recreation

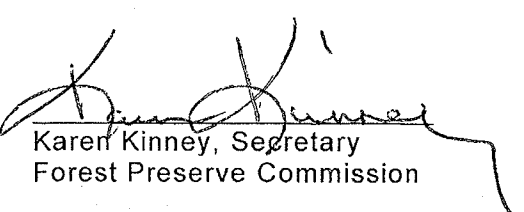
SECTION 3. An amount of \$1,005.99 be transferred from the above described revenue changes in the Niabi Zoo Fund #131 to the following:

AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION	DESCRIPTION
\$1,000.00	131-32-35 411.00 MF21-10-100	Salary & Wages
\$5.99	131-32-35 631.00 MF21-20-631	Professional Services

SECTION 4. This resolution to become effective immediately.

ADOPTED by the Rock Island County Forest Preserve Commission, Rock Island County, Illinois, this 18th day of May, 2021.


Kai Swanson, President
Forest Preserve Commission


Karen Kinney, Secretary
Forest Preserve Commission

Commissioner Enburg moved to approve the previous roll call vote.
Commissioner M. Moreno seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens,
J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno,
R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl,
J. Woods

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

8. Comments from Commissioners: (Three)

Commissioner Mielke was recognized.

Mr. Mielke stated, "This will apply to both meetings. As we open up more, are we going to have the public more or included in our meetings...or do we know yet?"

President Swanson stated, "I would defer to Chairman Brunk uh, to answer that question."

Commissioner Brunk stated, "I apologize for not saying that after the meeting."

President Swanson added, "No, it's okay...but the Commission generally follows his lead."

Commissioner Brunk stated, "Um, we are monitoring what the State is doing on a daily basis. Um, I would be surprised if we don't open back up for next month's committee cycle. Um...but Jim and I have been discussing it and we don't want to...we don't want to jump the gun just in case because Mr. Davis and his staff have put in a lot of time and effort into setting up the chambers to be able to accommodate for social distancing. So, once we do revert back to what we would consider normal...uh, it's a significant undertaking for him and his staff. So, we want to be sure we are ready to make that move, but I would be surprised if we do not open back up by next month's committee cycle."

President Swanson stated, "Thank you, Mr. Mielke. Thank you for your question. And, I think on that note on behalf of all Commissioners I would like to express our thanks to Mr. Davis and all his colleagues for everything you've done for us, we really appreciate it. Mr. Langdon had a comment. Let's make sure his microphone is active."

Commissioner Langdon was recognized.

Mr. Langdon stated, "Yes, I have a comment. When is Loud Thunder going to be fully open to the public? I went up there a couple of weeks ago and some of the restrooms were still locked down and the boat rentals on Lake George was not open yet."

President Swanson answered, "One of the things with the boat rentals is that we require some seasonal staff. And many of those, as you know, are college and university students locally. As soon as Mr. Mills has the staff, I believe he gets that open. In fact, I did see that it is now open, is it Mr. Craver?"

Ms. Kinney asked, "Who's mic does he have?"

President Swanson answered, "Mr. Maranda."

Ms. Kinney stated, "You're on, Jeff."

Mr. Craver stated, "Uh, when the staff took over the boat rental operation out at Loud Thunder, it was a seasonal operation. We operate Wednesday through Sunday. We are closed on Monday's and Tuesday's; however, we are open on the holidays if, uh July 4th falls on a Monday. So, the boat rental should open up, I believe it is May 27th and will run through Labor Day. Um, we've attempted to extend the season and open the season at times uh, weekends only when staff and conditions present themselves. Uh, but due to the unseasonably uh...weather patterns we've encountered, um...it...it's difficult. Uh, staff is an issue...uh staffing the boat rental. However, again, I mean...look at this past weekend and some of our other weekends. We try to run the boat rental and try to turn a dollar for the district. We would like to explore that being more of a service and am more than happy to have that discussion at the Executive Committee."

President Swanson stated, "And, I apologize, Mr. Langdon. My confusion was the kayak docks are available, the rentals. Pretty excellent amenities if you want to go check them out. Camping is now available...uh, you can make those reservations through the Forest Preserve District website. You can do that also by contacting them directly. The trails have been recently closed, partially closed due to the heavy precipitation we've had. But for the most part, things are looking really good. You'll see in Mr. Mill's report...it looks like he's had a pretty good report on the wells down at the Riverside Camp site at Loud Thunder. So, that's a plus for us moving forward too. But, thank you for that question."

Mr. Langdon answered, "You're welcome."

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

9. Commissioner Adams moved to approve all Routine Reports from the Director and Departments Heads of the Forest Preserve Commission, as presented. Commissioners Enburg and Woods seconded.

President Swanson stated, "I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Deppe. I couldn't see you through the monitor."

