

FOREST PRESERVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 13, 2021

PRESENT: Committee members - K. Swanson(via teleconference), D. Cremeens, L. Moreno, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, J. Woods, A. Normoyle.

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Craver, District Director; Ben Mills, Loud Thunder Ranger; April Palmer, Auditor.

Dr. Simmer called the monthly meeting of the Forest Preserve Executive Committee to order at 3:33 PM on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, in the Park Office Building at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve in Illinois City, Illinois.

D. Cremeens, L. Moreno, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, J. Woods, A. Normoyle, K. Swanson(via teleconference).

TOTAL YES 7

TOTAL ABSENT 0

Dr. Simmer called for a motion approving the June Committee minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the June Committee minutes. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer called for a motion to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$603,717.06.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the claims and treasurer's disbursements in the amount of \$603,717.06. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2021 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve the fiscal year 2021 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund. Mr. Cremeens seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer called for a motion to approve the fiscal year 2022 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund.

MOTION: Mr. Cremeens moved to approve the fiscal year 2022 transfers of appropriation in the General Fund and Niabi Zoo Fund. Ms. Woods seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer called for a motion to approve the Revised Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Lease Contract No. DACW25-1-09-4001.

MOTION: Dr. Moreno moved to approve the resolution regarding the Revised Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Lease Contract No. DACW25-1-09-4001. Ms. Normoyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Craver stated that the District has a lease with the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers for the riverfront property that has the access to the Mississippi and the Riverview campground. Have been working with the Corps on the dock project, the plans for which are included in the packet. The amendment is part of the project approval process.

Motion carried.

Dr. Simmer asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to make public comment.

There were no requests for public comment.

Dr. Simmer called on Mr. Craver to speak on the land acquisition.

Mr. Craver stated that in regards to the land acquisition in East Moline near I-80, staff has been at grant options and speaking with the realtor. The Clean Water Foundation is looking like the District's best option. Have spoken with contacts regarding this grant. The next grant cycle will begin in August, and there are a few things that are in the District's favor and some that would help the District in the application process. The biggest thing is the success story that Illiniwek has had in the past couple years with finding endangered species. Adding a conservation corridor would be a great further effort in those successes, as well as being in line with the District's mission statement of acquiring land for conservation. The Clean Water Foundation would like for the land to be contiguous, and along those lines Mr. Petersen and myself have reached out to the two individuals that own the land between. The Denhardt Properties was willing to sell once he heard what we were doing. The other property owner, George McNeal, stated that he would be willing to do a "land swap." However, he felt that his land was more valuable than what he would be getting in return, and would expect a greater percentage of land in exchange for what he was giving. The realtor is willing to do a contingent sale. The grant the District would be applying for would provide up to 80%, but keep in mind that it may be a smaller percentage. Lots of private foundations are

being more stringent with grant monies for land acquisition. Had hoped to have an appraisal to share with the Committee today, but due to circumstances outside the appraiser's control, they were not able to get to it before the meeting. Staff hopes to have the appraisal within the next week. At this point what's needed is a percentage number from the Committee on what is the start and max for negotiations. Depending on the percentage that is awarded by grant, the remaining funds would best come from the Martin Endowment. The realtor did send some comps, and stated that the reason that the properties are priced as they are is because of the proximity to I-80 and the roadside appeal. The properties are zoned for commercial use.

Ms. Normoyle suggested going into closed session since a negotiating strategy was being discussed.

Dr. Simmer called for a motion to go into closed session as per ILCS120/2 (c)
Exceptions: (5) Discussion of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.

MOTION: Ms. Normoyle moved to enter closed session. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

D. Cremeens, L. Moreno, E. Sowards, R. Simmer, J. Woods, A. Normoyle, K. Swanson(via teleconference).

TOTAL YES 7
TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

Closed session began 4:08 PM

Closed session ended 4:49 PM

Dr. Simmer asked Mr. Craver if there was anything further he wished to bring to the Committee's attention.

Mr. Craver stated that he'd been trying to send out the weekly updates to everyone. Park usage is heavy, especially on the weekends. There was a kayak group camping at Loud Thunder over the weekend, and the Bio-blitz was well attended at Illiniwek. It's the busy time of year. Staffing has been troublesome at the preserves this year. There's been a lot of turnover that hasn't happened in years past.

Dr. Simmer asked Mr. Mills if there was anything from his report that he would like to bring attention to.

Mr. Mills stated that camping has been great. People are looking forward to the new full hook-up Horse Corral sites opening up. The signs are ready and should be going up in the next week.

Dr. Simmer asked if Ms. Palmer had anything from her reports that she would like to bring attention to.

Ms. Palmer stated that fiscal year 2021 ended on June 30th. The District is allotted sixty days after that to pay and receive any old fiscal year monies. The fund balance report numbers will be an estimate until the audit is complete and approved. Regarding the cash balances report, in comparing the numbers to the previous year, some funds are higher, and some are lower. Those numbers are what was expected given the past year and change of the pandemic.

Mr. Craver reminded Committee members that the meeting would be at Indian Bluff Golf Course next and would include the budget meeting in addition to the regular meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Woods moved to approve routine reports. Dr. Moreno seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Submitted by:
Cassie Sullivan
Forest Preserve Administrative Assistant