Ms. Kinney stated, "Mr., Deppe has a question?"

President Swanson answered, "Yes."

Commissioner Deppe was recognized.

Mr. Deppe stated, "I have a couple of them."

President Swanson stated, "Yes, please."

Mr. Deppe stated, "One of them is a statement. Kudos for bringing the County Sheriff's Department out there to curb the vandalism that had been happening. Um, has the aluminum bridge with the wood flooring...the \$14,000 bridge been put in by Ben and his staff yet?"

President Swanson answered, "I don't think the bridge has been installed yet. But, we have similar structures also...so, we have a pretty good body of expertise in doing that. I don't think it's gone in yet. Do you know when it's going to go in, Mr. Craver."

Mr. Craver answered, "Upon approval of the Routine Reports, uh, since it was noted in this packet, when you guys approve the Routine Reports tonight, we'll move forward with the purchase. And once received, we'll get it assembled and installed uh, out on the trail."

Mr. Deppe stated, "I love the fact that our staff is doing it. We are doing more now. The other question I have is, there are some grants that we are looking for in East Moline. What is that?"

President Swanson answered, "So, as you may know from the packets, there are two considerable properties out near Illiniwek, not adjacent to Illiniwek...but a little bit further up river from Illiniwek that Mr. Petersen has been in contact with those folks and there may be an opportunity to acquire those lands. And what happens, often, when we go in and pay list price for lands that we put into conservation...rather, we take advantage of grants from foundations both national and some international that help to put lands into trusts, right. But, out of those purchases require a match from us to get the process started in earnest money, if you will. And so, what Mr. Petersen and Mr. Craver have been doing is exploring options...and I know they've been working very hard to see if we might

be able to find a source...a private philanthropic source, ideally, to get that earnest money to get that process going. Does that address your question?"

Mr. Deppe states, "Yes, thank you."

President Swanson added, "Thank you. And if we could...that would be a rather significant addition. It's land that people thought they were going to develop but for whatever reason, they realized that wasn't the highest best use of the land. But, if you recall, some of the wins we've had in terms of conservation, especially around Illiniwek, I think we have around five endangered or threatened species that we are now finding around there. I think that bodes well if we can add to that. Is there anything, Mr. Craver, that you care to add on this note? No? Okay, thank you. I also want to echo what Mr. Deppe said about the Sheriff's Department. It's a great partnership that we have. We want families to feel safe and secure when they are using our parks. And, I know from personal experience that the Sheriff's Department does an outstanding job. So, thank your colleagues for us, Sheriff Bustos. Um, are there any other questions or points, Mr. Craver?"

Mr. Craver added, "Uh, in addition to the Sheriff's Department...those of you who do come out to Loud Thunder that plan or intend to fish, please buy your fishing license. I've gotten some increased presence from the State Conservation Officers. So, in addition to Sheriff Bustos and the rest of the Sheriff's Office, uh, the Conservation Officers have been making themselves known at the park; which is a great deterrent."

President Swanson added, "And, we appreciate that partnership as well. Thank you very much for lifting that up. I will say on behalf of Mr. Petersen...it's in his report, the Garlic Mustard Pull that was supposed to happen on Saturday, well you know good soil moisture helps to get that Mustard up but too much...well, it was too much. So, he's going to reschedule for this Saturday if you are looking for something to do and get some fresh air, come on out to Illiniwek and pull some Garlic Mustard with us. Uh, we do have a motion on the floor to by voice vote replicate the previous roll in approving the routine reports."

Commissioner Normoyle moved to approve the previous roll call vote.
Commissioner Brunk seconded.

D. Adams, D. Beck, L. Boswell-Loffin, R. Brunk, L. Burns, D. Clevenger, D. Cremeens, J. Deppe, C. Enburg, D. Johnston, E. Langdon, D. Mielke, L. Moreno, M. Moreno, R. Morthland, A. Normoyle, R. Simmer, E. Sowards, B. Vyncke, J.R. Westpfahl, J. Woods

TOTAL YES 21

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

10. President Swanson stated, "One final item of business...I would like to announce and thank our fellow Commissioner, Johnnie Woods, who has accepted the invitation to serve on the Executive Committee for the Forest Preserve District. Uh, I know her service will be invaluable and I thank her in advance. She will be joining us at its June meetings and I want to thank her publicly for accepting that invitation to lead. Alright. Seeing no other business, the next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission will be June 15th at the Rock Island County Office building and via teleconference, possibly, following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board."

The next meeting of the Forest Preserve Commission is Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 5:30pm, immediately following the meeting of the Rock Island County Board.

President Swanson declared the Forest Preserve Meeting adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kinney", written over a horizontal line.

KAREN KINNEY
COUNTY CLERK AND SECRETARY
OF THE FOREST PRESERVE COMMISSION

KK:rw